MASTERING THE CHISEL p.48

WODDCRAFI Projects, Techniques, and Products Magazine

Easy-to-Build

Adirondack

SPECIAL FEATURE:

SPRAY FINISHING MADE SIMPLE

VOL. 8/NO. 46 APRIL/MAY 12



MORE GREAT PROJECTS

- Kitchen Appliance Cabinet
- Three Shop Mallets
- Slot Mortising Jig

~Tom Begnal

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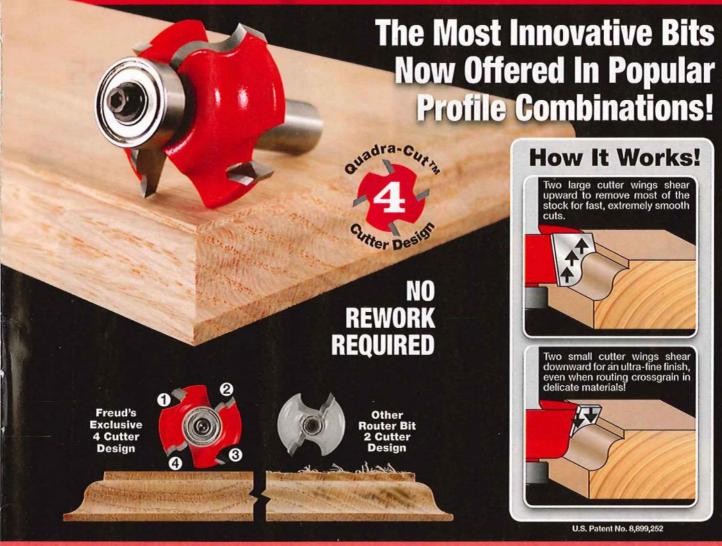






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WODCRAFT. magazine

April/May 2012







Featured Projects

24 Adirondack Glider

Swing into spring with this easy-to-build relaxation station. Patterns for the arms, splats, and curved seat help speed the work and guarantee success.

40 All-Purpose Kitchen Cabinet

Build this case and put your kitchen gear in its place. Adjustable shelves and a full-extension drawer will help you make full use of the storage space. Two top options provided.

55 Shop-Made Mallets

Every woodworker needs good shop strikers, but why buy them when you can make your own unique versions for less money?

62 Slot Mortising Jig

Rout precision mortises for loose-tenon joints with this rail-guided shop-made design.

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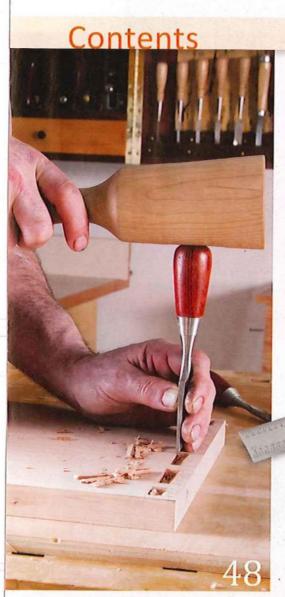
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Tools and More

12 Hot New Tools

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 Forrest Woodworker II 20T Thin-Kerf Rip Blade

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· Hock Scratch Stock Kit

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Don't let crooked creep into your work. Stock up on the tools you'll need for project layouts, project assemblies, and tool setups.

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This picture-rich

guide shows you the

wield these essential

tools with precision

and confidence.

moves you need to

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Before you reach for your gun, read this. Simple steps ensure a smooth spraying session and flawless finish.



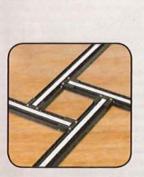


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Cutting In

Can you sell the projects you find in Woodcraft Magazine?

Recently, subscriber Paul Hough of Oregon City, Oregon, asked if he could build several of the holiday tabletop sleighs from the December/January 2012 issue of *Woodcraft Magazine* to sell. It's a good question, and one we get from time to time regarding our more popular project plans. After all, for someone who wants to retire into woodworking, it can prove to be a decent way to pull in side money at a local craft show, through a website, or another venue.

We do have a policy to address the question, and it stems from the origin of the project's design. If the staff assigned a project to be designed and built for use in the magazine and elsewhere (paper plans or books, for instance), then build as many of that design as you want and sell the projects for profit. The sleigh fits that category.

By contrast, if we feature an existing design from a woodworker who already makes and sells the project, and who has given us permission to publish the design for use by woodworkers who want to make it for family and friends, than the answer is "no." Out of respect for the originator of the design and his or her best interest, the design must be off limits for mass production. The stackable wine rack in the August/September 2011 issue fits that category. In this case, you will need to work directly with the originator of the design for permission or you can change the design in a way that makes it your own.

How do you know which is which? Easy. Should you find a design that you want to mass-produce and sell for profit, e-mail me: <code>editor@woodcraftmagazine.com</code>. We'll be glad to tell you. Most of our projects fit the first category. Bottom line, I'm thrilled that you like one of our projects enough to build it in quantity. And when a fellow woodworker

Jim Hanold

asks where you got such an awesome design, return the favor and say you found it in Woodcraft Magazine.



WODCRAFT Magazine

April/May 2012 Volume 8, Issue 46

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Safety First! Working wood can be dangerous. Always make shop safety your first priority by reading and following the recommendations of your owner's manuals, using appropriate guards and safety devices, and maintaining all your tools properly. Use adequate sight and hearing protection. Please note that for purposes of illustrative clarity, guards and other safety devices may be removed from tools shown in photographs and illustrations in this publication and others.

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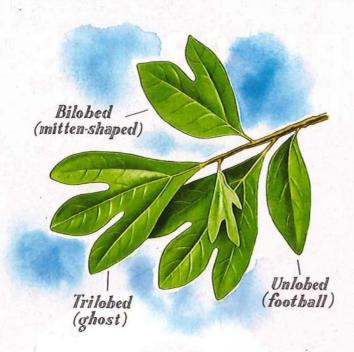
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One tree, three leaves

As someone who typically limits their woodworking to the species in their own woods, I appreciate reading about the use of various species in the "WoodSense" section of your magazine. The article on sassafras (December 2011/January 2012) was especially interesting, and I wanted to offer an additional fun fact. The sassafras tree bears three distinct leaf shapes on the same tree. The three shapes are commonly described as the ghost (pictured in the article), as well as the mitten and the football. The mitten has a large central lobe with a thumb-like projection, and the football is also shaped like its name suggests. Thanks for a great magazine.

-Kevin Holtz, Farmington, New York

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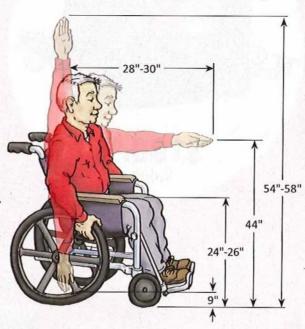
My woodworker nephew sent us a copy of Pete Stephano's "Shop Setup for the Wheelchair Woodworker" from your December 2011/January 2012 issue. This is a very good articulation of the requirements for such a shop (love Charles Lockhart's well-annotated illustrations!) and the kind of how-to story we are interested in presenting on AFriendlyHouse.com, our website dedicated to promoting Universal Design, accessible homes and neighborhoods, and houses appropriate for aging in place. We would love to write a blurb about the article and give our readers a hyperlink to it. —Lynette Evans, Founder and Editor, AFriendlyHouse.com, San Francisco, California

Lynette, thanks for your inquiry. Feel free to spread the word about the story "Shop Setup for the Wheelchair Woodworker" and let folks know that they can download it at woodcraftmagazine.com/onlineextras.

-Jim Harrold, editor-in-chief

Errata

As careful as we are, errors occasionally find their way into articles. If you spy an apparent mistake, particularly in a project article, please visit woodcraftmagazine. com/corrections.aspx for corrections.



Chime In

Have comments about the magazine, questions about an article, or something to share with your fellow *Woodcraft Magazine* readers? Send an email to *editor@woodcraftmagazine*. com or a letter to *Woodcraft Magazine*, PO Box 7020, Parkersburg, WV 26102.





The new CP505E-12 Electronic Protractor is accurate, versatile and easy to use. It eliminates errors from a variety of jobs including complex crown molding work.

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The CP505E-12 has a full 360° swing and provides direct saw settings for either miter or straight cuts. The versatile CP505E-12 can also serve as a protractor with a choice of output modes and has horizontal and vertical levels.

Includes a step by step guide for crown molding work and provides miter and bevel settings for custom spring angles.

This lightweight and durable tool is made for the demanding requirements of the jobsite and is a must-have for the professional.







Mystery spokeshaves

In creating a database of articles, I was puzzled by the spokeshaves on page 4 of the February/March 2012 issue. There was no write-up about the tools on page 10, the page number referenced in the table of contents. In fact, there was nothing on spokeshaves anywhere in the magazine except an ad on page 71. Did I miss it? —Winston Barney, Fort Worth, Texas

No, Winston, you're absolutely right. There was initially a half-page review on the new shaves, but it was pulled the day the magazine was readied for the press. It turns out that the tools had a production-related problem that is currently being remedied by the maker. Unfortunately, not everything was pulled at the last minute, such as the photo and ad. When the time is right, we'll reintroduce the spokeshaves.

—Jim Harrold, editor-in-chief



Personal touches

I wanted to show you a photo of one of two jewelry boxes I made for Christmas presents this year using the plan from your December 2011/ January 2012 issue. I selected spalted maple for the drawer fronts and rotated the pulls 45° so they appear diamond shaped. I also used decorative corner splines for the drawers.

—Timothy Herrmann, Newark, Delaware

Timothy, some nice personal touches. Thanks for sharing.
—Jim Harrold, editor-in-chief

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Hot New Tools

Raising the sharpening bar

Work Sharp 3000 Tool Bar Attachment

By making plane and chisel sharpening as easy as using an electric pencil sharpener, the Work Sharp sharpening system has found a home in thousands of workshops. The company now offers a tool bar attachment that can be used for freehand sharpening of gouges, skew chisels, and parting tools. Or, if you like, you can partner it with the wide assortment of sharpening jigs designed for wet-wheel



sharpening such as the Tormek and Jet sharpening systems.

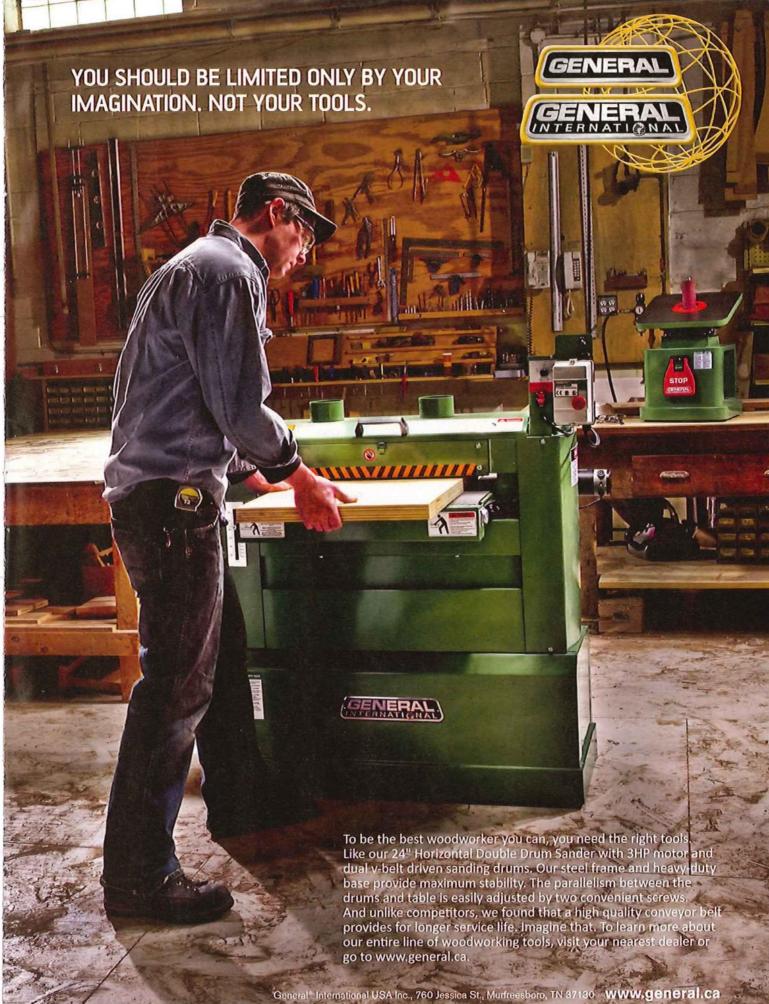
If you already own a Work Sharp, buying the tool bar attachment that enables you to use jigs designed for a wet wheel grinder is a no-brainer. If you don't own one, consider taking the plunge. Compared to wet wheel systems, the Work Sharp's sandpaper-on-glass system

makes it easy to change grits for grinding or honing. In addition, the unit doesn't have a large footprint, or require water. This means that you can keep it near your lathe for quick touchups without worrying about spills or rust.

#153685 \$49.95 Tester: Joe Hurst-Wajszczuk

Featured products available from Woodcraft Supply unless otherwise noted.





Hot New Tools

Built for speed

Forrest Woodworker II 20T Thin-Kerf Rip Blade

Next to a premium 40- or 50-tooth combination blade for making clean rips and crosscuts, a dedicated rip blade is probably the most useful addition to a woodworker's tablesaw blade arsenal. Typically sporting 24 teeth, a rip blade is designed to muscle its way through lumber during initial breakdown into project parts. (It also saves wear and tear on your expensive combination blade.) Because the rough-processed parts are further dressed into finished

pieces later, a clean cut is irrelevant. What matters is efficiency and ease of sawing.

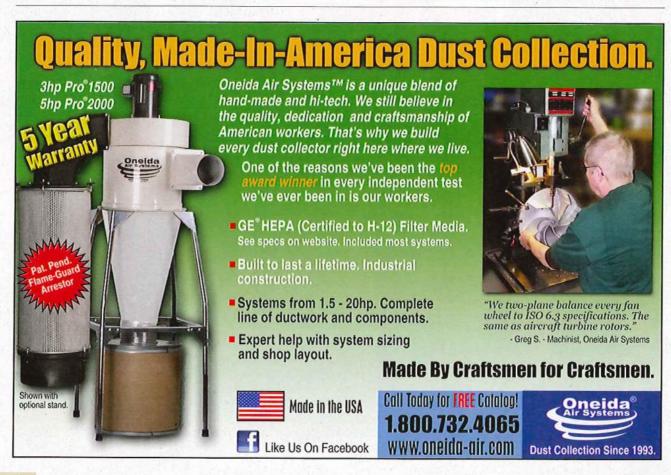
Forrest has designed a real speed demon in this 20-tooth thin-kerf blade with an ATB/R tooth configuration. In my tests, it breezed through 8' of 8/4 hard maple in an impressive 15 seconds (about 45% faster than my go-to 24-tpi, ½" blade.) Being a thinkerf blade, which encounters less cutting resistance than thicker blades, this model is

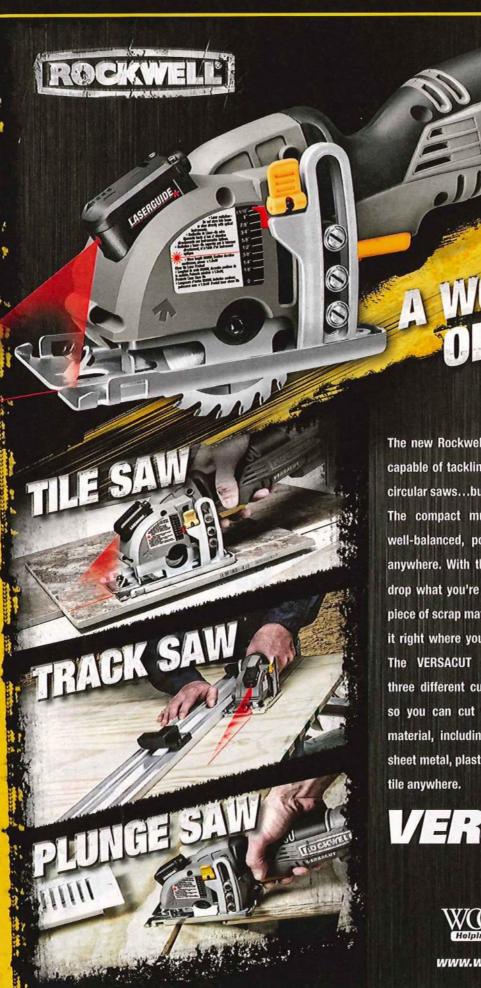


well suited to ripping on underpowered saws as well as industrial machines.

#153660 \$74.99 Tester: Paul Anthony

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drop what you're cutting on a piece of scrap material and cut it right where you're working! The VERSACUT comes with three different cutting blades, so you can cut virtually any material, including hardwood, sheet metal, plastics, and even

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VERSACUT

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Hot New Tools

Know all the angles

General Tools Digital Sliding T-Bevel

Woodworkers and carpenters alike have long relied on sliding T-bevels for transferring angles. With these, obtaining a measurement of an angle required multiple steps and/or another trip to the toolbox. By incorporating a digital protractor into the head, General Tools has created a tool that's capable of transferring angles and also providing an easy to read measurement enabling users to transfer the angle, or set their saw by the numbers and then make a cut.

I found that the 8"-long blade allowed me to fit the gauge into spots where a standard

non-sliding arm protractor would not fit, such as alongside short lengths of baseboard or the face of my saw blade. The head has buttons for zeroing in the blade, holding the measurement, and obtaining the supplementary angle. Accurate within .3° it's not as precise as my 12" Starrett combination square or drafting triangles, but for angles other than 45° and 90°, it beats my plastic protractor hands down.

The high impact plastic head and digital components within won't outlive my wooden handled T-bevel, but so far it has survived accidental falls from my bench without a glitch. At this price, the tool has already earned its keep.

#153776 \$34.99 Tester: Joe Hurst-Wajszczuk

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this easy and fool proof should be illegal, or at least a sin!" Thomas Haapapuro thaapdesigns.com small 3/4"x 3/4" dome

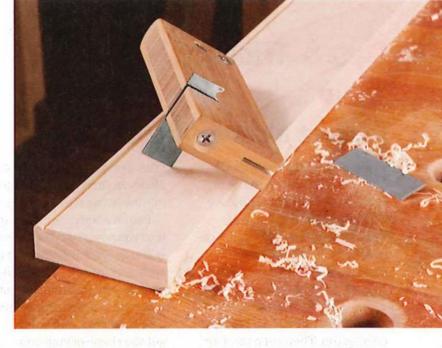
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Profiles unplugged

Hock Scratch Stock Kit

In most workshops, routers rule the roost, but there are times when it makes sense to go old school. A scratch stock is little more than piece a of steel held in a guide block, but this simple hand tool can make cuts that regular routers can't touch, such as crisp custom edge profiles or tiny grooves for string inlays. Simply set the block against the edge of your stock, and pull or push the blade against the wood to scrape the profile. For those curious about these timehonored tools, Hock's kit offers a quick and easy way scratch the



itch. Using the pre-ground quirk profile (shown above) you'll get an immediate feel for this tool. You can grind seven additional profiles on the two blades included with the kit (one on each long edge). Additional spring steel

blades (#153783, \$5.99) are available to create yet more. Note: For further instruction, check out hocktools.com/ SC075Instructions.pdf.

#153782 \$29.99 Tester: Kent Harpool



Tips & Tricks

TOP TIP

Perfect alcove-fit countertops

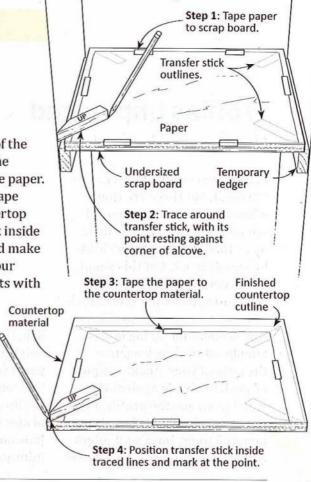
In my finish carpentry work, it's not uncommon to have to fit a countertop into an alcove that's badly out-of-square.

That's when I turn to a pattern-transfer trick that I learned from an old carpenter.

First, screw temporary ledger strips to the alcove walls ³/₄" below the height of the desired countertop. Then cut a piece of ³/₄"-thick plywood to the depth of the alcove and somewhat shy of the three walls. Place the plywood on the ledger strips, and tape a large piece of paper to it. Next, cut a point on the end of a stick of wood and mark one face as "up." Place the point of this transfer

stick against each corner of the alcove in turn, and trace the outline of the stick onto the paper.

Remove the paper and tape it to your oversized countertop material. Position the stick inside each set of traced lines, and make a mark at the point onto your material. Connect the points with a straightedge, and you've got the shape of your top. If a wall isn't flat, scribe and fit a cardboard template against it, then use the template instead of a straightedge to connect the points. -Sam Williamson, Birmingham, Alabama





Share a Slick Tip. Win Cash or a Prize!

Here's your chance to help someone become a better woodworker and get rewarded for the effort. Next issue's Top Tip winner will receive the following Starrett precision layout tools: a 12" Combination Square, a Centerhead for a 12" Square, and a Protractor Head for a 12" Square. (Total value: \$215) Runners-up will receive \$125 for an illustrated tip; \$75 for an unillustrated one. Winning entries become the property of Woodcraft Magazine. Send your original ideas to: Tips & Tricks, Woodcraft® Magazine, P.O. Box 7020, Parkersburg, WV 26102-7020 or email editor@woodcraftmagazine.com. Important: Please include your phone number, as an editor will need to call you if your tip or trick is





The Wera BC Bit Ratchet- A combination of Strength and Style! Drop Forged steel Design will deliver over 65NM of Torque. 60 Tooth design allows return angle of only 60 ideal for precision work. Bit Ratchet set comes complete with 28 quality bits, bit adaptor and 1/4"



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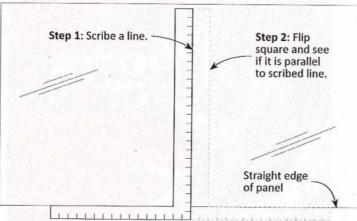
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Tips & Tricks



Dimpling here pushes legs inward.

Obtuse angle correction (if greater than 90°)

Acute angle correction (if less than 90°)

Dimpling here pushes legs outward.

Squaring a square

If you have a framing square that's not square don't toss ityet. If the error is small, there's a good chance it can be fixed. If the edges are straight and the legs are uniform in width (not tapered), give this old trick a try. If the square is obtuse (greater than 90°), dimple the outer corner area a couple times using a center punch and a hammer, and check your results. If the square is severely off, you may need to do this several times. What you're doing is stretching the metal on the outer corner to push the legs towards each other. Conversely, if the square

is acute (less than 90°), you'll need to dimple the area near the inside corner of the square.

—Craig Bentzley, Chalfont,
Pennsylvania



Aluminum angle winding sticks

Winding sticks provide a timehonored way to check the flatness of workpieces or assemblies. Used in pairs, winding sticks are placed parallel to each other at opposite ends of, for example, a board being hand-planed. To check for twist, or "wind," crouch so that your eyes are level with the top edges of the sticks, and then sight across them with both eves open. Any deviation in the flatness of the surface will be

immediately apparent.

Aluminum angle winding sticks

maintain stability.

hardwood-often of strongly contrasting colors for easy sighting. The problem with wood is that it can warp over time,

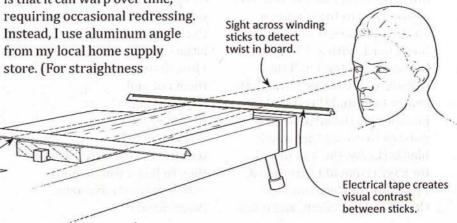
Traditionally, winding sticks

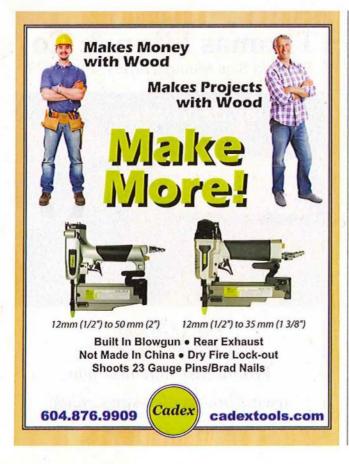
identically sized pieces of

are made from straight-grained,

and rigidity, get the 1/8"-thick stock.) To provide contrast, crown one with black electrical tape.

-Will Murphy, San Francisco, California







Tips & Tricks

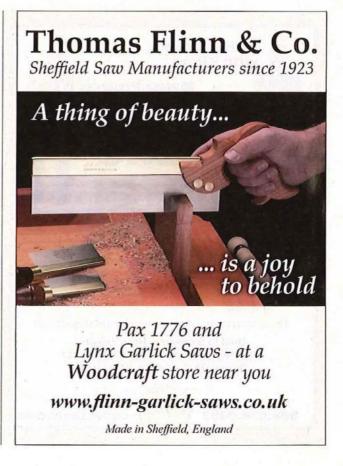
Bowl blank templates

When turning bowls, I like to rough out the round shape on the bandsaw first. The problem is that it's difficult to mark out the shape on a half-round blank that must be fed flat side down for safety on the saw. My approach is to first create a circular pattern from 1/8"-thick hardboard, with a 1/8"-diameter hole at its center. I nail the pattern to my blank through the center hole, and then bandsaw just outside the edges of the pattern to create the round blank. (Leave the nail proud for easy removal.) Afterward, I place the pattern onto the flat side of the blank, and mark

then bandsaw around perimeter to create round bowl blank. through the hole to establish the center on that face for quick, accurate mounting on the lathe. For convenience, I made a series of these patterns in 1"-diameter increments from 4" to 24", which is the limit of my lathe capacity. I just draw them out and bandsaw them to shape. They don't have to be terrifically accurate since they're just a rough guide. —Mike Kehs, Quakertown, Pennsylvania

Nail template to half-round blank;





AFTER 30 YEARS IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY, IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON.

So, I turned my passion for woodworking into a second career.

In Texas, you either go big or you go home. And Mike is living proof. After 30 years in the travel industry, he took a swing at improving his golf game. But when that didn't go as planned, he turned all his attention to his other love — woodworking. An energetic entrepreneur, Mike quickly realized he could turn his hobby into a second career. So when he saw franchise opportunities with Woodcraft, one of the most trusted names in woodworking, he knew he was about to carve out a whole new future for himself. No wonder. From demographic research for a store location to a detailed operations manual coupled with ongoing technical and marketing support, Woodcraft provides a complete franchise system backed by the most recognized brand in the industry. If you talked to him, Mike would tell you that thanks to Woodcraft and a lot of seven-day weeks owning and operating six Woodcraft stores, he is truly living his dream. Which makes you stop and think, when are you going to start living yours?





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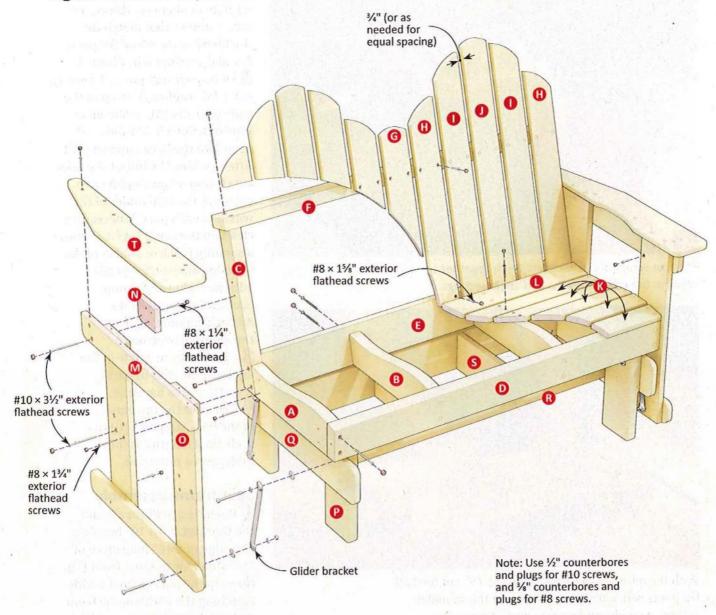
Adirondack Glider

Relax in style with this porch or patio project.

By Robert J. Settich; Builder Bill Sands

Overall dimensions: 55"w × 27¾"d × 45½"h

Figure 1: Glider Exploded View



Ilide through a summer evening with a companion and refreshment while seated in this simply constructed American classic. Because I used poplar, which is prone to rot outdoors, I protected the wood with two coats of primer and two coats of exterior paint. For a clear wood look, go with rot-resistant cedar, cypress, or other exterior wood, and apply a clear UV (ultraviolet) resistant finish.

Go with exterior screws and glue to guarantee long-lasting joints. Use the patterns to help you make the shaped parts.

Cut the seat frame parts

Note: Each of the seat end assemblies (A/C) are cut identically, allowing for fewer setups at the tablesaw. In this case, they are not mirror images.

1 Referring to Figures 1 and 2, crosscut 20"-long blanks from 11/2"-thick dressed stock for the end seat rails (A) and middle seat rails (B). Cut 11/2"-thick blanks to 21" long for the back supports (C).

2 Enlarge and transfer the Seat Rail Pattern on page 34 to one of the blanks for the seat rails (A, B). Bandsaw to the waste side of the line. Then sand the curves of one blank to the line, using a disc sander for the convex curves and an oscillating spindle sander for



Test-cut scrap pieces and hold them together to confirm the rabbet depths and angle settings.



With the miter gauge fence angled at 15°, cut the halflap joints with a dado set, starting at the shoulder cutline. A stopblock ensures consistent results.

the concave curves, taking care to keep the edges square. You cut the waste at the back end later.

- 3 Using this first rail (A) as a template, trace the curve onto the remaining blanks. Bandsaw the blanks, again cutting to the waste side of the line.
- 4 Adhere the completed rail (A) to one of the remaining bandsawn blanks with double-faced tape, aligning the bottom edges and front ends. Chuck a flush-trim bit into your table-

mounted router, and smooth the bandsawn edge, guiding off the template. Flush-trim the other blanks to create identical curved edges.

5 Install a 3/4" dado set into your tablesaw, and set it for a 3/4"-deep cut to make the half-lap joints for the end seat rails (A) and the back supports (C). (See the Seat Rail Assembly in Figure 2.) Attach an extension to your miter gauge and angle the gauge for a 15° half-lap cut. Confirm

the height and angle settings with test cuts in two pieces of scrap lumber that match the thickness of the wood for parts A and C, as shown in **Photo A**.

6 Once your test pieces fit nicely,

cut a 2½" rabbet ¾" deep in the end seat rails (A), as shown in **Photo B**. Cut a 35½" rabbet ¾" deep into the back supports (C). After making the initial shoulder cuts, remove the stopblock to cut away the remainder of the waste of each part. If necessary, clean up the sawn surfaces with a sanding block or rabbet plane.

7 Using an exterior-grade adhesive, glue and clamp each end seat rail (A) to its back support (C). Let the glue dry overnight.

8 Flush-cut the waste at the angled joint ends of parts A and C with a handsaw.

9 Crosscut the top ends of the back supports (C) to their final lengths at the tablesaw or mitersaw.

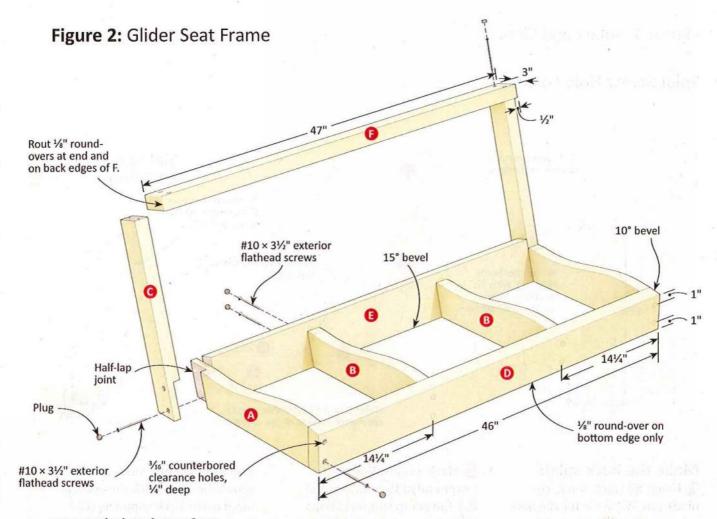
Seat frame assembly

1 Referring to Figure 2 and the Cut List, rip a 10° bevel on one edge of a 46"-long piece of 1½" stock for the seat front (D). Now rip the part to final width, matching the width of the front ends of the end seat rails (A).

2 Drill the counterbores and clearance holes in the seat front (D), where shown in Figure 2.

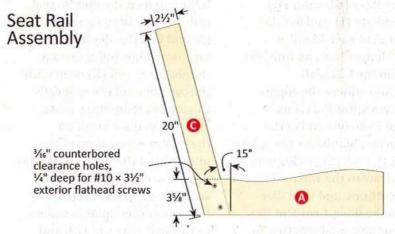
3 Chuck a 1/8" round-over bit into your table-mounted router, and rout the bottom front edge of the seat front rail (D). Leave the router setup, as you'll need it several more times for other glider parts.

4 Clamp the seat front rail (D) to the two seat end assemblies (A/C). (I cut a pair of scrapwood cauls at 15° for use at the angled back end of the assembly to



prevent the bar clamps from slipping.) Check for square, and then, using the clearance holes in the seat front rail as guides, drill pilot holes into the seat rail assemblies (A/C). Drive screws to attach the seat front rail to the seat end assemblies.

- 5 Make the seat rear rail (E) by first bevel-ripping one edge of a piece of 1½"-thick stock at 15°. Next, rip the piece to 4¾" wide. Now, crosscut the seat rear rail to the length listed in the **Cut List**.
- 6 Drill the countersunk clearance holes through the half-lap joints in the seat end assemblies (A/C). With the beveled edge down, align the ends of the seat rear rail (E) with the front edge of the back supports (C) and drive the screws. Trim the middle seat



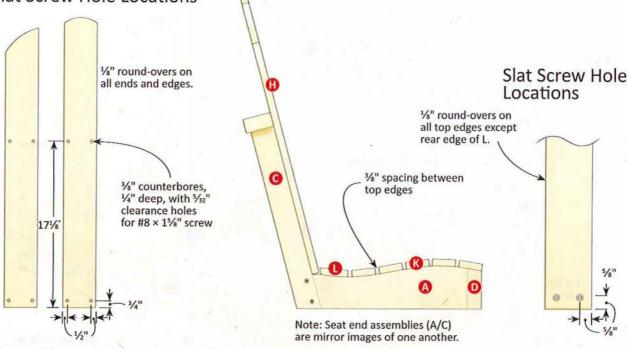
rails (B) to fit, bore the needed holes, and screw them in place, where shown in Figure 2, flush with the bottom edges of the seat front and rear rails.

- **7** Rip and crosscut the top seat rail (F) to size. Drill counterbores and clearance holes on the top face of the piece so they are centered on the back
- supports (C). Note that the ends of the top seat rail extend ½" beyond each back support.
- 8 With your 1/8" round-over bit setup, rout the ends and rear edges of the top seat rail (F).

 Do not rout the front edges.
- **9** Screw the top seat rail (F) to the seat assemblies (A, C), with the front edges flush.

Figure 3: Splats and Slats

Splat Screw Hole Locations



Make the back splats

- 1 Using 3/4"-thick stock, rip blanks to 31/2" wide for the back splats: center (G), outer (H), intermediate (I), and middle (J). Crosscut each blank at least 1" longer than its finished length in the Cut List.
- 2 Cut and adhere the copies of the two **Splat Patterns** on page 34 to one end of the appropriate blanks for the splats (G, H, I, J), referring to **Figure** 3. Bandsaw to the waste side of the cutlines, and then disc-sand to the lines. Crosscut the parts to their final lengths. To form identical rounded and arched ends of the splats, use the flush-trimming technique in the "Speedy Splat Shaping" sidebar.
- **3** Mark the hole centers on the splats. Drill the counterbores and clearance holes.
- 4 Break the front ends and edges of the splats (G, H, I, J) with the 1/8" round-over bit.

- 5 Mark a centerline at the lower end of the center splat (G). Cut scrap support strips to fit between the middle seat rails (B) and between seat rails (A) and (B). Use double-faced tape or clamps to fix them to the seat rear rail (E) even with the top edges of the seat rails to serve as temporary rests.
- 6 Next, make a mark on the center scrap strip at the midpoint of the bench assembly. Align the center splat mark with the strip mark, check that the center splat is square to the seat rear rail (E), and drive screws to secure it to this rail and the top seat rail (F).
- 7 Rest the bottom end of an outer splat (H) on the strip and, using spacers between the splats (mine were 3/4" thick), drive the screws to attach the slat to the rails (E, F). Repeat the process to install the remaining splats. (Note that the

edges of the outermost splats should be flush with the outside faces of the back supports (C).) Remove the support strips.

8 Glue plugs into all of the counterbores in the splat parts (G, H, I, J). Then, flush the plugs to the surface with a plane or sanding block.

Cut the seat slats

1 Rip and crosscut the seat slats (K) and rear seat slat (L) to size. Note in Figure 2 that the rear seat slat has a 15° bevel along

Tip Alert

To ensure even splat spacing, subtract the total width of all the splats from the length between the outer faces of the back supports (C). Divide that number by 10. Use the resulting number to determine the needed thickness of your spacer.

Speedy Splat Shaping

There are a total of 11 back splats, and shaping each one from scratch takes time. By using an over-under flush-trim bit at the router table and a pattern template, you can achieve consistent results in short order.

Begin by adhering a paper copy of the rounded and curved patterns onto the ends of a piece of scrap 3/8" or 1/2" plywood having the same width as the splats. Carefully cut out and sand the ends of the plywood, making the routing template. Now cut a set of blanks for the splats, leaving the wood about 1" longer than the finished lengths in the Cut List. Using your template, pencil the appropriate shape on the ends of the blanks, and bandsaw just to the waste side of the cutline. With double-



faced tape, attach the template to a splat blank, and flush-trim the curved edges as shown.

Flush-trim the ends of the slats using the bit (Inset). Adjust the bit height, and flip the workpiece and template over as needed to rout with the grain to avoid end-grain tear-out.



its back edge. Double-check that the slat lengths are flush to the sides of the bench assembly.

- 2 Rout 1/8" round-overs on the upper edges of the seat slats (K). Do not round over the back edge of the rear seat slat (L).
- 3 Drill the counterbores and clearance holes in the slats, where shown in the Slat Screw Hole Locations Detail in Figure 3.
- 4 Using a %"-thick spacer between the slats and starting with the front seat slat (K), screw all the slats in place. Leave a ¼" space between the rear seat slat and back splats to allow for drainage. Be sure that the spacing between the slats appears the same.
- 5 Plug all the counterbores, and flush the plugs.

Make the arm assemblies

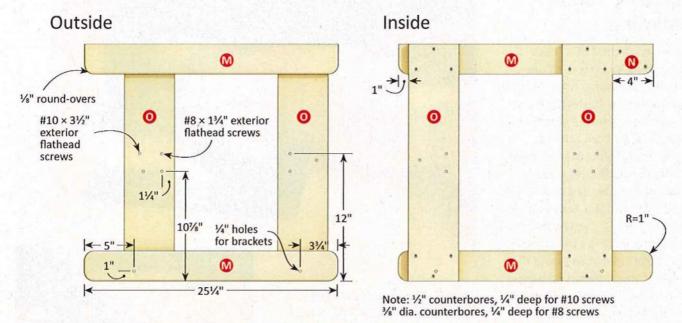
Note: You'll make two arm assemblies that are mirror images of each other.

- 1 Rip and crosscut the armrest rails (M) and armrest spacer (N), referring to Figure 4 and the Cut List. Glue and screw the spacer to the top armrest rail, where shown. Mark and bandsaw the radiused ends; then sand them smooth.
- 2 Speed production by making the Radius Routing Jig in Figure 5. Then put it to work, as shown in Photo C. As an alternative, you can bandsaw and sand the radii to final shape.
- 3 Rout round-overs along the edges and ends of the armrest rails (M), where shown in

Figure 4. Do not rout the upper edge of the top rail.

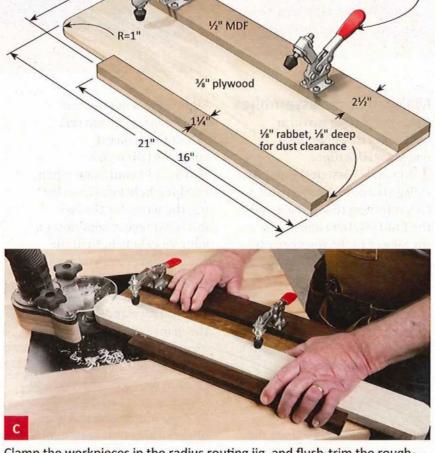
- **3** Cut the armrest supports (0) to size.
- 4 To avoid confusion when marking hole locations, lay out the parts for the two mirror-image assemblies on your workbench. Drill the counterbores and holes in the rails, where shown in the Inside View of Figure 4. Then square and assemble the armrest rails (M) to the armrest supports (O) with an exterior glue and screws.
- 5 Plug the counterbores, and flush the plugs to the surface.
- 6 Drill the ¼" holes for the glider brackets at your drill press to ensure that they are square to the surface.

Figure 4: Arm Assembly (Right arm shown)



Low Silhouette Toggle Clamp (#143933, 6½" L × 1¾" H)

Figure 5: Radius Routing Jig



Clamp the workpieces in the radius routing jig, and flush-trim the roughcut radii for clean, consistent corners, guiding off the jig's smooth edge.

7 Referring to the Outside View in Figure 4, mark and drill counterbored holes, where shown. To ensure that the screws will find solid targets, dry-fit the arm assemblies on the seat assembly, as described in Step 8, to check the marked hole locations prior to drilling. 8 Stand the seat assembly on end to make it easier to attach the arm assemblies. Now make, and then clamp, a straightedge to an arm assembly, positioning it parallel to the bottom armrest rail (M) with its upper edge 10" above the bottom edge of the arm assembly. Referring to Photo D, place the appropriate arm assembly on the seat assembly. Locate the front edge of the forward armrest support (0) 1/4" past the front seat slat (K). With the position confirmed, remove the arm assembly, apply glue to the mating surfaces, and reposition the assembly at the same location. Drill pilot holes, guiding off the counterbored holes, and drive the screws. Repeat the procedure for the other arm assembly.



Position the arm assembly on the seat assembly, using the straightedge, and then use glue and drive screws of three different lengths to secure it.

Build the base

Note: You'll make two base end assemblies that are mirror images of each other.

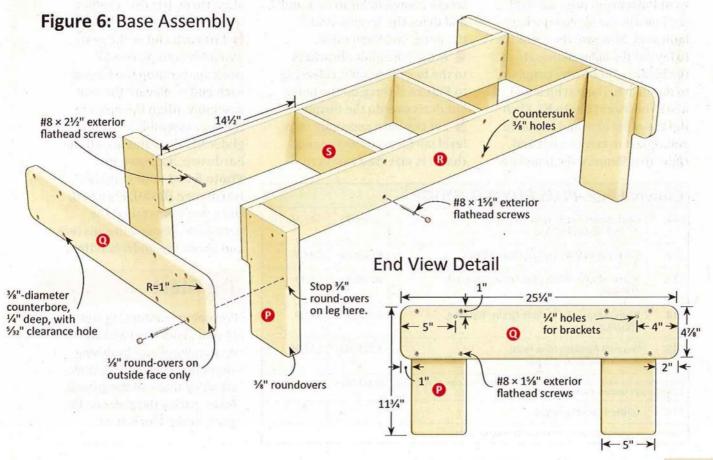
- 1 Rip and crosscut the legs (P) and base rails (Q) to form the base end assemblies, referring to Figure 6 and the Cut List.
- 2 Chuck a 3/8" round-over bit into your table-mounted router,

and profile the edges and ends of the legs (P), where shown.

- 3 Mark the radii at the ends of the base rails (Q), and then cut and smooth them. Rout a 1/8" round-over around the perimeter of the outer face of the base rails.
- 4 Mark the centers of the counterbores and holes in the base rails (Q). Drill the

counterbores and clearance holes, but don't drill the holes for the glider brackets yet. Glue and clamp the base rails (Q) to the legs (P), and then drive the screws. Glue in the plugs, and then flush them to the surface.

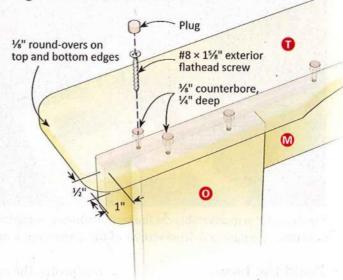
- 5 Take the completed base end assembly to your drill press, and drill the holes for the glider brackets.
- 6 Rip and crosscut the base stretchers (R). Drill countersunk screw clearance holes into these parts, where shown in Figure 6. (The fasteners will be hidden, so there's no need for counterbores.) Glue and screw the stretchers to the base end assemblies (P, Q).
- 7 Measure between the base stretchers (R), and use the dimension to cut the base spacers (S) to length. Screw the parts in place to further stabilize the base assembly, and check them for square.





Use a scratch awl to mark the holes in the arms, guiding off the ½" holes drilled in the plywood template.

Figure 7: Arm Detail



Add the arms and hardware

Note: You'll make two arms that are mirror images of each other.

1 Cut the blanks for the arms (T) to size. Make a plywood pattern template using a copy of the Arm Pattern on page 34. Drill the holes in the plywood where indicated. Now, use the template to lay out the arms. Bandsaw the blanks. Adhere the template to one arm to flush-trim it and mark the holes (Photo E). Then flip the other arm and template and repeat to create a left and right arm. Remove the template.

2 Drill the counterbores and clearance holes in the arms (T), where marked. Rout 1/8" round-overs along the perimeter on both faces.

3 Next, position the arm on the arm assemblies (M, N, O), where shown in Figures 1 and 7, and drive the screws. Add the plugs and flush them.

4 Attach the glider brackets to the base assembly, referring to Figure 8. Snug up the bolts, but don't overdo the torque.

5 Set the base assembly on a level surface, and make sure that it is oriented correctly-

with the 2" projection of the base rails toward the front. Put the seat assembly in front of the base, and tilt it forward as you push the base assembly beneath it. Slide the two assemblies together to align them. (Or use a helper to set the seat on the base.)

6 Lift each end of the seat assembly, and place a ½"-thick spacer aton the base at

thick spacer atop the base at each end to elevate the seat assembly. Align the holes in the seat assembly with the glider bracket, and install the hardware, as shown in **Photo F** and following the **Hardware Detail, Figure 8**. Once you've installed the hardware, remove the spacers and check the glider's action.

□1.	Over-under Flush-Trim Router Bit, %" D, 1½" CL, (½" SH)	#149528	
□2.	Titebond III Waterproof Glue, 16 oz.	#145562	\$8.99
□3.	Plugs, Maple, ¾" D, Side Grain, Tapered, 100/pkg.	#50K11	\$2.99
□4.	Plugs, Maple, 1/2" D, Side Grain, Tapered, 100/Pkg.	#50K21	\$4.99
□5.	General Finishes Milk Paint, Buttermilk Yellow, 1 pt.	#825753	\$13.99

Above items are available at Woodcraft stores, woodcraft.com or by calling (800) 225-1153. Prices subject to change without notice.

☐ 6. Glider brackets, qty. 4

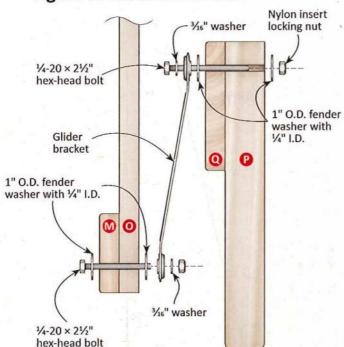
Above items available at home centers and hardware stores.

Tip Alert

Prevent the bottom leg ends of your glider from wicking up standing water by driving inexpensive nylon tack glides, elevating them off the ground. Avoid placing the glider on the grass, or the feet will rot.

Convenience-PLUS BUYING GUIDE

Figure 8: Hardware Detail





Use a ratchet and wrench to snug up the bolts and nuts that attach the glider hardware.

7 Give the glider a test ride, and then remove the hardware so you can give the wood a final sanding with 220 grit. Wipe or blow off the dust and apply a finish. While you can go with a clear, exterior-grade finish with UV (ultraviolet) inhibitors, I chose buttermilk milk paint. After finishing, move the seat and base assemblies individually to a flat and level location where you intend to use the glider. Reattach the assemblies.

About Our Designer And Writer

Robert Settich is a seasoned woodworker and writer, with five books and hundreds of magazine articles to his credit. See more of his work at *PlansUnlimited.com*.

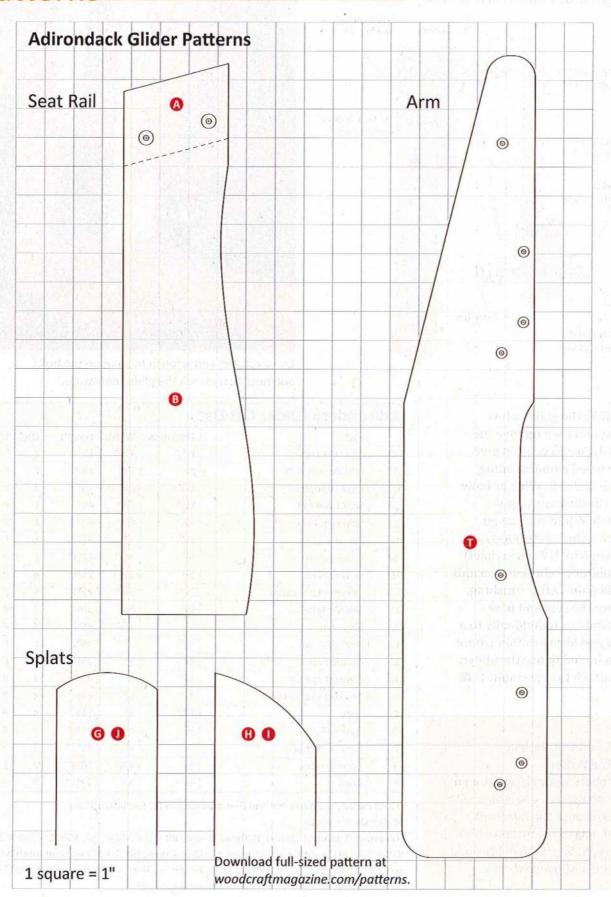
Adirondack Glider Cut List								
	Part	Thickness	Width	Length	Qty.	Mat		
A*	End seat rails	11/2"	49/16"	19"	2	P		
В*	Middle seat rails	11/2"	49/16"	161/2"	2	Р		
C*	Back supports	11/2"	21/2"	20"	2	P		
D*	Seat front rail	11/2"	41/4"	46"	1	Р		
Ε	Seat rear rail	11/2"	43/4"	43"	1	Р		
F	Top seat rail	11/2"	3"	47"	1	Р		
G*	Center splat	3/4"	31/2"	221/8"	1	Р		
H*	Outer splats	3/4"	31/2"	251/4"	4	Р		
1*	Intermediate splats	3/4"	31/2"	295/8"	4	Р		
J*	Middle splats	3/4"	31/2"	30¾"	2	Р		
K	Seat slats	3/4"	21/2"	46"	5	P		
L	Rear seat slat	3/4"	3"	46"	1	Р		
М	Armrest rails	3/4"	3"	251/4"	4	P		
N	Armrest spacer	3/4"	3"	4"	2	P		
0	Armrest supports	3/4"	5"	231/2"	4	P		
P	Legs	11/2"	5"	113/4"	4	Р		
Q	Base rails	3/4"	47/8"	251/4"	4	Р		
R	Base stretchers	3/4"	47/8"	413/4"	2	Р		
S	Base spacers	3/4"	47/8"	103/4"	2	P		
Т	Arms	3/4"	5"	273/4"	2	Р		

^{*} Parts initially cut oversized and then trimmed to fit. See instructions.

Materials: P = Poplar

Hardware/Supplies: Exterior flathead screws: $\#8 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ "; $\#8 \times 1\frac{5}{8}$ ", $\#8 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ ", $\#8 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\#10 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ "; (4) $\frac{1}{4} \cdot 20 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " hex head machine screws; (4) $\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ " hex head machine screws; $\frac{1}{4}$ " nylon insert locking nuts; $\frac{3}{6}$ " fender washers; $\frac{1}{4}$ " fender washers w/1" O.D.; (1 qt.) general purpose exterior latex primer and sealer

Patterns



Spraying Made Simple

The right setup and spraying sequence are the keys to success.

By Keith Cochrane with Joe Hurst-Wajszczuk

s most professional woodworkers know, spraying is just about the fastest way to apply a finish. Done properly, it's also one of the cleanest. A spray gun can quickly lay smooth coats on flat surfaces without leaving a stray bristle behind, and it can effortlessly apply finish into corners and crevices that would frustrate the best brush.

Back in the days of solventbased lacquers, spraying was too much hassle for many garage and basement woodworkers to consider. Since then, advancements in waterborne finishes, coupled with a wide array of affordable spray guns, have put this professional finishing solution well within reach of almost everyone.

Using a spray gun is easy once you understand the basics. In this story, we'll show you how to prepare your workspace, your finish, and your gun, and how to finish a door and

cabinet in the proper step-bystep sequence. As with any technique, practice makes perfect. Invest a day or two spraying a few workshop cabinets, and you will soon have the skill to tackle other projects.

Chi

Note: The following steps focus on spraying waterborne finishes. If you plan to spray lacquer or other solvent-based finishes, you'll need to take additional fire-safety precautions.



Getting started

Before you can start spraying, you'll need to do a little prep work to ready your shop, your finish, and your gun.

Set the stage

Cut the dust. A few specks of dust can ruin an otherwise flawless finish. Vacuum your space and project. If you don't have a dedicated finishing room, you can use plastic sheeting or a canvas tarp to create an area that's suitable for spraying. Cover any walls, floors, and machinery that might suffer from overspray.

Establish good airflow. Your goal is to stand in clean air and to direct overspray away so that it won't be inhaled by you or settle on your project or other items in your shop.

The best approach is to use a high-powered commercial

Online Extra

For a simple spray booth, check out the plans for benchtop and floor models in "Spray Booths Made Simple" in Issue #36 (Aug/Sept 2010), available online at woodcraftmagazine.com/onlineextras.

fan located behind filters to
exhaust the overspray outside
as you shoot. However, even a
regular box fan covered with a
filter will work, just not as well.
Keep in mind that you need
fresh "makeup" air coming in,
which can be provided by an
open window at the opposite end
of a garage or basement shop.
To allow you to consistently
shoot toward your fan, set
up a support turntable that
permits you to rotate a project
as necessary while you work.

Light it right. Reflective lighting is indispensable for exposing flaws such as drips, specks, or missed spots. Position the light so that you can see its reflection in the wet finish. Work lights with either fluorescent or halogen bulbs function well, though the latter can burn you if you bump into them.

Prepare the finish

Finishing products may have undissolved lumps or contaminants that can spoil a finish or clog the gun. After stirring well, pour your finish through a paper strainer (Woodcraft #151299), to catch these potential troublemakers.

Stains and waterborne finishes formulated for spraying don't require thinning, but some latex paints may. If your sprayer comes with a viscosity cup, measure the time it takes for the cup to drain, and compare that with the manufacturer's recommendations.



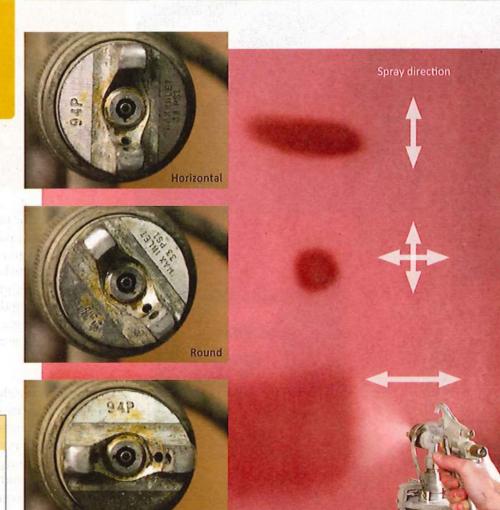
Setting up the gun

Spray patterns

Air caps can be set in three positions-each one creating a different fan pattern. To change the spray pattern, rotate the air cap. The horizontal fan pattern is good for spraying cabinet and furniture sides while moving the gun up and down. Use the vertical fan pattern for tops or for other applications that dictate moving the gun from side to side. The round spray pattern is used to minimize overspray in tight spots or to better target small objects.



Use cardboard or builder's (rosin) paper to test your gun's settings and to practice your spray technique.



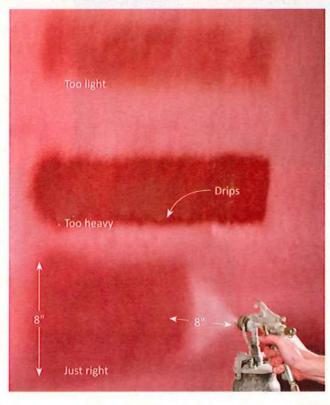
Vertical

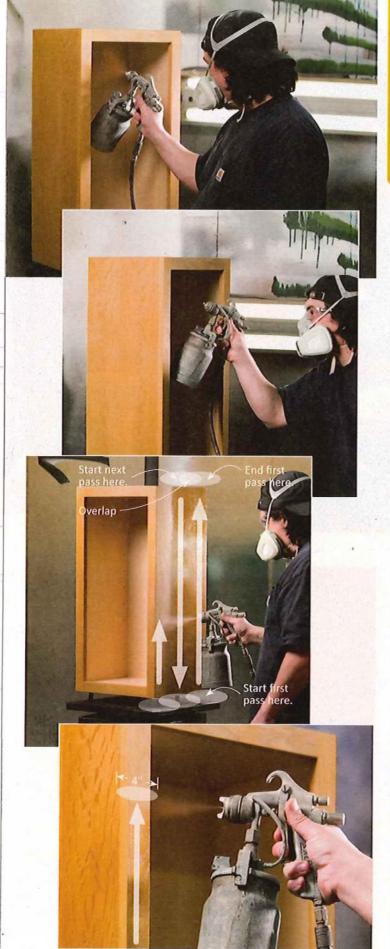
Fluid volume

To set the correct fluid volume, first close the fluid knob control. Then pull the trigger and back off the screw until you get an even, wet coat without drips or mist.

Note that fluid volumes for vertical and horizontal settings are about the same. If you switch to a round fan pattern, you'll need to reset your gun for less volume.







Finishing cases

Smooth, consistent finishing requires a plan. The rule of thumb when spraying is to progress from the least visible to the most visible sections. This approach minimizes the amount of overspray that settles on top of surfaces that matter most.

1 Spray under the top. Set the cap for a horizontal spray pattern. Starting at the rear of the case, move the gun to the front. When spraying, you generally want to hold the nozzle perpendicular to the surface being sprayed. Here's the exception to the rule. Pointing the gun straight up could cause finish to sneak into the airflow tube. Instead, angle the gun and spray as shown.

2 Spray inner sides, bottom and back. Set the air cap for a horizontal fan pattern, and run the gun up and down each side, overlapping half of each previous pass as you progress. You may need to adjust the air cap for a vertical fan pattern to lay finish in behind the face frame. Avoid spraying directly into the corners, as finish will tend to drip or bounce back toward you.

3 Spray the outer faces. Set the air cap for a horizontal spray pattern. Start spraying a few inches below the cabinet, and move up the face, maintaining the same spray angle and distance from the beginning to the end of the pass. Release the trigger a few inches past the top of the cabinet. Repeat the up and down sequence, overlapping each previous pass by about 50%, until the side is covered. Rotate the cabinet as you work, so that you are always spraying toward your exhaust fan.

4 Finish the face frames. With the air cap set for a horizontal fan pattern, reduce the spray pattern either by reducing the fluid volume or by moving the gun closer to your work. Hold the nozzle perpendicular to the face frame, but angle the case slightly so that the spray hits the inside edge and does not deposit any overspray on the cabinet's outer face. As when spraying the cabinet sides, begin and end the pass slightly past the ends of the face frame.

Spraying doors

These photos focus on the front face of a door, but you'll actually want to finish its back first, following this same threestep sequence. If time allows, let the back dry before tackling the front.

1 Start with the outer edges. Set the air cap to a vertical fan pattern. Hold the gun about 8" away from the door, and spray all four outer edges. Begin spraying a few inches before the wood and continue spraying a few inches after the wood.

2 Spray the inner edges. With the air cap set to a vertical spray pattern, hold the gun as shown and make a pass across the edge. To avoid laying too much finish on the center panel, position the gun so that the fan pattern is half on and half off the work. Rotate the door as you work to hit each frame part from the same angle. Pay attention to the inside edges, keeping the gun moving to avoid finish buildup there.

3 Finish with the panel and face. With the gun still set for a vertical spray pattern, hold it between 45° and 90°, and spray from side to side, pulling the trigger a few inches before and releasing it a few inches after each pass. Overlap each previous pass by about half the width of the fan pattern. Plan on a second coat for complete coverage.



Cleaning up

If you leave finish in the gun, it can harden in the cup or nozzle, rendering the gun temporarily useless. The gun can sit idle for a coffee or lunch break, but if you plan to step away for more than a few hours, clean out the cup and run soapy water through the gun.

Remove the air cap and needle and let them soak in soapy water. Clean the cup thoroughly, including the gasket. Spray undiluted cleaning solution (such as Simple Green) through the intake hose until foam comes out of the nozzle. ■

For a complete gun-cleaning regimen, see "TLC for your HVLP" in Issue 33 (Feb/Mar 2010). The downloadable version (#150848D) can be purchased at woodcraft.com.



All-Purpose Kitchen Cabinet

Build attractive storage for small appliances, bowls, and serving pieces.

By Linda Rowe with Joe Hurst-Wajszczuk; Designer: Craig Bentzley









tores and catalogs are chock-full of home storage options, but the best-fitting solution is one you build. Sporting sawtooth shelf supports and full-extension drawer slides, this piece will stand up to anything you can stack in or on it. For the cost of some wood, hardware, and a few free weekends, you can make this sturdy cabinet and learn a few tricks along the way.

While it may look like a serious woodworking project, strip it down to its bones, and you'll see that it's just a box-well within the reach of most woodworkers. Plywood and pocket-

hole screws simplify construction and speed up assembly. Solid wood trim strips and full-overlay doors conceal the box's humble beginnings and help hide any minor mistakes.

You can also customize the straightforward design to suit your needs. For example, you can build the wood-edged plywood top shown here, or step up to granite, as shown in the photo on page 2. For stone-buying tips, see "Going with Granite", page 46. By altering the trim or adjusting the dimensions this project can serve as a bathroom vanity or office workstation.

Start with the case

1 From ¾"-thick plywood, cut the sides (A), bottom (B), and center divider (C) to the sizes listed in the Cut List. Then, using a tablesaw outfitted with an auxiliary fence and dado set, cut the 1/4"-deep dadoes for the bottom and 1/2"-deep rabbets for the back on the sides, where shown in Figure 1 on page 42. Next, cut a 1/4"-deep dado across the center of the bottom to fit the center divider.

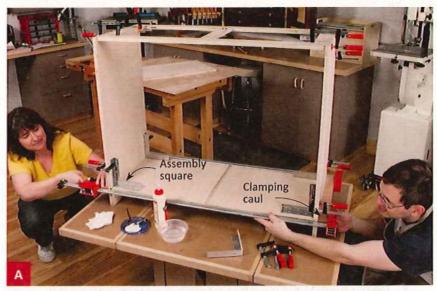
2 From 3/4"-thick plywood, cut the rails (D) and stiles (E) for the case web frame. Drill pocket holes in the ends of rails to assemble them to the stiles, and along the edges to attach the frame to the sides (A). Assemble the web frame using 11/4"-long washer-head screws.

3 Dry-assemble the sides (A) and bottom (B) to verify that the parts fit together correctly. When inset 1/2" from the front edge of the sides, the bottom should align with the inside edge of the

rabbets in the side. Now, glue and clamp the parts together, as shown in Photo A. (Note: If you're short on long clamps, you can drive screws through the sides to attach them to the bottom. The trim strips will hide the fasteners.) 4 Position the web frame assembly (D, E) so that the top

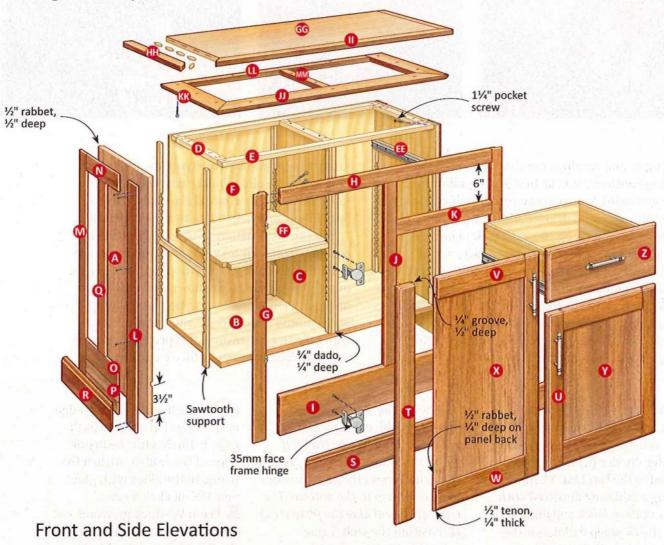
edge is flush with the top edge of the sides (A) and the back edge is flush with the inside edge of the rabbet. Attach the frame to the sides with glue and 11/4" pocket screws.

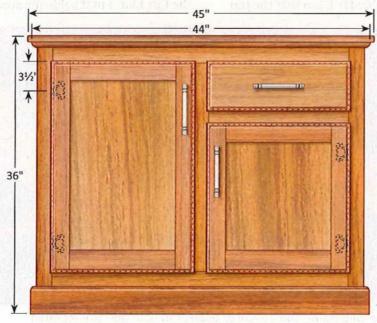
5 From ¼"-thick plywood, cut the back (F) to the size listed in the Cut List. Put it aside for now.

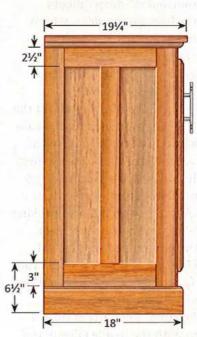


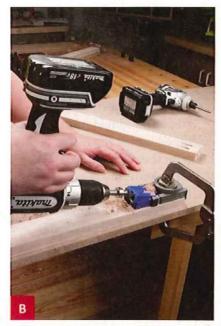
Use the web frame and assembly squares to hold the case together while you attach the sides to the bottom with clamps and cauls.

Figure 1: Exploded View









Center the pocket-hole jig on the end of your workpiece, clamp it in place, and then drill the screw holes.

Make the face frame

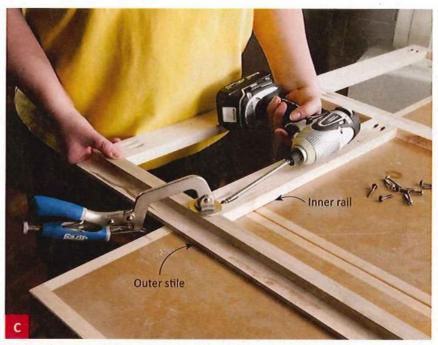
1 Mill 1" (4/4) stock to make the face frame rails and stiles (Note: Except for the bottom rail [I], all of the face frame parts [G, H, J, and K] are 2" wide.)
2 Using a tablesaw and dado set, cut a 1" rabbet, ½" deep along the edge of the outer stiles (G). (When placed against the side [A], the stile's edge should protrude a bit more than ½".)

Trim the outer stiles to length.

3 Cut the top and bottom rails (H, I) and center stile (J) to fit. Next, cut the inner rail (K) to fit. Make pencil marks where the parts meet to facilitate later assembly.

4 Using a pocket-hole jig, drill a pair of angled holes on the ends of the three rails (H, I, K) and the center stile (J), as shown in Photo B.

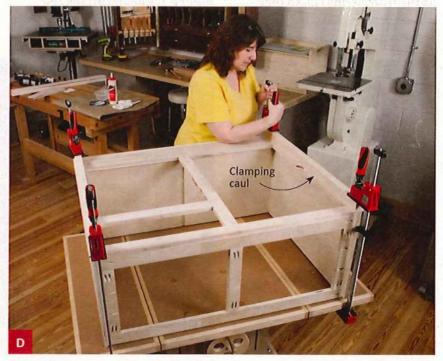
5 Assemble the face frame from the outside in. First, screw the top and bottom rails (H, I) to the outer stiles (G). Next attach the center stile (J) between the rails, and then attach the inner rail (K), as shown in **Photo C**.



Clamp the pieces flat against a work surface as you drive the screws to ensure flush joints where the rails meet the stiles.

6 Test-fit the assembled face frame (G, H, I, J, K) on the case. Note the locations where you need to use more clamps to ensure a gap-free joint. Apply glue and then clamp in place (Photo D).

7 Apply glue to the dado on the bottom (B) and slide in the center divider (C). Clamp the divider to the center stile (J), check for square, and then attach the web frame to the top of the divider with 1½" screws.



Using clamping cauls to distribute pressure across the joint, glue the face frame to the case. The frame helps square and solidify the cabinet.



Use guide blocks to establish the correct spacing and to ensure that the center strip is parallel with the front.

Trim the case

1 From 3/4"-thick stock, rip 8 strips, approximately 3" wide and 36" long. (To be safe, rip an extra strip or two.) Using a tablesaw equipped with a thinkerf blade, resaw the strips in half and then thickness to 1/4". Rip two pieces to 21/4" for use as the front strips (L), so that when butted against the edge of the outer stile (G), the front

strip will appear to be as wide as the other vertical strips.

2 Cutting the trim strips to fit as you go, glue and pin the front strip (L) and the back strip (M) flush with the front and back edges of the sides. Next, cut the top and bottom cross strips (N, O) to fit where shown in Figure 1. Cut and attach the bottom filler strips (P) to to serve as backer for the base molding.

- 3 Cut a center strip (Q) to fit vertically between the cross strips (N,O). Center this strip on the side, and make a pair of spacer blocks to position it while nailing (Photo E).
- 4 Using a handheld router equipped with a flush-trim bit, trim the outer stiles (G) flush with the face of the front trim strip (L).
- 5 Mill stock for the base molding. Rout your desired profile along the top edge. Leaving all three pieces a few inches long, miter the ends of the side pieces (R) and one end of the front piece (S) section.
- 6 Clamp the side base molding pieces to their respective sides of the cabinet. Next, fit the mitered end of the front section against the matching end (Photo F), mark the

Tip Alert

Miter scrap pieces to test the fit of the joint at the front corners before cutting the actual molding.

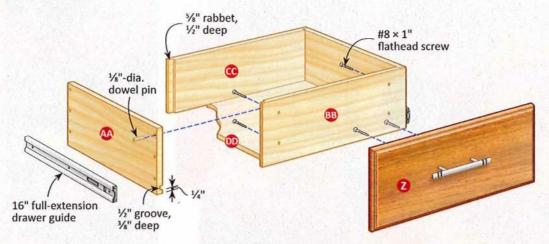


Practice fitting the baseboard miters before cutting the side pieces to length.



For tighter miters, fit the pieces together and mark the exact length of the center section.

Figure 2: Drawer Detail



length on the square-cut end (Photo G) and cut to length.

7 Attach the base molding to the case. Attach one side with glue and nails, then center, and then the remaining side.

Make the doors and drawer

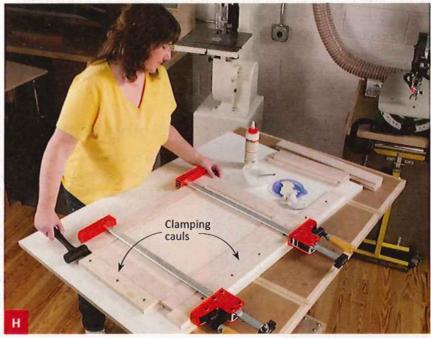
- 1 Prepare enough ¾"-thick stock to make the door rails and stiles (T, U, V, W). Cut the parts to the widths listed in the Cut List, but leave them long for now. Arrange the parts for the best grain match, and label them accordingly, noting the inside and outside edges.
- 2 Outfit your tablesaw with a ¼" dado set. Using a piece of scrap, adjust the cutter to make a centered ½"-deep cut along the inside edges of your stock, running the "show" face against the rip fence.
- 3 Cut the long stiles (T), short stiles (U), and the top and bottom rails (V, W) to length. Now using your tablesaw and miter gauge with an auxiliary fence and stop, cut ½" long tenons on the ends of your rails. Adjust the cut so that the tenon fits snugly in the groove.
- 4 From ½"-thick plywood, cut door panels (X, Y) to size. Cut

 $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ " deep rabbets along the back face so that the panel can fit into the rails and stiles.

- 5 Assemble the long door using a flat assembly table, like the one shown in **Photo H**. Test-fit the parts and adjust the tenons as necessary with a shoulder plane or sanding block. Now, using Titebond 3 or similar slow-set glue, assemble the door.
- 6 After the assembly cures, remove it from the frame.

Repeat the assembly process with the short door (U, V, W, Y).

- 7 Using a drill press and 35mm Forstner bit, drill the doors, where shown in Figure 1, for the cup hinges. Set the doors aside for now.
- 8 Mill the drawer false front (Z) to the size listed in the Cut List. Next, mill stock to 5%" thick, and then cut parts to make the drawer sides (AA), front (BB), and back (CC). Cut a ½ × 3%" groove on the



Clamp the rails and stiles against a pair of right angle fences to ensure a square glue-up. Squeeze-out will not stick to the melamine surface.



Attach the glide supports ¼" above the inner rail. Then, screw the metal hardware flush with the bottom edge.

bottom edges of the side and front. Next, cut a 3/8 deep × 1/2" wide rabbet on both edges of the front and back as shown in Figure 2. Dry-fit the parts together, and cut a drawer bottom (DD) to fit.

9 Assemble the drawer with glue. To reinforce the rabbet joint, drill 1/8" holes through the sides, where shown in Figure 2. Brush glue onto 1/8"-dia. dowels, and tap them in place. When dry, trim flush.

10 Cut the glide supports (EE), and test-fit them in the case. Adjust the thickness so that they sit flush with the inside edge of the stiles. Install them 1/4" above the inner rail, as shown in Photo I.
11 Cut the sawtooth hangers to fit in the case. Now attach them

fit in the case. Now attach them to the sides (A) with ¾"-long nails (Photo J). Cut the included hanger brackets to fit snugly between the hangers. Cut plywood shelves



Pin the hangers inside the case.

Trim the same amount from each end so that the teeth line up.

(FF) to fit. (Edge the shelf with wood or veneer banding to suit.) Notch the corners of the shelves to fit around the hangers.

Finish and final assembly

1 Inspect all parts, finishsand where needed through 220 grit, and stain and finish with products of your choosing to match your décor.

2 Clamp the back (F) in place and install with $#8 \times \frac{3}{4}$ " screws.



Going With Granite

You can build a wood top, but there are plenty of reasons to consider granite. It cleans easily and shrugs off hot pots and staining agents that could trash finished wood. Plus, it can make a simple cabinet resemble a high-end kitchen cabinet.

The only downside is price; granite countertops can run as high as \$100 per square foot. To save money, ask about "remnants," pieces left over from other jobs. These scraps can be had for a lot less. To select the right piece of stone, bring a sample finished in the same manner as your cabinet and the desired dimensions. The dealer may suggest edge treatments or protective finishes that can affect the total cost.

3 Mount the drawer slides flush with the bottom edge of the glide supports (EE). Then mount the slides on the drawer sides (AA). Install the cup hinges in both doors, and attach the matching clip to the outer stiles. Attach the doors to the cabinet. 4 Install the drawer pulls on the drawer front and both doors. Then clamp the front on the front of the drawer. Drill pilot and countersunk shank holes though the drawer box and into the drawer front. Secure the front to the drawer with #8 × 1" screws. 5 Referring to the Cut List, cut the parts for the wood top and assemble as shown in Figure 1. Fasten it to the web frame with #8 × 11/2" wood screws. If you opted for granite, apply a bead of silicone caulk to the web frame and rest the stone in place.

	nvenience YING GU	
□1.	#147643	\$39.99
124	Kreg Jig Jr. Po	cket-Hole Jig
□2.	#142246	\$4.69
		nole #8 × 1¼" Long se Thread (100)
□3.	#143958	\$10.99
	DrillRite 35m	m Hinge Jig and Bit
□4.	#131197	\$18.50
	16" Accuride Extension Dra	3732 Full awer Slides, pair
□5.	#24E18	\$37.49
	Whiteside Ro 5/32" R × 1/16" C	man Ogee L (½" SH)
□6.	#02R85	\$6.99
	Blum 110° Fa Euro Hinges, Edge Mount,	½" Overlay
□7.	#153504	\$29.99
	Sawtooth She	elf Supports, Poplar
woodc		e at Woodcraft stores, ng (800) 225-1153. without notice.

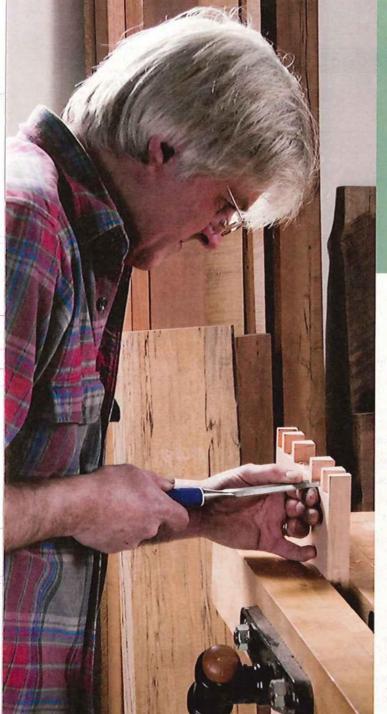
100	Part	Thickness	Width	Length	Qty.	Mat
A	Sides	3/4"	17"	341/2"	2	Ply
В	Bottom	3/4"	161/4"	401/2"	1	Ply
С	Center Divider	3/4"	161/4"	293/4"	1	Ply
D	Web frame rails	3/4"	2"	121/4"	3	Ply
E	Web frame stiles	3/4"	2"	40"	2	Ply
F	Back	1/4"	41"	31"	1	Ply
G	Outer stiles	3/4"	2"	34%"	2	М
H*	Top Rail	3/4"	2"	38 "	1	М
*	Bottom Rail	3/4"	51/2"	38"	1	М
j*	Center Stile	3/4"	2"	27"	1	М
K*	Inner Rail	3/4"	2"	18"	1	М
L*	Front strip	1/4"	21/4"	341/2"	2	М
M*	Back strip	1/4"	21/2"	341/2"	2	М
N*	Top cross strip	1/4"	21/2"	121/4"	2	М
0*	Bottom cross strip	1/4"	3"	121/4"	2	М
P*	Filler Strips	1/4"	13/4"	121/4"	4	М
Q*	Center strip	1/4"	21/2"	251/2"	2	М
R*	Side base molding	3/4"	31/2"	18"	2	М
S*	Front base molding	3/4"	31/2"	44"	1	М
T	Door stile (long)	3/4"	21/2"	271/2"	2	М
U	Door stile (short)	3/4"	21/2"	191/2"	2	М
V	Door top rail	3/4"	21/2"	15"	2	М
W	Door bottom rail	3/4"	3"	15"	2	М
X	Large panel	1/2"	15"	23"	1	Ply
Υ	Small panel	1/2"	15"	15"	1	Ply
Z	False front	3/4"	61/2"	19"	1	М
AA	Drawer side	5/8"	51/2"	151/2"	2	М
ВВ	Drawer front	5/8"	51/2"	171/4"	1	М
СС	Drawer back	5/8"	43/4"	171/4"	1	М
DD	Drawer bottom	1/2"	163/4"	15½"	1	М
EE*	Drawer glide supports	3/4"	21/2"	16"	2	P
FF	Shelves	3/4"	161/2"	19"	2	Ply
+GG	Plywood top	3/4"	173/4"	42"	1	Ply
+HH	Top edging ends	3/4"	11/2"	191/4"	2	М
HI	Top edging front	3/4"	11/2"	45"	1	М
+]]	Subbase ends	3/4"	33/4"	183/4"	2	М
+KK	Subbase front	3/4"	33/4"	44"	1	М
+LL	Subbase center support	3/4"	11/2"	15"	1	М
+MM	Subbase back support	3/4"	11/2"	361/2"	1	М

^{*}Indicates parts that are initially cut oversized. See instructions.

Materials: Ply=Plywood, M=Maple, P=Pine

Hardware/Supplies: (3) $\#8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ " flathead screws, (4) $\#8 \times 1$ flathead screws, (16) $\#8 \times \frac{3}{4}$ " flathead screws

⁺ indicates parts used to build optional wood top.



Using Chisels

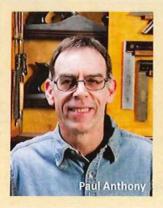
The mastery is all in the basics.

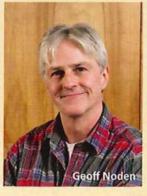
By Paul Anthony and Geoff Noden

A chisel is a simply remarkable tool. Basically just a piece of steel with one sharpened end and a handle, it can perform the coarsest work to the most refined. You can use it to rough out shaped parts, fine-tune joints, pare plugs, and chop out mortises, among myriad other things. It's all in how you wield the tool.

Mastering the chisel is all about learning a handful of basic maneuvers, but learning them well. Here, we'll show you how to grip, power, and guide this invaluable tool to ensure the kind of clean, accurate paring and chopping that leads to tight joinery and precise detailing. To wrap things up, we'll show how these techniques can be best employed, using as examples typical operations you're likely to encounter in your own workshop.

Note: For the sake of brevity and clarity, throughout this article we'll regard the right hand as the dominant hand. Apologies to our lefty friends, who will have to reverse the instructions.





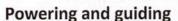
About Our Authors

Senior editor Paul Anthony and furnituremaker Geoff Noden drew on their combined 72 years of woodworking experience to produce this article. Surprisingly, they had very few arguments about proper technique—a good thing, considering they were both armed with keenly honed weapons. Contact Paul at Paul_Anthony@woodcraftmagazine.com. For more on Geoff, visit geoffreynoden.com.

Basic maneuvers



Press the chisel face flat against the surface to be trimmed.



When maneuvering a chisel, use your right hand to power it, either by grasping the tool handle or by tapping it with a mallet. Use your left hand to register the blade against the work and to provide fine control. The left hand generally leads the dance. That is, you use it to locate the chisel tip on target before driving the blade into the work using your right hand.

Your left hand serves as an anchor, as it contacts both the chisel and the work or

Establishing cut direction

When chopping with a mallet, rest your left hand on the workpiece while pinching the blade between your fingers (Photo D). A short chisel works best for this, as a longer tool tends to sway due to its top-heaviness.

When your angle of attack needs to be absolutely precise, there's no shame in using a guide block. This is particularly helpful when paring miters, as shown in Photo E. To clean up squared notches, use a guide block with a squared end.



Back up while maintaining the angle of the blade.

adjacent workbench surface. It also provides a fulcrum for fine directional control and braking at the business end of the chisel while your right hand provides general steering.

When possible, establish the direction of travel by using the surface to be cut as a reference, as shown in Photos A through C. Learn to guide a chisel as much by feel as by sight. For example, practice orienting the tool vertically (or horizontally),



Pinching the blade as shown affords much better chopping control than holding the chisel by its handle.



Apply pressure against the blade and pare forward.

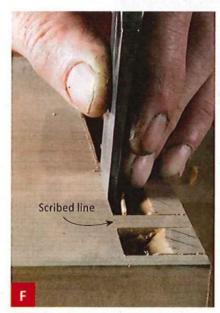
just as you practice keeping a handsaw properly oriented during sawing. And pay attention to the nuance of a particular cut. For instance, if the wood starts to tear, or the tip of the chisel digs into the surface, you may need to try a different angle of attack.

Tip Alert

Although it may seem counterintuitive, the back of the chisel is actually called the face.



A mitered guide block for the chisel ensures precise paring on the ends of mitered moldings or other parts.

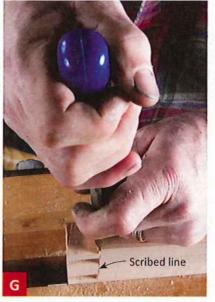


After hogging out the waste, insert the chisel tip in the scribed line and make the final paring cut.

Working to scribed lines

A neatly scribed line—whether made with a knife or marking gauge—creates one of the best guides for a chisel. The scribed line severs the wood fibers at the surface, eliminating tear-out at the joint edge while creating a tiny trough for registering the chisel tip. In a sense, this is the first cut in making the joint.

After scribing the joint layout, the next step is to chop or saw away the bulk of the waste. Ideally, you want to leave just enough waste so that it can be pared away in a single slice



For a shoulder cut, align a chisel with the scribed line at the base of the tails (here) or tenon shoulder.

afterward. If there's more than that, pare back to the scribed line taking a series of slices. (Avoid taking too big a bite at once, or the chisel bevel will act like a wedge, forcing the tool backwards and possibly past the scribed line.)

To make the final cut, place the edge of the chisel in the scribed line (Photo F), and then drive it with a series of light mallet taps.

Instead of tapping, you can pare by hand, as shown in (Photo E). Keep the blade firmly pinched in your left hand, pressing the hand against

Bevel Up Or Bevel Down?

A chisel can be used bevel up or bevel down. It's usually best to work with the bevel up because the back, or face, is self-referencing. That is, when the face is contacting the work, it helps guide the blade parallel to the work surface, somewhat like the sole of a plane. Conversely, when the bevel is oriented downward, it has minimal contact with the surface, requiring a steady guiding hand to hold the tool at a consistent cutting angle while preventing the tip from digging in too far.

the workpiece to serve as a brake to keep the chisel from lurching forward. Again, when making the final slice, locate the chisel tip in the scribed line.

When hand-paring to a scribed line, don't just push the chisel straight forward. Instead, wiggle the tool side to side as you apply pressure. At first, wiggle it only slightly to prevent pulling it out of the scribed line. As the depth of cut increases, apply more side-to-side motion while increasing forward pressure, the whole time pinching the blade firmly with your left hand pressed against the work to prevent the chisel from lurching forward.

In addition to locating the chisel tip, scribed lines can also provide a visual bead for aiming your chisel. For example, when paring the shoulder on the edge of a tailboard, mount the work in a vise, and sight down the side of the blade to align it with the scribed line made at the base of the tails (Photo G).

Safety Tips

- To prevent slicing the hand that grasps the blade, ease the sides of a chisel with 400-grit sandpaper, beginning about an inch from the cutting edge.
- Always secure work in a bench vise or with clamps to prevent it from slipping during cutting.
- Don't work with a dull chisel, which requires more force and tends to slip in use.
- Never place your hand or other body part in the path of a chisel, in case it lurches forward.



Because the grain on this tenon cheek rises toward the shoulder, paring inward from the end of the tenon produces the cleanest cut.



To cut a clean chamfer, slice outward toward the end grain surface.

Cutting cleanly

As mentioned, scribing a layout minimizes tear-out at the wood surface. There are also a few other techniques you can use to ensure that you're cutting as cleanly as possible.

First of all, when paring, cut with the slope of the grain whenever possible, as shown in **Photo H**. If the grain rises in your favor on one tenon cheek, it won't on the opposite cheek, where you'll have to cut across the grain, as shown in **Photos A-C**.

Using a slicing motion can also prevent grain

Sharp and Flat

Of course it's important that a chisel be sharp to work properly, and the sharper the better. But it's also crucial that the face is flat. If it's rounded over at the cutting edge, you've lost your reference surface. No matter how you sharpen your chisels, make sure the cutting edge is finely honed and that the bevel meets a flat face.

tear-out. For example, when chamfering the end of a tenon for easier insertion in its mortise, don't just push the chisel straight forward, which will tend to lift the wood fibers. Instead, slice forward and outward toward the end of the tenon (Photo I). This will shear the fibers clean because they're supported in the direction of the cut.

There are times when slicing with just the corner of the chisel is the way to go. For instance, you may need to remove a ridge caused by a cut made a hair too shy, like that shown in **Photo J**. By pushing and dragging one corner of the chisel tip through the ridge, you meet less cutting resistance and tear-out than by simply forcing the entire edge forward.



Slicing with just the corner of the chisel reduces cutting resistance while cleanly severing the wood fibers.

Fine-tuning a hand-cut tenon



Having sawn proud of your scribed shoulder lines, first pare away the waste on the narrow edge of the workpiece. To stay square, sight down the edge of the chisel, aligning it with the shoulder scribed line that runs across the wide workpiece face. Remove any initial heavy waste in a series of paring cuts; then register the chisel tip in the scribed line to make the final cut.



Hold the chisel blade with your left hand resting solidly on the work. Begin the cut by resting the face of the chisel against the previously pared shoulder surface and rocking it into the wide shoulder scribed line. With each subsequent cut, register the face of the chisel against the previously pared surface. Finish up by paring the tenon cheeks as previously described.

Cutting a hinge mortise



After scribing the perimeter and depth of the mortise, chop up the waste for easy removal. Work shy of the scribed lines, leaving a bit to pare afterward for a perfect fit.



Working inward from the open end of the mortise, pare away the chopped waste. Start the final cuts by registering the tip of the chisel in the depth scribed line.



Registering the chisel tip in the scribed lines, pare the ends. Then pare the long edge using delicate cuts to prevent breaking away the thin wall at the rear of the mortise.

Chopping a tenon mortise



After scribing the mortise perimeter and drilling out the majority of the waste, use a wide chisel to pare away the protrusions, staying a bit inside your scribed lines. Anchor your left hand against the bench, grasping the chisel blade to keep it perpendicular as you push downward.



Chop the ends of the mortise, working toward your scribed line in a series of shallow cuts with your left hand anchored on the bench. Make the final cut on each end a light one, beginning with the chisel tip resting in the scribed line.



Finish up by paring the long edges back to their scribed lines. Again, anchor your left hand on the bench with a finger wrapped around the chisel blade to help keep the chisel perpendicular to the surface as you push it downward.

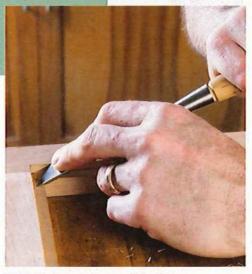
Squaring a routed frame rabbet



After scribing or drawing your layout lines, pare toward the corner in a series of adjacent cuts made at 90° to each other, beginning with the cross-grain cut. Depending on the density of the wood and the depth of cut, you can push or chop, with the latter generally being the faster approach.



For your final cuts into the corner, begin with the crossgrain cut, extending it no further than the layout line. Follow up with an adjacent long-grain cut that perfectly intersects the end of the cross-grain cut.



With its bevel down, slide the chisel into the corner to flatten the surface and remove any residual wood fibers. With your left hand anchored against the benchtop, hold the chisel firmly at the cutting angle while pushing it with your right hand.

Paring projections



To pare splines flush, take a series of slices in the direction of the grain, holding the chisel level with your left hand anchored against the workpiece and your right hand providing the power. Pinching the chisel with your left hand controls forward motion to prevent lurching.

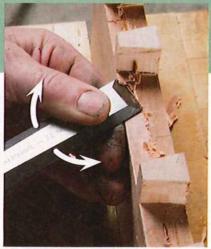


Whenever possible, pare plugs flush with the chisel bevel up so that its face can register against the adjacent work surface. Pare in small slices, as taking too big a bite at once risks tearing out grain or lifting the plug.



When forced to pare bevel down, as near the center of a board, use your left hand to anchor the chisel and to maintain an effective cutting angle. Cut in the direction of the plug grain to prevent tear-out.

Fine-tuning dovetails



After sawing or chopping out the majority of the waste, pare to the baseline. Place the chisel tip in the scribed line and push forward while wiggling the tool slightly side to side. Pinch the blade with your left hand anchored against the workpiece to control the speed and amount of forward motion.



When necessary to fine-tune a pin cheek, use the same basic hand position as when paring to the baseline, but in a perpendicular orientation. To aim the chisel, register its face across the cheek, and then draw it back in the same manner as shown in **Photos A-C** on page 49.



Prepare to pare the shoulders on a tailboard by inserting the chisel tip in the scribed line and sighting down the length of the chisel to align it with the baseline at the foot of the tails. Then press the chisel downward while maintaining that angle.



If you enjoy making your own tools, as I do, you'll find these three mallets to be a great weekend project. They don't use a lot of material, they go together fairly quickly, and the final result yields tools that become a regular part of your shop workforce. The designs include a simple one-piece turned mallet used for striking chisels and carving tools, a cylindrical-head joiner's mallet

intended for assembly work, and a square-faced joiner's mallet for both chisel work and assembly purposes.

The first two designs are made primarily on a lathe (a mini lathe works fine), while the third relies heavily on the tablesaw. Note that the 5° taper on the head of the turned mallet and the angled striking faces on the square-faced mallet accommodate the swing of your arm to create a more direct blow

in use. In contrast, the faces of the assembly mallet are parallel to the handle to help keep your orientation square when coaxing joints together.

Making these mallets provides a great opportunity to pull into play those precious wood scraps you've been hoarding, while creating tools that should take care of most of your joint-cutting and assembly needs.

Good Mallet Woods

For good mallet head stock, select heavy, dense material that's resistant to splitting. Many exotic species such as jatoba and bubinga fit the bill nicely. However, there's no shortage of appropriate domestic hardwoods such as beech, hop hornbeam, locust, and dogwood that will work just as well. Many of these aren't widely available commercially, but they're worth searching out, even if it means doing some tree trimming yourself. On the other hand, hard maple will work fine, and it's plentiful from wood suppliers. For mallet handles, use a strong, shock-resistant wood like ash or hickory. In fact, I salvaged a broken hickory axe handle for one of my mallet handles.

Round joiner's mallet



Drill the handle hole by cradling the mallet head in a V-block that was sawn on the tablesaw.

- 1 Mount the stock for the head between centers on your lathe. Turn the piece round with a spindle gouge. Part it to length, leaving just enough stock at the bottom of the parting cuts to keep the spinning piece intact. Sand the head to 220 grit before removing it from the lathe. Cut the head free, and sand away the saw marks from both faces.
- 2 Chuck a 1/8"-diameter bit in your drill press, and use it to center a V-block on the drill press table directly below the quill. Clamp the block to the table and swap out the 1/8" bit for a 3/4"-diameter Forstner bit.

- 3 Cradle the mallet head in the V-block and drill a 3/4"-diameter hole completely through its center, as shown in Photo A. For added stability, you can glue 220-grit sandpaper to the faces of the V.
- 4 Mount the handle blank on the lathe, and turn it to a

Tip Alert

An open-end wrench makes a great caliper while turning tenons on a lathe because its wide, fixed jaws are much easier to hold against the spinning workpiece than the skinny jaws on most calipers.

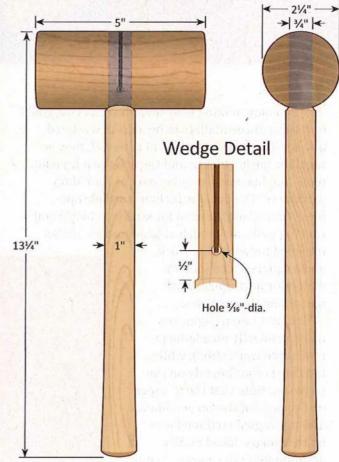


While turning the handle tenon, you can use a 3/4" open-end wrench to gauge the final diameter.



Start making the wedge with a strip of 3/16"-thick scrap that is long enough to provide a good grip. Sand it to shape, making the thin end about 1/32" thick.

Round Joiner's Mallet



1" diameter. Sand it, and then turn the ¾"-diameter tenon to about 2¾" long (Photo B). Check the fit of the tenon in the mallet head before cutting the handle to final length.

5 Drill a 3/16"-diameter hole through the tenon about 1/2" from its shoulder. Cradling the handle in the V-block used earlier, make a bandsaw cut extending from the end of the tenon into the hole. (The hole prevents any possible crack from traveling down the handle when the wedge is inserted later.)

6 Cut a strip of scrap about 3/16" thick, 3/4" wide, and 10" long to make into the wedge.

Create a taper using a stationary sander, as shown in **Photo** C. The finished wedge should taper from about ¹/₃₂" less than the kerf width to a fat ¹/₃₂" more than the kerf width along 2³/₄". The idea is that the installed wedge should run nearly the entire length of the slot while compressing the wood fibers and expanding the kerf a bit at the top of the handle.

7 Glue the handle in the head, and drive in the glued wedge to reinforce the joint (Photo D). Be sure to orient the slot in the handle perpendicular to the axis of the head so the wedge doesn't want to split the head.



Install the wedge perpendicular to the axis of the head; then trim and sand away the tenon waste.

Turned mallet

1 Start with a piece of wood $3 \times 3 \times 12$ " long. (If you can't find a thick enough piece, you can build one up by face-gluing thinner pieces together.) Rip off the corners of the blank on the tablesaw to make the piece roughly octagonal. This



After turning the mallet head to shape, create a smooth transition from the head to the handle.

will make turning the piece round that much easier.

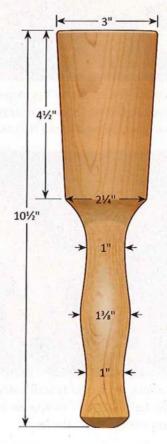
2 Mount the blank between centers on your lathe, and turn it to a cylinder.

3 Turn the head to the shape shown at right. Use a parting tool to establish the diameter at the smaller end of the head; then switch to a spindle gouge to cut the taper.

4 Turn the handle to the shape shown. Feel free to modify the form to suit your hand. Again, use a parting tool to establish the final diameter at the center of the bulge. Then switch to a spindle gouge to do the shaping, as shown in **Photo A**.

5 Sand the mallet to whatever grit you like while it is still on the lathe. Saw away any excess material from the ends, and sand away the saw marks. Finish the mallet with several coats of penetrating oil.

Turned Mallet



Square-faced joiner's mallet



Cut the handle dado through the center section of the head blank, using stops clamped to an auxiliary miter gauge fence to register the sides of the cut.



When sawing the tenon on the mallet handle, you can safely use the rip fence as a stop because there is no waste piece being created that could kick back.



To make sure the mallet is well-balanced. keep the dado centered as you cut the angles on either end of the head.

1 Cut two pieces of 1/8"-thick stock and one piece of 3/4"-thick stock for the mallet head. Make each squared piece about 1/8" wider and longer than the finished dimensions shown in the side view at right. Also cut the material for the handle to the size shown.

2 Face-glue the 3/4"-thick piece to one of the 1/8"-thick pieces. After the glue dries, sand the long edges of the two-piece blank flush, but don't curve the top edge yet.

3 Set up a dado head for a wide cut on your tablesaw. The exact width doesn't matter, as the cut you'll be making is wider than most dado heads can make in a single pass. Lay out a 1"-wide dado, centering it across the length of the blank. Attach a sacrificial fence to your miter gauge that extends 6" or so past the blade. Clamp stops to the fence at either end of the blank to locate the two sides of the cut, as shown in Photo A. Then cut the dado, with the 3/4"-thick part of the blank against the saw table. Take a series of subsequently deeper cuts, raising the dado head as you approach the perfect depth.

4 Make a $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ "-long blank for the handle. With the same dado head setup, saw a 3/4"-thick × 1"-wide × 31/2"-long tenon on the end of the mallet handle (Photo B). First cut across the narrower edges to establish the 1" width of the tenon, and then check its fit in the mallet head dado. Adjust the height of the dado head if needed, and then pare the edges with a wide chisel to fine-tune the fit. Reset the height of the dado to cut the tenon to a thickness of about 1/32" fatter than the mallet head dado.

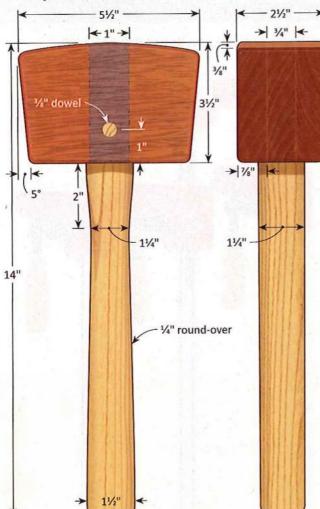
5 Swap the dado head for a regular saw blade, and cut the ends of the mallet head at a 5° angle (Photo C). Cut the second \(\gamma''\)-thick piece to match. (This operation is also easily done on a chop saw.)

6 Place the handle in the head, and pare the tenon flush to the adjacent surface, as shown in Photo D. A good fit here is crucial for a proper glue-up that ensures working strength.

7 Lay out the tapered cuts on one side of the handle, where shown above right. Make the cuts on the bandsaw, and then plane, scrape, and sand away the saw marks.

8 Chuck a ¼"-radius round-over bit in a table-mounted router, and shape the edges of the handle (Photo E). Afterward, sand the handle thoroughly, avoiding the tenon.

Square-Faced Joiner's Mallet





Use a wide chisel to pare the handle tenon deadflush with the interior surface of the mallet head.



When rounding the handle edges, prevent the bit from throwing the work by beginning the cut while levering against a fulcrum pin.

9 Glue the handle in place in between the two head pieces (Photo F), carefully aligning the bottom edges of the pieces.

10 Drill a 3/8"-diameter hole completely through the head and handle. Then glue a dowel in

place to reinforce the connection.

11 Lay out the slight arc at the top of the mallet, as shown above. Cut the curve on the bandsaw, and then sand away the saw marks with a stationary belt or disc sander. Also sand the angled faces to flush them up.

12 Chamfer the edges of the head with a block plane. This makes the mallet a little friendlier

to handle and helps keep the head from chipping should you strike something off center.

13 Finish the mallet with

penetrating oil.

About Our Designer/Builder Ken Burton has been working with wood for more than 30 years and writing about it

nearly as long. His latest book, Crafting Wooden Lamps, is now available from F&W Media. Check out his website at wrwoodworks.com.



Two stout clamps should be enough to glue on the third mallet head piece.

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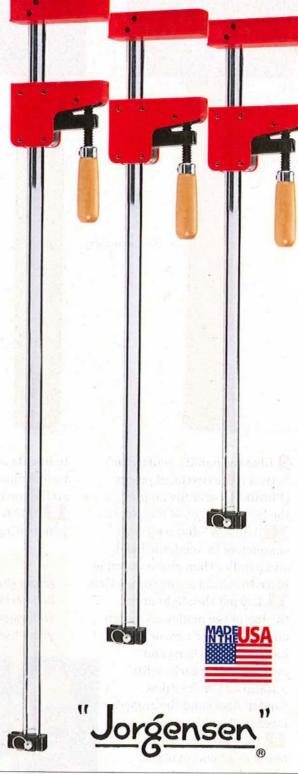
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Slot Mortising Jig

Rout ends and edges accurately with this rail-guided jig.

By Craig Bentzley

Overall dimensions: 18"w × 53/4"d × 10"h

ome woodworkers discount loose tenons as the poor machine-cut cousin of traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery, but I've found the joint useful in many instances. Joining parts using a pair of matching mortises and a snug-fitting wood strip, instead of sawing a tenon to fit a mortise, saves stock. And with the proper setup, loose tenon joinery is just as strong as its competition, but quicker and easier to accomplish.

Wanting a slot mortiser but not willing to spend money for a commercial model, I used leftover material and spare hardware to create a simple

rail-guided mortising jig for my plunge router. Despite my initial success, I further improved the jig by adding Bessey's autoadjust toggle clamps. Now my revised jig is just as reliable and accurate as its predecessor, but thanks to the new toggles, slippage is a thing of the past. Once set, the auto-adjust hold-downs provide the same amount of pressure on a 21/2"thick leg as on a 3/4" rail without needing to adjust the footpad.

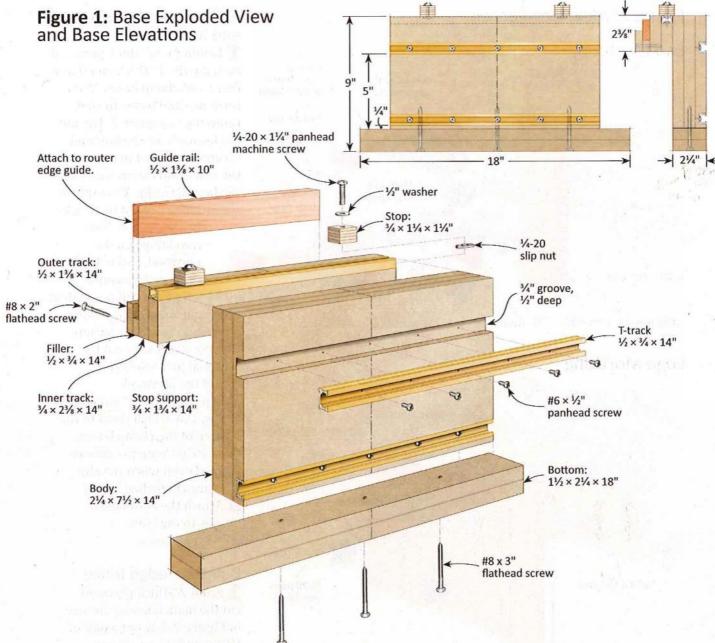
The jig can hold stock up to 8" wide and 33/4" thick. By adjusting the base dimensions, you can easily mortise still larger parts.

Build the base

1 As shown in Figure 1. make the base in sections, starting with the body. From 3/4"-thick MDF, cut three pieces slightly larger than the finished dimensions. Laminate the pieces together, and then trim an edge and end to correct an uneven edge and slice away any squeeze-out. Now trim the uncut edge and end to final

Tip Alert

To prevent MDF from splitting along its edge, drill clearance and pilot holes before driving screws.



dimensions. Cut two 1/2"-deep dadoes across the front face, where shown, to fit the T-track. 2 From 3/4"-thick MDF, cut the stop support and inner track. Glue the stop support to the body, where shown. Use a piece of T-track to ensure that the installed track will be flush with the jig's top edge. Let the glue cure, and then attach the inner track, again using T-track to ensure that the jig's top edge is flush. 3 From 1/2"-thick MDF, cut the

Glue the two together, and then attach them to the inner track with glue and 2" screws. Wipe away any squeeze-out, especially in the groove for the guide rail. 4 To make the bottom section. start with two oversized pieces of 3/4"-thick MDF, glue and clamp the stack together, and then trim to final dimension. Drill clearance holes where shown, and then attach with glue and 3"-long screws. Make sure that the front edge of the bottom is flush with the jig's face.

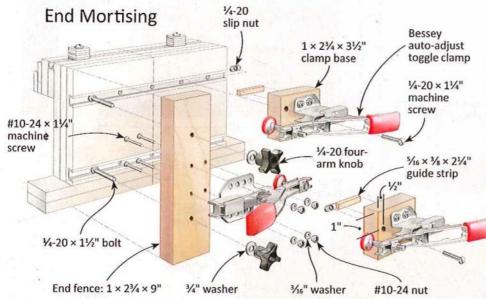
5 Using a hacksaw, cut the T-track into three 14"-long sections, and attach them to the assembled base, where shown, with 1/2"-long screws. 6 Cut the stops from 3/4"

plywood, drill holes, and attach to the top T-track, as shown.

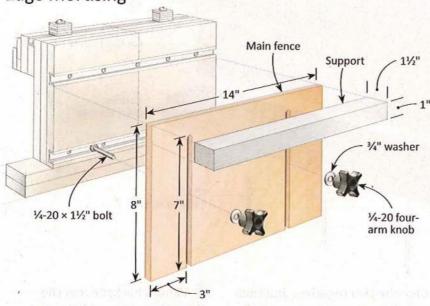
7 Plane a strip of hardwood to fit within the outer and inner tracks to serve as the rail for your router's edge guide. Finally, draw a centerline across the top and front face of the jig.

filler and outer track to size.

Figure 2: Mortising Fences



Edge Mortising



Convenience-PLUS BUYING GUIDE				
□1.	Incra T-Track 48"	#142806	\$18.99	
□2.	Bessey Auto-Adjust Horizontal Toggle Clamps, qty. 3	#152929	\$22.50/each	
□3.	Four-Arm Knob With 1/4-20 Insert, qty. 2	#142230	\$2.99/each	
□4.	Sliding T- (slip) nut 1/4-20, qty. 4	#130440	\$1.99/ pkg of 10	

Hardware: (5) #8 × 2" flathead wood screws; (3) #8 × 3" flathead wood screws; (15) #6 × $\frac{1}{2}$ " panhead woodscrews; (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ " washers; (4) $\frac{1}{2}$ -20 × $\frac{1}{2}$ " bolts; (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ " washer; (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ -20 × $\frac{1}{2}$ " panhead machine screws; (12) #10-24 × $\frac{1}{2}$ " machine screws; (12) $\frac{1}{2}$ 6" washers; (12) #10-24 nuts

Build the end fence and hold-downs

1 Laminate ½"-thick plywood to make the 1"-thick mortising fence and clamp bases. Trim the fence and bases to size, referring to Figure 2. Lay out the location for the bolt and screw holes used to secure the fence and clamp bases to the face of the jig. To mark the screw holes needed to attach

the clamps, position the clamps on the plywood, and transfer the hole locations.

Using a drill press, drill 1/4" and 3/16" clearance holes where marked. Counterbore the screw holes so that the heads sit just below the face of the plywood.

2 Rip two 5/16 × 3/8" guide strips, and attach them to the bottom of the clamp bases. (The strips keep the clamps aligned even when the slip nuts aren't cinched tight.)

3 Attach the auto-adjust clamps to the fence and clamp bases.

Build the edge fence

1 From 3/4"-thick plywood, cut the main fence to the size in Figure 2. Lay out a pair of 1/4"-wide slots, as shown.

2 Using a drill press, drill a '4"-diameter hole at the top edge of each slot layout. Next, rout the slots using your router table and a '4"-diameter straight bit.

3 Rip a strip of 1"-thick hardwood to 1½" wide, and then cut it to 14" long. Glue it to the top edge of your main fence. This strip can serve as an edge for clamping smaller stock or as a support for a longer board, for instance, when mortising the edges of legs or longer stock.

Using the Jig

Routing mortises is simple.
These instructions will ensure consistent results. First, lay out the mortises. Even if you intend to mortise across the center of your stock, always register your layout tools against the outside (show) face of your workpiece. Draw or scribe a line to indicate the center of your mortise.

Next, mark a perpendicular line across the center of the width to position the parts on the jig.

Outfit your router with an appropriate bit (I prefer an upcut spiral), and attach the rail to your router's edge guide.

To set up the jig for end routing, first clamp the jig to your workbench, as shown. Use a clamping base to temporarily register the workpiece in the jig, to align the mortise layout with the jig's centerline. Next, set the mortising fence against the opposite edge, remove the board, and use a square to set the fence perpendicular to the top edge of the jig. Cinch the knobs to secure the fence in place.

Now, clamp the board to the fence, making sure that the end of the workpiece is flush with the top of the jig. Slide the clamp bases against the opposite edge of the work, tighten the locking screws, and engage the toggles.

Adjust your router's edge guide to center the bit on the mortise layout. Set the stops on the top of the jig to match the mortise length.

To rout, plunge the router to full depth at each end of the mortise (**Photo A**). To finish up, work from end to end, plunging in ½" increments.

For making edge mortises, replace the end fence with the



Rout the mortise in ¼"-deep increments to avoid overtaxing the router or bit. The trio of auto-adjust hold-downs offers solid support when routing end grain.



The edge-mortising fence can support shorter stock, but long parts such as this leg may require additional support.

edge fence. Set the fence so that the top edge of the workpiece is flush with the jig's top face. Align the centerline on the workpiece with the jig, and clamp in place. Lock the stops in their appropriate positions, and rout the mortise (Photo B).

To make your tenons, plane hardwood stock to fit the slot, rip to width, and then round the edges with a round-over bit or file to fit the mortise. Crosscut the tenon stock 1/16" shorter than needed to allow room for glue.

Apply glue to the loose tenon, slide it into one mortise and attach the mating part. Once the glue dries, nobody will know how it was assembled because no one will be able to pull it apart.

Tip Alert

To ensure that the mortises line up, always clamp the "show" face of your parts against the face of the jig.



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Spotlight on Wenge

A Central African hardwood with attitude

By Pete Stephano Technical Consultant: Larry Osborn

enge (Millettia laurentii)
and its nearly identical
relation, panga panga (Millettia
stuhlmannii), grow in many of
the tropical countries in Central
Africa, ranking as a major lumber
species there. An attractive dark
wood, wenge is hard, heavy,
and takes some care when
working it. The same applies
to the lighter in weight panga
panga. Note: From here on, wenge
will be the primary reference,
although all characteristics
apply to panga panga as well.

History in woodworking

In its native land, wenge lumber serves utilitarian needs, becoming everything from barns to benches. It also has a loyal following among native woodcarvers. In Europe, wenge has long been used for fine

It's a fact that...

Wenge is well noted for its shock absorption and is said to compare favorably in that respect with North American hickory furniture. However, the recent U.S. market for wenge primarily lies in flooring, veneer, and paneling, although the wood has a growing fan base among furnituremakers, turners, and box makers. It's an outstanding accent wood.

Where the wood comes from

Wenge's homeland includes the African countries of Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, and Zaire. (Panga panga hails from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.)

What you'll pay

You'll only find wenge at specialty wood suppliers, and it's quite expensive. The finest boards in 4/4 (1" thick) cost from around \$18 to \$30 per board foot depending on how they were sawn, with quartersawn stock exacting the highest price. A 4×8 sheet of paperback veneer can run \$200 to \$300.

How to select the best stock

The orientation of wenge's grain is the most important aspect of choosing stock for a project. In flatsawn boards, light-colored streaks show up in undulating patterns that look like wavy water. In quartersawn material, thin, light tan lines alternating with nearly black lines give the appearance of evenly spaced claw scratches. Given this dramatic difference, select stock that has been sawn in the same manner for a consistent look.

Working wenge in the shop

Due to wenge's hardness, sharp cutting edges (carbide recommended) and drill points are essential. Because of its brittle nature, the wood tends to split and shed splinters. Nailing requires pre-boring. When the splinters embed in the flesh, they can quickly fester. In such cases, pull the splinters immediately and cleanse. By all means wear gloves while transporting

boards to protect against splinters. Remove the gloves when working at machines.

Because the wood's dust can irritate your nose, throat, and lungs, put on proper respiratory protection. Wenge can also irritate the skin with a reaction similar to poison ivy. Consider wearing tightfitting long sleeves and a shop apron as a guard. Consider, also, these suggestions:

- Ripping. The wood's straight, coarse grain offers good ripping using a quality combination blade. When crosscutting, go with a 60- to 80-tooth ATB (alternate top bevel) blade for a smooth, splinter-free finish.
- Jointing, planing, and routing. Because of the wood's irregular density and straight yet coarse grain,

tear-out can result. Here, take light machining passes and use a backing board when routing across grain.

- Sanding. Various portable sanders and grits do well for prepping furniture projects. Use a sanding block when hand-sanding to avoid contact with those nasty splinters.
- Assembly. To prevent joint failure, clean mating surfaces with acetone prior to gluing to remove surface resins.

Finishing wenge

The same resins that resist glue in wenge also cause problems with solvent-based stains. Too, there is little reason to stain wenge. It accepts clear finishes well if the surface is wiped with a fast-drying solvent like acetone.

Wenge **Quick Take**

Cost - High

Weight - High (25% heavier than red oak)

Hardness - High (25% harder than red oak)

Stability - Moderate

Durability - High

Strength - Moderate to high

Toxicity - Take precautions

Tool type - Power tools with carbide-tipped blades and cutters

Common uses - Decorative boxes, accents, small cabinets, flooring, fine furniture, and turnings

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Garden Fervor

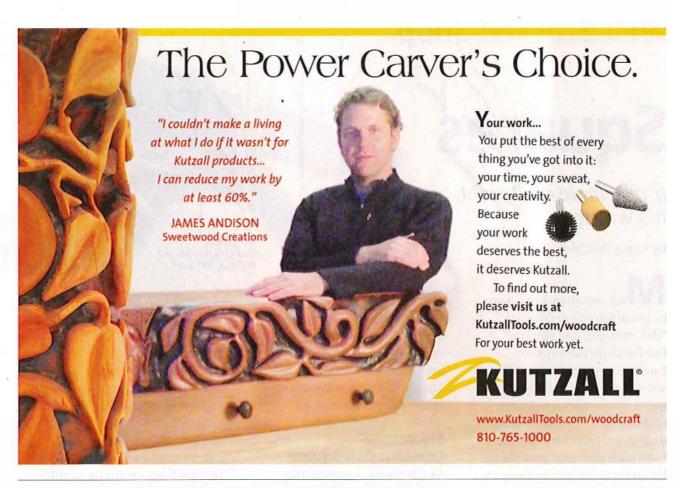


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18. Comfort-Lock Spray Pistol AL850 19. Victorian String Holder 01K26.90 20. Chinese Scissors, set of 4 45K10.10 21. Min-Max
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Squares

If the angle ain't right, it's wrong.

By Craig Bentzley

ost woodworkers claim to know the importance of "flat, straight, and square," but I'm surprised by those (including myself) who don't always abide by it. Repeat after me: A square that is a degree off from 90° isn't square. That degree (or more) will multiply with each part and procedure, leading to time-consuming fixes and ill-fitting joints.

Over the years, I've discarded my fair share of shoddy squares that weren't up to the job. After many trial-and-error purchases, I've settled on a few proven

performers that I now depend on for laying out joints, setting up machinery, and checking assemblies. Note that, although many of my selections aren't





expensive, a few are quite pricey. But this isn't a place to pinch pennies; buy the best squares you can afford. They will save you time and spare you headaches.

Starrett 12" Combination Square

As the name suggests, the angled head combines the functionality of standard (90°) and miter (45°) squares. Entire articles have been written about the things you can do with this tool. I use mine every day for laying out joints, checking crosscuts and miters, and squaring jointer fences and tablesaw blades.

A high-quality combination square is one of the smartest investments a woodworker can make. (With a little TLC, it will serve several generations of woodworkers.) Some squares are sold with optional centerfinder and protractor heads. but I recommend buying only the standard head with a 12" blade. When you can, supplement it with the 24" blade, which will help you lay out stock up to 213/4" wide. It will also serve as a reliable shop rule and straightedge.

Starrett 4" Double Square

Sometimes less is just right. When laying out joints, measuring mortise depths, and checking jointed edges for square, I prefer using this 4" double square. Like its bigger brother, the machined head can be used without the blade for checking setups on smaller machines and tight spots. I also like how it tucks into my shop apron's front pocket.

2" Engineer's Square

An engineer's square isn't as versatile as some other models, but the simple design-a fixed blade and head-makes accuracy inexpensive. Until you can afford a double square, you can use an engineer's square for most of the same tasks. I now keep this square at my sharpening station for checking the edges of plane irons and chisels when grinding. (A threepiece set of engineer's squares might seem like a bargain, but I suggest saving your money for a 4" double square instead.)

#141013, \$15.99





Draftsman's Triangles

Don't discount the usefulness of these simple plastic triangles. Despite their low price, they're very accurate. I use mine for those setups that might damage a more expensive square, such as squaring the tables on my sanders.

Drafting triangles are available in various sizes and colors. The best quality triangles have milled edges. I have

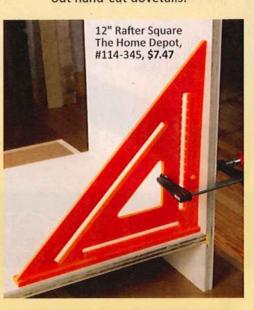
> several sizes and use them all quite often.

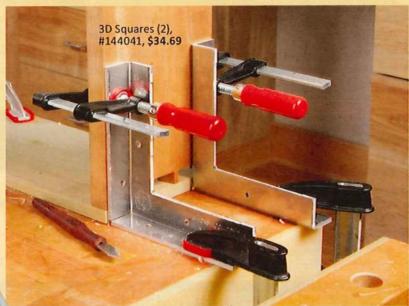
Assembly Squares

While some squares require careful handling, others are designed to be tough enough to help correct out-of-square assemblies and can even hold their own as clamping cauls. Consider the carpenter's (or "speed") square. The embossed ruler scale and protractor markings are too coarse for furnituremaking, but the body is well suited for checking large cases and frames. The triangle shape that protects the square from jobsite mishaps gives it the strength to double as a clamping caul. Buy a pair of 6" and 12" squares.

Jevons' 3D squares are pricier, but the 6"-long legs sport machined faces and wide flanges designed for

clamp purchase. In addition to assembling cases, I use a pair as a "third hand" when installing hinges on dropfront furniture and to support the pin board on the tail board while transferring the pin locations when laying out hand-cut dovetails.





Drafting triangles available at art supply stores

Well-Stocked Shop

Framing Square and Square Fence

Carpenters rely on framing squares for laying out stairs and rafters, but the tool is equally useful in the workshop. Its value will prove itself when working with wide boards and sheet goods.

As with combination squares, you get what you pay for. The best squares

Framing Square

The Home Depot, #674-842, \$6.96 have machined edges and etched or embossed markings. (Note: A good square can sometimes get knocked out of whack. To learn how to reset your square to 90°, see my tip on page 17)

If you already own a good square, treat yourself to a fence.

The aluminum bar

locks onto either edge to provide a positive stop. I find the solid registration very helpful when laying out cuts on sheet goods.

Veritas Square Fence Lee Valley Tools, #05N54.01, \$23.50 48" Drywall T-square The Home Depot, #963-186, **\$12.94**

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Drywall Square

A drywall square may rank last on this list in terms of precision, but this inexpensive tool is accurate enough for rough layout of sheet goods. It can also serve as an impromptu T-square when making full-scale layouts on paper.

Tip Alert

To test the accuracy of a square, hold the body against the edge of a straight board and draw a line along the edge of the blade. Now flip the blade over, and draw a second line. The two lines should be parallel.



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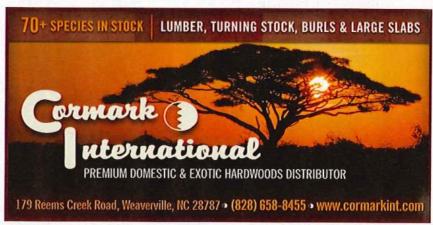
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Square Up Your Projects

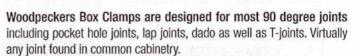


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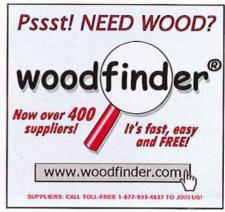
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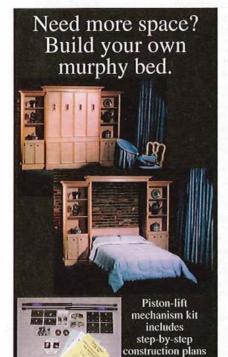


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