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Incorporating The Woodworker

Published by
MAGICALIA PUBLISHING LTD.
Denmark House, 9-10 Noel Road,
Oxford, Ox4 1JH UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1899 333000
Fax: +44 (0) 1899 333006
www.getwoodworking.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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NHW, IJH-NHW, S, AND ENQUIRIES
Tel: 08456 777 607

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USA & CANADA SUBSCRIPTIONS

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REST OF WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS

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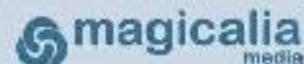
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The Woodworker (ISSN 0034-8483) is published for 10/12 issues per year by Magicalia Publishing Ltd, 9-10 Noel Road, Denmark House, 9-10 Noel Road, Oxford, Ox4 1JH UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1899 333000. Fax: +44 (0) 1899 333006. Email: sub@twanmag.com, or visit our website www.getwoodworking.com. The code on each cover (Green) track, UK Postmaster please send address correction changes to The Woodworker c/o EWA at the address above.

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WEBNEWS

Ben Plewes, your website editor e-mail: ben.editor@getwoodworking.com

It's been an eventful month on **GetWoodworking.com**. There've been some interesting and useful discussions on the forum, including much advice on tool choices and what to buy, both new and second-hand.

We've also seen some rugged debate on hand tools versus machine and power tools, with a few exchanges on the warmer side of things! The **GW** forum is providing some thought-provoking material and getting readers inspired with new projects and ideas – which is great, because that's exactly what it's there for!



NOVEMBER GIVEAWAY

November saw our 1000th member on **GW**. So we got in touch with lucky Nigel Jaques and gave him a free year's subscription to the magazine. Ian Watson, another lucky **GW** member, won a Draper Expert Magnum workbench. We've got another Draper workbench competition running during December too, so be sure to enter for your chance to win.

IN THE GALLERY

The members' gallery is also proving to be a popular area of the site. It's particularly useful when looking for inspiration for that next project. It's an excellent place to kick-start and exchange ideas with like-minded people. Judging by the comments so far, it looks like the gallery will be responsible for a few stocking fillers this year!

In addition to all this, because much of the content on **GetWoodworking.com** has been put together from the archives of **The Woodworker**, **Good Woodworking** and **Practical Woodworking**, there's no shortage of quality material for the site. We're adding more every week, and we're always interested in hearing feedback on how we're doing.



NOW THERE'S VIDEO TOO!

The most exciting development this month has to be the introduction of video. Yes, **GetWoodworking** is embracing the YouTube revolution! The first few videos have been demonstrations, which have gone down very well. Judging by the feedback we've had so far, we'll be putting a lot more effort into video in the coming months. What's really exciting about the video side of things is we can now show extra material for projects featured in **The Woodworker**. So, alongside full-length features in the magazine, we will soon be running video on the site to support the magazine's key features.

Not only will you be seeing more video content from us; you can now add your own videos to the forum too! This is something we're really excited about because, in addition to adding pictures to the gallery, you can now choose how best to share your projects, ideas and experiences with fellow woodworkers on the site.

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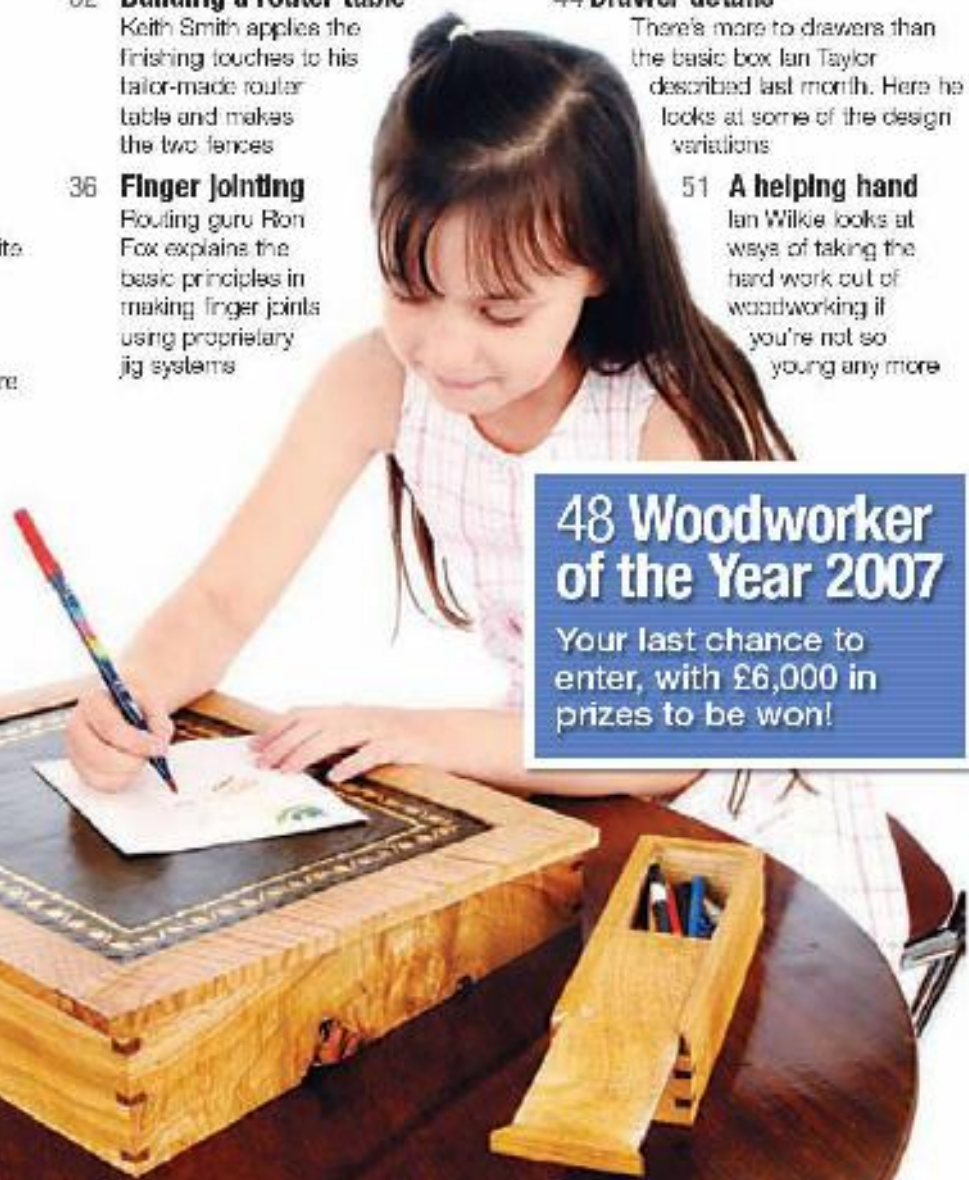
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Your last chance to enter, with £6,000 in prizes to be won!

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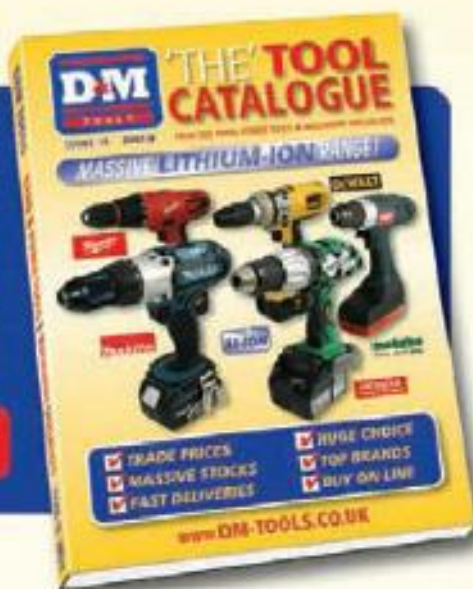


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WHAT'S NEW

All the latest from the world of woodwork

Bag of convenience

Bahco has redefined the traditional tool case with its new B-2 Toolbag. The unique design incorporates all the performance benefits of a toolbox into a multi-functional bag.

In striking black and orange, the textile bag has 16 pockets throughout so it's easy to store smaller parts and bits securely. The tool bag also has a hard plastic bottom to prevent the inlet of water and withstand the inevitable wear and tear on-site.

Reducing tool down-time during a job is important too, and with this in mind Bahco have integrated 12 loops round the outside so tools such as screwdrivers and pliers can be stowed there for instant access.



The B-2 bag has two comfortable grip handles and a shoulder strap for extra convenience when carrying. At 540mm long and 300mm wide, it provides plenty of room for a wide variety of tools.

The Bahco B-2 tool bag costs £35.65.

□ Bahco SNA Europe (UK) Ltd
□ 01 709 731 731
□ www.bahco.com



Convert a router

The New WoodRat WR600 retains all the versatility of the original WoodRat but is ideal for smaller workshops where space is limited. It converts any plunge router into a controlled three-axis milling machine. A versatile joinery tool, it excels at cutting all types of dovetail joints, including through, half-blind and sliding dovetails. Other jointing possibilities include half lap and cross housing joints, square and angled mortises and tenons, and finger joints. It can also machine decorative profiles and produce panel grooves and rebates.

As opposed to using finger templates, the cutter is guided by a sliding plate set to pivot at a preset cutter angle, or to cross-cut at right angles to the machine face. Spacing or positioning of each dovetail or finger is set off against registration marks down on the machine face. Alternatively, adjustable stops or a cursor can be fitted to the cross-cut guide rails or machine body. This enables the WoodRat to rout repetitive cuts quickly and accurately. The machine body and guide rails are extruded anodised aluminium. The cam locks and fences are glass-filled nylon. Capacity between the faces is 750mm, and the router plate allows a 250mm crosscut capacity.

The WR600 is designed as a wall-mounted workstation for the efficient use of space (it can also be bench mounted), and is straightforward to install, with clear instructions for assembly and use. It's priced at just over £350.

Woodrat □ 01458 832744 □ www.woodrat.com

Power on site

Three new power tools have been added to the SITE tool range, designed and manufactured by Makita and exclusive to Screwfix. Priced at just £74.99, the SITE drill features variable speed, a two-speed gearbox, forward and reverse operation and 15 torque settings. It also has a soft grip handle, a keyless chuck and is supplied with a carry case, 1-hour charger and two 2.0Ah NiCd batteries. The jigsaw features tool-free blade changing, orbital action, dust extraction facilities and an anti-splintering device, and costs £109.99. It also comes in a carry case. We'll be testing both tools next month. Screwfix □ 0500414141 □ www.screwfix.com



Cyclone warning

Oneida Air Systems Inc, the maker of America's leading cyclonic dust collector, is now selling a 1500W model made exclusively for the European market. The Dust Gorilla separates out 99 per cent of the wood waste before it reaches the high efficiency filter, and deposits it into an easy-to-empty 132 litre drum. The spun-bonded fine filter then captures 98 per cent of the remaining dust (from 0.2 to 2 microns) and leaves that in the metal bin under the filter so all that's released back into your workshop is the cleanest air possible. The system shifts 2228 cu m of air per hour and produces only 73 dB of noise at a distance of 3m.

This system is also sold in a portable version that can roll anywhere and be attached to any tool by means of a 5m length of 127mm flexible hose, so no ductwork is required. This collector extracts around 1700 cu m per hour and stands only 1.6m high.

Oneida's Dust Deputy is also now available in the UK. This unit will turn your workshop vacuum into a cyclonic vacuum, capturing 99 per cent of the waste material before it reaches your vacuum. This means you can sand 50 times longer before cleaning your filter without loss of suction. It is placed between your tool and vacuum, and all material is deposited into an easy-to-empty 38 litre metal drum. The Dust Deputy is priced at £149.95 including delivery. We'll be testing it in next month's issue.

Oneida Air ■ 01 473 827518 ■ www.oneida-air.co.uk



Light in the darkness

As a cheap, eco-friendly way of bringing light to external buildings, Solar Technology has launched the Solar Mate 1. This is an easy-to-install lighting kit that uses the sun's rays to deliver up to seven hours of energy-efficient illumination. Its solar cells are even able to power up in overcast weather. The energy-efficient light bulb provided can illuminate an area approximately 16sq m, so it's a particularly effective solution for garden sheds and workshops. Solar Mate is exempt from Part P of the UK's Building Regulations, so it can be easily and safely installed by anyone.

Adrian Williams, MD of Solar Technology International explains: "At this time of year, the extra energy that we use to keep winter at bay can be a real worry. Our Solar Mate is a simple and practical way of taking advantage of what little sunlight we have during the British winter and turning it into free solar-powered illumination. The system comes with a 10-year warranty, so not only does it offer a compelling investment that will more than pay for itself in reduced electricity bills, but also an environmentally friendly source of light that doesn't cost the earth!"

Solar Mate is supplied with detailed instructions, a 5W crystalline solar panel, a comprehensive fixing kit, one 12V light bulb and holder, wall switch, cable, connectors and fuses. No special tools are needed for the installation, which typically takes around 120 hours. To store power, it uses a 7.5 or 8.5 Ah car/capovan battery, available from most marbling and caravaning stores.

The Solar Mate 1 kit is priced at £79.95 and is available in retail outlets or online at www.solartechnology.co.uk



Slope arms!

PETER DUNSMORE



Peter's simple writing slope is designed to complement the pencil cases featured in

the last issue. It's the perfect present for anyone with literary leanings



This writing slope is designed primarily to be used by children, as it's easier for them to write if the paper is tilted at a slight angle. It also has the advantage of storing the necessary papers and drawing implements neatly and tidily. Like the pencil case, it is both simple to make and requires little in the way of timber. As you can see in the photographs, it's a way of using small pieces of figured timber to good effect. The dimensions given in figs 1 and 2 can be altered, but they allow standard A4 paper to fit inside as well as providing plenty of storage space for pens and pencils.

Making a start

Begin by cutting the four pieces of timber to make the sides of the base to size. The better figured timbers should be used for the sides of the slope and front panels. Cut the ends slightly oversize, using a saw to cut the mitres, and clean up the bevels using a disc sander after setting the fence guide accurately. Take care to ensure that each pair of sides are identical in length.

Take the measurements from the plans and cut the slope for the two sides, photo 1. Make the front piece about 5mm wider than the height of the side piece, corner to allow for the bevel, photo 2. Bevel the top edge of the front and rear pieces to suit both sides using a hand plane, photo 3. Plane the top edges of the sides to a good finish as well.

The base of the box is made from 6mm

plywood. Baffle grooves along the lower inside edges of the box to suit the thickness of the timber. Avoid the mistake of cutting this groove along the inside top edge, and check that you've created a handed pair.

Fitting the partition

The inside of the slope has a small partition in which pencils and pens can be stored.

The main divider is a piece of timber fitted into a V groove cut into the inside faces of both sides. It's important that these grooves should correspond with each other if the partition is to be parallel with the rear piece.

This is best achieved by butting the bottom edges of the sides together so the mitres are level, and then scoring a line

1 Mark out the position of the slope on both side panels



2 Locate the inside height for the bevel on the front panel



3 Use a hand plane to form the bevels



4 Saw a notch in the sides to begin the V groove





5 Carefully chisel away the waste a little at a time



6 Form the bevel at each end of the partition piece



7 Test the partition's fit and ease it further if necessary



8 Take the length for the base from the base of the groove



9 Use a simple router jig to cut the slots for the keys



10 Stick the keys in place using PVA adhesive

across both pieces. Use a small hand saw to cut a groove to a depth of 3mm on this line, photo 4. Then use a sharp chisel and a mallet to make the Y shape, photo 5, taking care to hold the chisel at a 45° angle. As a guide, bevel the end of the piece of timber intended for the partition to a point, photo 6, and check this for fit into the slots, photo 7. Adjust it as required.

If a box lock is to be fitted, it's best to cut its recess before gluing the sides together, as access is a lot easier at this stage.

Preparing the base

Cut the base for the box to size next. Get the exact dimensions by measuring the total length of the base of the groove on both the side and rear of the box, photo 8. Test it for fit, and if you're satisfied glue the sides together with the base in place.

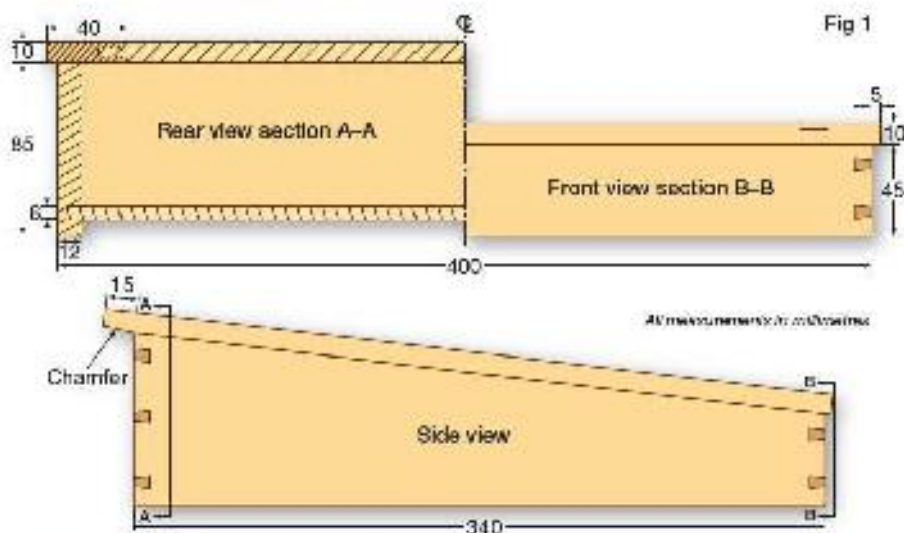
An easy and accurate method of doing this is to lay the four sides face up and end to end against a straight edge and stick some masking tape over the joints. Turn the timbers over, spread a little adhesive in the mitres and fit the base in place. Araldite is recommended if keys are not being used to reinforce the joints.

Now fold the sides up around the base and use masking tape to hold the fourth corner together. Check that the box is square by comparing the diagonals, and put it aside to dry thoroughly.

Securing the corners

Mitre joints are not very strong, particularly on something liable to be knocked about a bit in use. However, they can be reinforced using sliding mitre keys. Not only do these strengthen the corners; they also add a decorative feature to the box.

All that's required to cut the slots is a



WRITING SLOPE CUTTING LIST

All dimensions are in millimetres

Part	Qty	L	W	T
Sides	2	340	85	12
Front	1	400	15	12
Back	1	400	85	12
Base panel	1	400	340	6
Slope rails	2	365	40	10
Slope stiles	2	380	40	10
Slope panel	1	365	305	6
Partition	1	400	80	6

You will also need a pair of 50 x 12mm brass hinges.





11 Use the router freehand to cut the hinge recesses



12 Use a rebate cutter to form the mortise and tenon joints



13 Push the work from left to right against the cutter direction



Making the lid

The lid for the box has a 5mm overhang on the front and both sides, so you can lift the lid easily. The rear of the lid has a 15mm overhang to allow the lid to remain in the vertical position and to prevent it tipping backwards. Plane a small chamfer on the underside of this overhang, so the lid can tip slightly beyond the vertical, then it will be less liable to fall forwards when the box is open.

Make the main frame from 40mm wide timber, planed to a thickness of 10mm. Assemble it using mortise and tenon joints. Cut them using a bearing-guided rebate cutter, **photo 12**, to produce a 12.5mm rebate, and a straight fluted 6mm cutter. (An article on routing these joints was published in the November issue of *The Woodworker*). When the frame has dried, use the same rebate cutter to cut the rebate to suit the 6mm plywood slope panel.

Another way

An alternative method to using the router freehand is to set the fence further back on the router table, **photo 13**, and to fit the frame as shown. Remember in this position to run the frame clockwise, against the direction of the cutter. Keep the finger guards in place and hold the timber firmly. The end result is a quick and clean rebate needing only the corners to be squared up with a chisel. Cut the plywood to size, glue it in place in the frame and allow it to dry.

You can also cut the recess for the hinge on the router table, after adjusting the depth of cut carefully. Take care in setting out the location to allow for the 15mm overhang at the rear of the slope.

Finishing off

Sand all the surfaces to a good finish, ensuring that you remove all traces of adhesive from the dovetail keys. Then apply two or three coats of Danish oil, wiping away the excess after allowing a few minutes for the oil to soak in. Don't oil the top surface of the slope panel, though.

When this has dried, stick the skiver to the slope panel using diluted PVA adhesive (4 parts adhesive to 1 part water). Trim it as necessary with a sharp craft knife, and press it into place with a wallpaper seam roller or similar tool.

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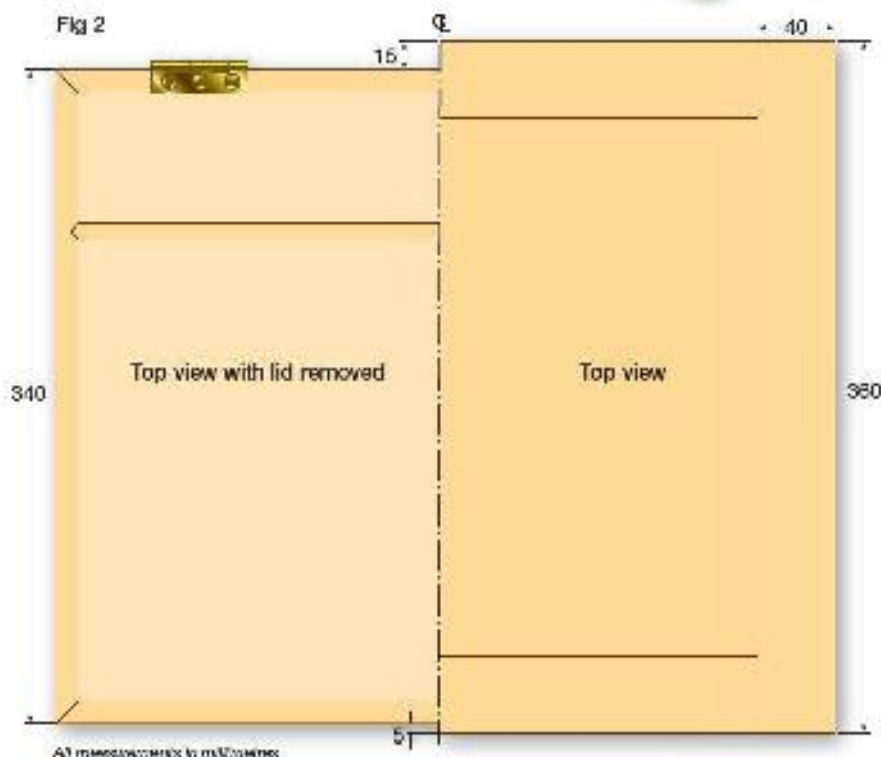
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simple jig, **photo 9**, and a little care in setting out their positions. To be visually balanced, the centre keys at the rear of the box need to be positioned in the middle, and the other keys should be located the same distance in from the ends of the sides.

The keys are relatively straightforward to make, requiring only careful setting of the router cutter to ensure a sliding fit into the slots. Use PVA adhesive to glue them in place. As you can see in **photo 10**, they're simply cut to length and tapped into place.

Cut away the overhang later using a small saw (or more quickly, on the bandsaw) and sand the corners smooth. Full details showing how to make and fit these keys

were given in last month's article featuring the matching pencil case.

Fitting the hinges

Cut the hinge recesses on the box by hand or with the router. The latter is a quick and easy method as it guarantees that the recess will be flat – not always easy with a chisel. Set the depth of cut to half the thickness of the hinge at the knuckle.

Do the routing freehand, **photo 11**, using the partition and the rear of the box as a natural rest for the router baseplate. Take care not to overshoot the pencil marks, and use a sharp chisel to square up the ends of the recess.

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GORDON WARR



This miniature chest of drawers is the perfect home for

jewellery, or any other collection of small treasures. Gordon Warr describes how he put it together.



This four-drawer chest is only about a foot tall, but it's built in the same way as its full size relatives. Its design is based on a style that first became popular a couple of centuries ago, with drawers graduated in depth, and like much of the furniture of that time is made from imported mahogany.

It's similar in many ways to the small workpieces that apprentices had to make to measure their skills before exams and certificates were introduced; indeed, such items were often referred to as 'apprentice pieces'.

Design choices

This chest is made to a scale of approximately one quarter full size, although for practical reasons I couldn't stick to this for all the details – for example, the drawer sides would have been only 3mm thick. I've also suspended the drawers on runners engaging with grooves in the drawer sides, although I'm fairly certain that 18th and 19th century cabinetmakers never used this technique. It was introduced in the second half of the 20th century, thanks to the use of the power router in mass-produced pieces of furniture.

The main reason why I've fitted my drawers in this way is that less space is taken up within the carcass than would be the case with normal runners and kickers, meaning this saving can be incorporated

within the drawers themselves.

Although I've adopted this method in my little chest, I'm not normally an advocate of the technique. There is far too little surface on the runner to support a fully laden drawer adequately, or to resist wear over time. The surface is usually 6mm or less in width, and for large drawers which are in constant use, wear is inevitable.



1 The raw materials for this chest came mainly from an old mahogany bookshelf

What's more, repairing this type of wear is far from easy to carry out.

Choosing materials

An advantage of making a miniature piece such as this is that you need very little wood. In my case I made good use of wood salvaged from an old set of bookshelves which came my way, photo 1. I prepared most of the components needed from this at the outset, photo 2, along with an offcut of cherry which I used for the drawer sides and backs. Apart from that, I just needed some new plywood for the back panel and the drawer bases, and a piece of rosewood for the knobs. I started by cutting the five main parts for the carcass to length – see the cutting list for sizes.

Assembling the carcass

Following normal cabinet-making practice, I've dovetailed the two upper rails to the side panels. I prepared the rail ends first; note that these tails are slightly off-centre, photo 3. This minimises any risk of the edges of the carcass sides splitting when the joints are finally assembled. Use the



2 I used my thicknesser to reduce the stock to the sizes I required



3 Note that the dovetails on the top rails are inset at one side



4 Use these dovetails to mark out the sockets on the carcass sides



5 You can save socket-chiselling time by boring out most of the waste

pins to mark the sockets on the carcass sides, **photo 4**. If you have a drilling machine in your workshop, you will find that you can bore a lot of the waste away from the socket part of the joint in the side panels; Forstner type bits are best for this, **photo 5**. Test the fit of each joint, **photo 6**, and ease it if necessary.

Router time

You definitely need a router (and preferably a router table) to prepare the rebates in the sides and the trenches which house the runners; it doesn't matter which you tackle first, **photo 7**. Because the trenches are stopped, and the sides have to be prepared as a pair, careful marking of the fence is essential to indicate the start and stop points, **photo 8**.

Note that although the drawers are of different depths, the runners are positioned so that the corresponding grooves on the drawers will all be at the same distance from the top edges. There is no advantage in trying to make all these grooves central in each drawer.

I used the same cutter and depth of cut

MINI CHEST CUTTING LIST

All dimensions are in millimetres

Part	Qty	L	W	T
Top	1	285	160	12
Sides	2	300	160	12
Base	1	240	167	12
Back	1	285	215	3
Upper cross rails	2	280	32	12
Skirting*	1	650	30	10
Lower front support	1	225	30	12
Drawer runners	8	165	12	8
Top drawer front	1	225	44	10
Top drawer sides	2	170	44	8
Top drawer back	1	225	28	8
Second drawer front	1	225	50	10
Second drawer sides	2	170	50	8
Second drawer back	1	225	34	8
Third drawer front	1	225	58	10
Third drawer sides	2	170	58	8
Third drawer back	1	225	40	8
Bottom drawer front	1	225	62	10
Bottom drawer sides	2	170	62	8
Bottom drawer back	1	225	48	8
Drawer bases	4	220	150	3

*This is enough to cut three pieces to the required length.

An allowance has been made on length, but widths and thicknesses are finished sizes.



6 Check the fit of each dovetail joint, and ease them if necessary



7 Rout the trenches in the cabinet sides to take the drawer runners

setting for forming the trenches that hold the cabinet base to the sides. Stop these just short of the front edges; the base will be cut later to correspond and thus make the joint invisible.

Drawer runners

I made the drawer runners from beech, a wood that resists abrasive wear well. After cutting them to size, I drilled two fixing holes in each one and rounded the front ends using my disc sander to correspond to the rounded ends of the trenches. I added a little glue to each runner as I fixed them in place, photo 9. I restricted the amount of adhesive in case there was any movement in the sides, although this was unlikely: the wood was really well dried and only 160mm wide.

Assembling the carcass

I could now carry on to the assembly stage, gluing the top rails in place first, photo 10. Then fit the base and leave the assembly in cramps overnight, photo 11. I glued the lower front support piece along the underside of the base and the front to support the skirting, then added glued blocks between the base and the sides, photo 12. I made these quite short, again because of the slight chance of movement.



11 Add the base, clamp up the assembly and leave it to dry overnight



12 Fit the lower front support to the underside of the base and add short glue blocks all round



16 I use 6mm chisels ground at an angle to cut the lapped dovetails



17 Use a coping saw to remove most of the waste on the drawer backs

I relied entirely on power sanders to clean up the outer surfaces of the sides; this must be done before the skirting is added. Final sanding is best carried out by hand so you can remove any marks left by the abrasives.

Adding the skirting

The skirting looks best if moulded, although a simple chamfer would suffice. Use whatever cutter best suits the appearance of the piece, and prepare the mouldings on your router table. Then

mitre the front corners, photo 13, and glue and clamp the sections onto the carcass.

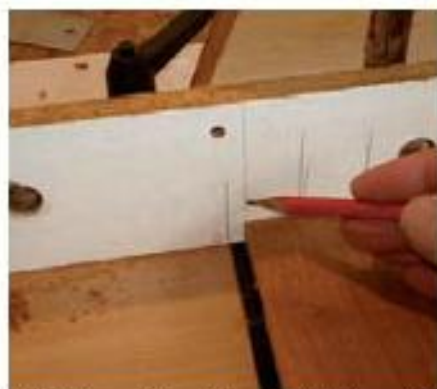
Fitting the top

The top is a simple rectangle, but with the front and side edges moulded similarly to the skirting. I secured it with screws driven up through the top rails, then removed it later so I could finish it separately.

Drawer time

Now it was on to the drawers. I found an ediment of cherry big enough to make all the sides and backs, and planed these and the mahogany for the drawer fronts to the sizes given in the cutting list. I always make the





8 Mark stop points on the router table fence to guide the trenching



9 Glue and screw the eight drawer runners into their trenches



10 Start assembling the carcass by gluing the top rails into place



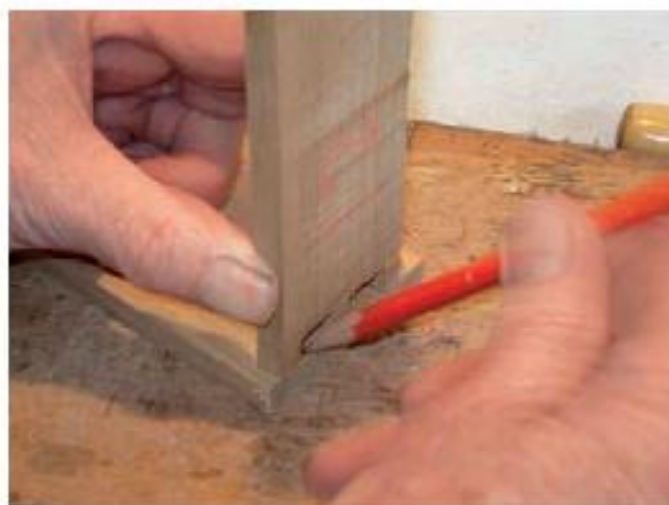
13 Mould the skirting on the router table, then mitre the ends and fix it to the carcass



14 Mark the lengths of the drawer fronts directly from the front of the carcass



15 Cut and label all the drawer components, ready for dovetailing



18 Mark the dovetail sockets directly from their matching pins



19 Glue the joints and assemble the drawers, checking for square

backs of my drawers slightly shallower than the sides, as I was taught when a 'tenderfoot' woodworker, but it's not essential.

A good procedure when cutting drawer material to length is to square one end and mark the fronts directly from the carcass, **photo 14**. Some craftsmen suggest that the backs should be marginally shorter than the fronts to facilitate fitting, but I prefer to make mine the same length. Label all the components so you know which one goes where, **photo 15**.

Cutting dovetails

The drawer boxes follow traditional construction, with lapped dovetails at the

front and through dovetails at the rear. The first stage of marking out is by cutting gauge, used across the grain to indicate the extent of the joints. Normal construction means making the lower edges of the backs level with where the grooves for the drawer base will be, allowing you to slide the base in after the first stage of the assembly.

I always cut the pins first. All the drawers have three pins at the front; the shallower upper drawers have just two at the back, while the deeper lower drawers have three. To help with cutting lapped dovetails, I have a couple of 6mm chisels with their ends ground at an angle – one to the left and one to the right – which are a great

help in removing the waste from the acute angled internal corners, **photo 16**.

A coping saw helps remove the waste from the dovetail pins on the drawer backs, **photo 17**. Use these to mark the sockets on the drawer sides, **photo 18**. Another trick I use is to form tiny chamfers to the edges of these tails, which help ease the joint assembly. Tapering them ensures that they're invisible when the joints are assembled.

Assembling the drawers

Before putting the drawer boxes together, rout the 3mm wide grooves in the fronts and sides to take the drawer bases. Then



20 Slide each drawer bottom into place and add small glue blocks



21 Test each drawer for fit, and plane the top and bottom edges as necessary



22 Leave the back off so you can check the fit from the rear as well



23 Turn the knobs on the lathe and check the spigot diameter



24 Apply a mahogany stain before French-polishing the piece



LINING THE DRAWERS

One last job remains: to line the drawers with self-adhesive baize. There's a knack to doing this without creasing or misaligning it. Start by cutting the pieces of baize to an exact fit in each drawer, and score through the backing paper across the centre. Then replace the baize in the drawer, held down at one end, and lift the other end so you can peel off the backing paper. Press this end down to secure it. Then lift the other end, peel off the rest of the paper and press that end down too. The result? Perfectly lined drawers!

glue up each drawer box, photo 19, check it for square, wipe off excess glue and set it aside to dry. When you add the base panels, apply some glue to the groove in the front and slide the panel in; then press it down a little at the back so you can apply glue to the edge of the back. Press back and base together again and secure the joint with a few panel pins. Add small glue blocks around the underside of each drawer to aid rigidity, photo 20.

Grooving the sides

I used a belt sander to clean up the outer surfaces of the drawer boxes, then set up my router table to form the grooves in the box sides. These are stopped near the front, so I cramped blocks of wood to the fence to act as stops – one at each end. This is where I benefited from making all the drawer runners operate at the same distance from the top edges of the drawers, as I could cut them all without having to adjust the fence.

I found that I needed to trim the drawers lightly at top and bottom with a smoothing plane to get a smooth fit with minimal clearance, photo 21. Leave the back panel off until you have done this, as it makes it easier to check the fit if the carcass has an open back, photo 22.



There was one last job to do on the drawers; to drill a blind hole in the centre of each front, to take the matching spigot on the small rosewood knobs I turned and friction polished on the lathe, photo 23. Each knob was simply glued into its hole.

Finishing touches

I wanted to give the chest a fully French-polished finish, but first I applied an oil-based mahogany stain, photo 24. I then brushed on a couple of coats of polish and built up the shellac film using a rubber. I thinned the polish towards the end of this stage, and replaced circular strokes with straight ones to leave the surfaces bright and free from any marks. Only at this stage were the top and back panel added to complete the chest assembly.



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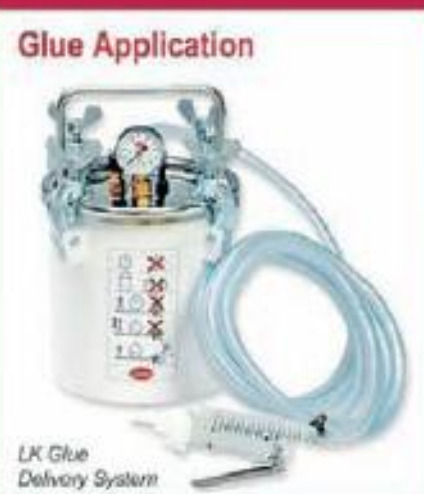
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Peter Dunsmore conceals an unsightly radiator



Tim Hobrough is one of the world's foremost historical harp makers. He was born in South Ontario, Canada, and settled in Scotland in 1978. For the past 11 years he has lived and worked in Fordyce, a village in north Aberdeenshire, crafting a wide variety of harps as well as other medieval instruments.

His harp making grew out of an interest in everything to do with medieval music, and has led to him becoming one of only half a dozen serious historical harp makers worldwide.

His work with musical instruments began in 1970. Initially he trained as a guitar maker during a two-year apprenticeship under fellow Canadian, Michael Durny, a master guitar and stringed instrument maker. It was under his guidance that Tim learned the low tech methods of guitar building which he later applied to his harp making. One of the most important tenets Michael drummed into him was that even though the ultimate goal might be perfection, things don't have to be perfect.

By 1974, he was demonstrating harp building at the World Craft Exhibition in Toronto. His work continued in Britain and

The Harpmaker

NIKI TODD



World class harp making is alive and thriving in north-east Scotland, thanks to Tim Hobrough. Niki Todd met him at his workshop in Fordyce

Europe after he was awarded a number of Canada Council grants.

Tools of his trade

Matching the tool to the instrument, rather than adapting the instrument to the tool, is important to Tim. He works with tools as small as minute jewellers' drills, and as big as traditional treadle machines – including an old treadle lathe with Victorian cast ironwork which came up to the workshop from Duns in the Scottish borders. It was

this incessant desire to get the tool exactly right that prompted him to devise a number of his own tools, including lathes made from old Singer sewing machines and long, straight planes designed specifically for angled planing.

He said: 'I enjoy the tools and the techniques that are used to make the harps. Early harp designs all related to the tools their makers had at the time, which is why harps are the shape they are. Most of my work is done by hand.'



Two of Tim's carved harp frames take shape, showing off the beauty of his instruments

Choosing woods

Tim works in a variety of woods, including American black walnut from the South of England, where it was originally grown as an exotic species. European walnut would be the wood of his choice if he could get it, but it isn't readily available in the sizes he needs. He also uses sycamore and lime.

The type of wood used in the frame makes no difference to the tone of the instrument, but the wood used in the soundboard does. Tim uses lime and poplar for this part of his harps, with the hand-made dowels that join the components being made of oak or ash.

A range of styles

Over the years, Tim has made harps inspired by those shown in Pictish stonework, and also a variety of renaissance and baroque models. In particular, he makes harps based on the 15th century Queen Mary Harp, which is in the National Museum in Edinburgh. Made in the West Highlands, its original decorative carving has been unusually well preserved. Like all old harps, it has been modified throughout the ages to suit the changing needs of each era and its players. At just over 800mm high, it is much smaller than a modern orchestral harp.

FURTHER INFO

Example of Tim's work can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/timhobrough/



Tim Hobrough with one of his many long straight planes. Each one is hand-made for a particular purpose

Tim explained: "The difference between the modern and historical harp is the same as the difference between the guitar and the lute. The repertoire of one cannot be played on the other."

For the early harpist playing a wire string harp, long fingernails were essential. One of the punishments meted out to harp players who displeased their feudal lord was to have their fingernails cut off.

A local shop

Tim Hobrough works at the Fordyce Joiners' workshop, where local joiners have operated for the past two centuries. It was recently awarded a grant as part of the celebrations of the Quincentenary of the granting of a charter to the local baron to hold a market in the village. It is now run by the Fordyce

Community Association and is open to all age groups.

It operates as a community project, with members from the village and further afield bringing in old tools and dropping in to praise their own woodworking projects. These range from repairing and making both small and large wooden objects to learning how to use traditional tools.

Children can come to try their hand at an age old skill, and over the past few years the workshop has been inundated with youngsters of all ages who have learned to use the many woodworking tools safely and effectively. The mass of work currently in progress at the workshop is evidence of the enthusiasm this project has engendered. It's a living bit of the past in a village which has managed to retain much of its ancient character.

As Tim explained: "The workshop is about having tools working, so people can try out different sorts of tools and see what suits them before going out and spending money."



The huge Victorian treadle lathe at the Fordyce Joiners' workshop came from Duns in the Scottish borders

Making music

Harp making, however, is not an end in itself for Tim Hobrough. He explained: "I make tools for musicians. What I produce goes on to somebody else who wants it, and that's the end of the chain. I make the means for them to make the music."

Most of the top historical harp players have one of his harps. They include Andrew Lawrence-King, Director of the Harp Consort – a collection of world class soloists created in 1994 and inspired by the original Consorte of Charles I.

Tim Hobrough has carried on an age-old tradition and is passing it on to another generation of woodworkers who drop in and out of his workshop as and when they have the chance. It's a timeless activity in a village itself lost in time.

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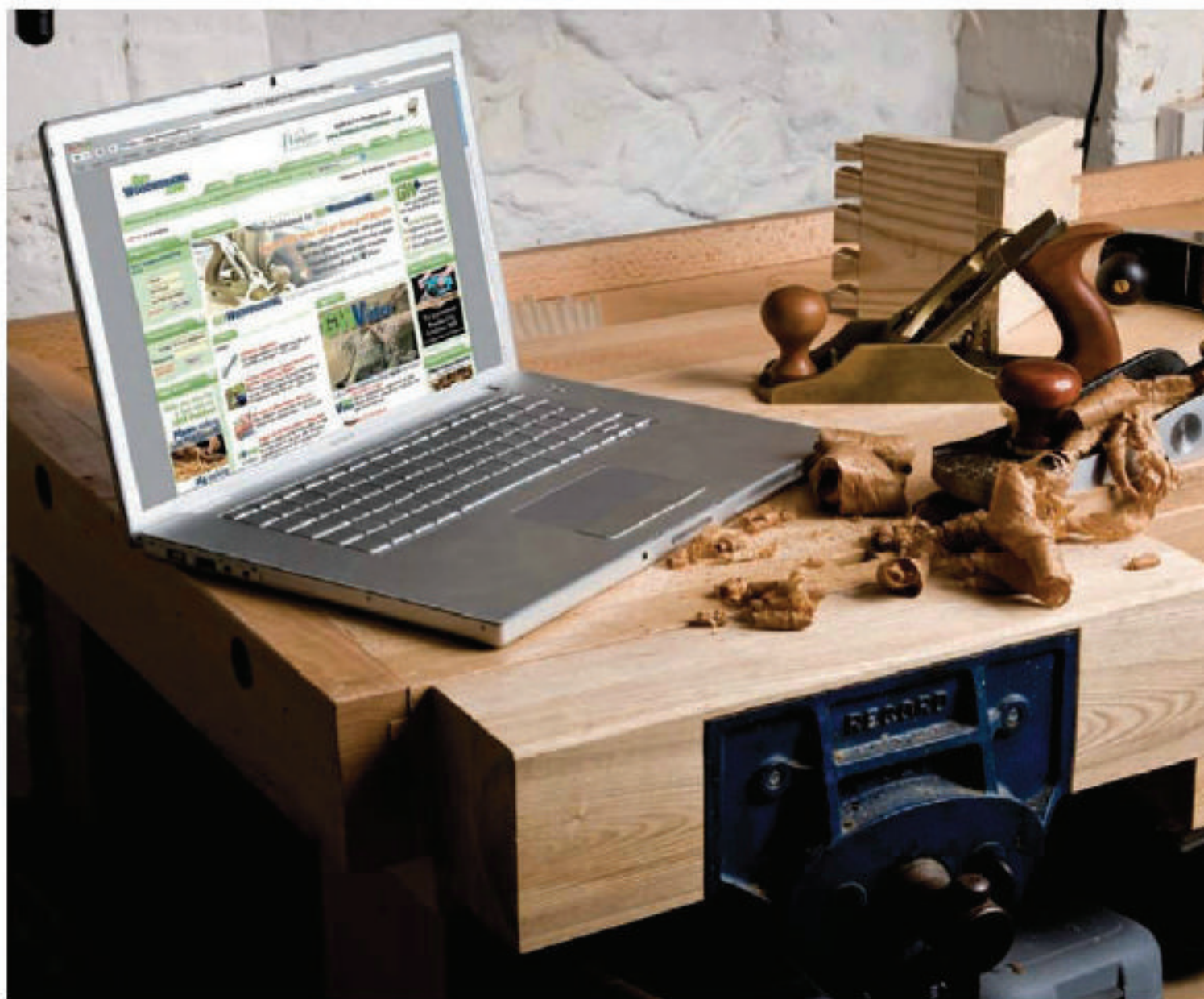
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Woodworkers on the web

3: Marketing yourself on the net

BEN FLEWES



In his third feature on the worldwide web, Ben explains how to draw the right level of attention to your website and advertise your business or product

In part 3 of Woodworkers on the web, I talked about the process of designing a website and outlined the different design approaches available. The next step, once you've got your website or blog in place, is to draw attention to it so people can see what you do, how fantastic your work is and how they can get in touch with you to buy it! In this month's instalment, I'll show you how to go about marketing yourself effectively on the internet.

Brand awareness

Marketing is taking proactive action to draw attention to yourself, your business or a product. You might be selling furniture, grandfather clocks or bird houses; it doesn't

matter what the subject matter is, because the same basic principles of marketing can still be applied, whatever your woodworking enterprise.

'Brand' is a word that is usually associated with big business, but that's only because big businesses have big marketing departments to push their brand and make people aware of it. Brand awareness is a term that's often used to determine how successful a brand is, and comes from repeatedly telling people that it exists.

If the product or service people associate with a brand is good, they'll come back for more and will probably tell their friends and family about it too. This technique of repeatedly telling people who you are and



what you can do for them is as valid for the small business as it is for the large one.

Spreading the word

How does marketing fit in with your website? Well, usually the more visits you get to your website, the better. You can use marketing techniques to drive people towards your website, so you can tell them how they can benefit from your services. If visitors like what they see, they'll tell their friends and family about your site too, especially if it's local. This is one of the most effective ways of getting your message out there; it's called 'viral marketing', which is a jargon term for word of mouth!

First impressions matter

So what should you do to market yourself on the web? One of the most important things to remember is that first impressions really do count. Make sure your website and any printed material you have produced looks the business. It needs to represent the quality of your work and to give potential customers confidence to enquire further. Your graphic identity or brand (both web and print) also needs to make you feel good about what you're offering, so make sure you spend enough time on it to get it right, or hire the services of a designer to help you out if you don't feel you can do it yourself.

Getting noticed

Next up, consider all the ways you can market yourself on the web for free. It's worth making sure you get the best possible search results in search

engines like Google, Yahoo and MSN. This can usually be done with little or no outlay. Having good search results means more people will see your site and get to know about what it is you do.

To achieve the best possible search results, you need to do several things. If your website was custom-designed, talk to your web designer about adding appropriate 'metadata' to your website – this step is essential if you want to optimize your search result listings. Metadata is a techie term for keywords that are imbedded into web pages and trawled automatically by search engines.

If your website is a hosted blog service, then you probably don't need to worry about adding metadata. It should either be automated, or have a friendly user interface for you to add your own keywords. Start by referring to your blog host's website for more information.

Stoking the engine

When that's done, the next step is to submit your website address to the search engines you want listings on. It's a good idea to start by targeting Google, Yahoo and MSN (now called 'Live Search'). These are the Big Three, smaller search engines will usually

pick up new website listings off the back of one of these. Simply go to the following web pages and submit your website address. Each service has a slightly different procedure; just follow the on-screen step-by-step instructions, and the job's done.



JOINING THE BIG THREE



● To add your website to Google, go to <http://www.google.com/addurl/?continue=/addurl>



● To add your website to Yahoo, go to <http://search.yahoo.com/info/submit.html>



● To add your website to MSN Live Search, go to <http://search.msn.com.sg/docs/submit.aspx>

Patience is a virtue

Incidentally, there are lots of businesses and individuals lurking on the web selling themselves as SEO specialists. SEO stands for Search Engine Optimization and is basically what we're doing here. You can pay a small fortune for an SEO specialist to optimize your websites' search engine rankings, so be careful if you decide to go down this route. Make sure you know what you're getting for your money. Better still, follow the steps outlined here and you won't have to part with any!

After updating your metadata and submitting your website to the Big Three, it can take several weeks before you start seeing any improvement in your search results. Search engines will crawl your site for metadata and new content on a timed cycle, so be patient and hang on in there – you should see good improvements over a period of time.

Regular updates

Other things that will help your search engine listings are regularly updated content and links to other sites. Try to update your site often, perhaps with a news section to let the world know what projects you're working on, or with photo galleries of recently completed work.

Placing links on your site can also give you an advantage, but beware: the quality of the links needs to be high before you will reap any rewards. Quality is measured by internet traffic and relevance. If you link to busy sites that have content relevant to your own site, this tends to give you better search engine listings than links with irrelevant content or low traffic.

Instant results

The next way to market yourself successfully on the web provides near-instant gratification. You can advertise your services and website using one of the many search engines. Google Adwords is probably the best known of these, and provides an impressive service. One of the cleverest features of advertising in this way is you only pay when someone reads your ad and decides to click it. This is called 'pay per click' or PPC advertising.

Adverts are usually set up with a couple of short lines of text and your website address. You can specify the maximum amount you're willing to pay per click, and set a monthly budget which won't be exceeded. Your advert then bids for position based on your maximum cost per click, and appears in relevant search results. You'll find that you can pull in an impressive amount of traffic to your site for as little as £30 per month.



Adverts in action

If you want to see this in action, just search for a product or service on Google; you'll see targeted adverts on the right side of the search page. The top three search results on the left are normally sponsored in this way too, and have a slightly different colour.

Yahoo and Microsoft both have their own versions of Google's Adwords. See the panel below for full details.

In addition to marketing with search engines, you can get your website out there with alternative services like Yellow Pages. <http://www.yell.com>

BUYING ADVERTISING



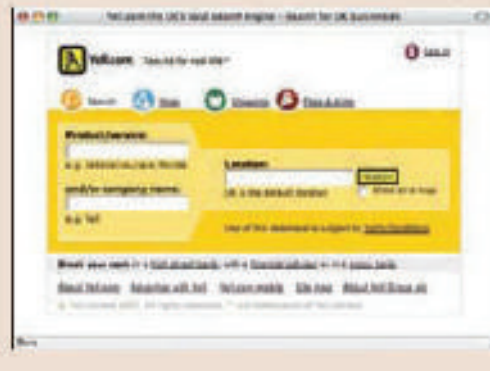
● To advertise on Google, go to HYPERLINK www.google.co.uk/adwords



● To advertise on Yahoo, go to http://www.searchmarketing.yahoo.com/en_GB



● To advertise on Microsoft, go to <http://www.advertising.microsoft.com/home>



● To advertise in Yellow Pages, go to <http://www.yell.com>

Yellow Pages offers a more traditional way of advertising, but is still very relevant in today's internet world.

Summing up

That about wraps it up for part 3 of Woodworkers on the web. Next month I'll be looking at how to convert your new found website visitors into sales as I delve into the various options available to sell on the web. See you then...

FURTHER INFO

For further reading on anything to do with building and running websites, go to:

- A list apart: www.alistapart.com
- Blogworld: www.blogworld.com
- Sitepoint: www.sitepoint.com

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Casebook No.14 the new WR600

A compact version of the WoodRat – the WR600 answers the need for a machine with a smaller price tag, that works like the big WR900 WoodRat without compromising either the quality or the range of work. It can appeal to the beginner as well as to the professional looking to dedicate a machine to a single task.



1. WR600 dovetails like the WR900 when joining wide boards. Variable spacing if you need it, but the parallelogram gives even spacing. Pencil the tail positions directly on the board end.



2. WR600 uses the full range of dovetail bits from 8mm to the full 2"50mm, with maximum board width of 18"450mm. It'll use the fine tin9 dovetails too... classic drawers.



3. As there's only one gate, so you can use the cutter over each position in the board with a fine line on the baiten using the same dovetails and pins from this set... accurate.



4. So you can make any kind of dovetail – through, and half-blind and secret dovetails, and decorative and inlaid with variable spacing and any size.



5. With the MR4 rail the WR600 becomes a mortice and tenon machine: you can accurately track the work and set stops for mortises



6. and tenons... and you can do everything that you can do with the WR900 without turning yourself upside down.



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WORKSHOP

Your guide to woodworking tools, techniques and equipment

Keith Smith



Keith Smith, alias **The Woodsmith**, presents his regular monthly round-up of no-nonsense answers to your woodworking problems...

...and delivers the last of three features on building your own router table, in which he completes the construction and adds the finishing touches

Ron Fox



Routing guru Ron Fox explains how to cut finger joints using a variety of proprietary jig systems

Ian Taylor



There's more to drawers than making the basic box Ian described last month. Here he looks at some of the design variations possible

Ian Wilkie



Ian Wilkie looks at ways of taking the hard work out of woodworking if you're not so young any more

WHAT'S NEW

MAKITA 447M DUST EXTRACTOR

Dust extraction is an increasingly important requirement when power tools are in operation, and the new Makita 447M dust extraction unit meets the highest levels of the performance in the EN 60335-2-69 standard. Class M regulations require dust extractors to be capable of removing dust from the work area so there's no pollution greater than 0.1 milligrams per cubic metre of air.

The Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) value denotes the maximum permissible level of dust concentration in a work area. The lower the OEL value, the more hazardous the dust. Dust class M is a medium hazardous rating, which determines the construction and performance of any dust extraction unit designed to deal with it. Wood dust is the most common hazard in this class.

The new Makita 447M extractor has a maximum airflow volume of 127cu ft per minute, and has a mandatory airflow sensor fitted which provides an audible warning to the operator if the airflow velocity reduces below the required minimum standard – for example, if the filter is not performing adequately.

The 447M extractor has an extra-fine PET-fleece filter with a maximum permeability of 0.1 per cent. This means that the less porous the filter is, the cleaner the air that is exhausted from the vacuum unit.

This extractor uses the 'X-tremeClean' automatic filter cleaning system, which uses valves to alter the air route through the filter so each half of the filter is cleaned in turn when the machine is switched on and during use. The long-lasting filter cartridge is washable for maximum performance.

Powered by either a 110 or 240V motor, this extractor can be coupled to power tools so that when the tool is switched on the extractor automatically starts, using its soft-start low-torque system. The Makita 447M weighs 16kg, has a tank capacity of 45 litres, ergonomic handles and robust castors for easy movement. A comprehensive range of accessories, brush heads, connectors and nozzles means this versatile dust extraction plant can also serve as a powerful vacuum cleaner.

Makita (UK) Ltd ☐ 01908 211678 ☐ www.makita.co.uk

PRICE: around £670 (240V model)





About a router 3

KEITH SMITH



With the cabinet construction all but completed, Keith makes the two fences and applies the finishing touches

Last month I made the basic cabinet, fitted the top, the router and the LS Positioner, and added the drawer boxes, **photo 1**. This month I'll explain how I finished the cabinet and made the two fences which complete the project.

But first of all I have a confession! I managed to make the base cabinet 18mm lower than I intended; I had the right measurements but somehow managed to cut the boards too short. So you may well see in the pictures the extra 18mm thick board I added to bring up the height. However, all the measurements in this article are to the best of my knowledge correct.

Completing the build

The final stage of the basic cabinet build is to fit two small pieces of MDF to form the

recess for the NVR switch. I just glued and clamped them in place whilst the glue set, **photo 2**.

The router compartment has a removable front panel which is held in position by two pins in the bottom edge, and by rare earth magnets at the top. First I glued and pinned battens round the opening 18mm in from the front edge, and fitted two inset caps in the bottom edge of the cabinet, **photo 3**. I screwed two pins into the bottom of the panel to align with the inset caps, and cut a small slot in the top edge into which I glued a magnet. I then glued a corresponding magnet into the top batten, checking that I had them the right way round; otherwise they will repel rather than attract. The fitted panel fits flush with the surrounding frame, **photo 4**.



1 The basic unit assembled, ready for the finishing touches



2 Two small pieces of MDF create the recess for the NVR switch



3 Brass insert cups are fitted to the bottom edge of the router housing



4 The drawers and pivoting door should all fit flush with the cabinet



5 The cabinet looks a bit neater with the drawer fronts in place



6 Drawer finger pulls have been cut and carpet underlay glued inside of the router housing

Adding the drawer fronts

I cut all the false fronts for the drawers to size and rounded over the front edges. I then pre-drilled them for the screws which will hold them to the drawers. To position the fronts, I put a couple of blobs of hot melt glue on the rear and pressed them in place. Once the glue had cooled, I screwed the fronts in place through the holes I had previously drilled, photo 5. Instead of fitting handles, which would project out from the front of the unit, I drilled a 30mm hole through each drawer front to act as a finger pull.

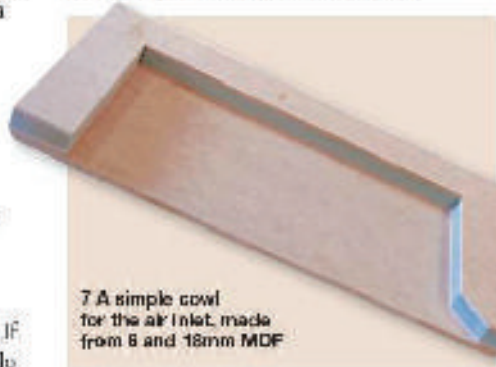
Fitting the NVR switch

The router table needs a no-volt release (NVR) switch for safety. I bought the Axminster emergency stop NVR switch, but this is not so easy to connect up as it has spade connectors rather than screw terminals. You would need to use professional crimping pliers to make the joints capable of carrying mains voltages. If you're in any doubt about your ability to do

this, get a competent electrician to do the wiring for you. Alternatively, Axminster also sell a slightly more expensive NVR switch which is pre-wired and easier to fit.

Cutting the noise

With the NVR switch fitted, I was able to test-run the router. It was still quite noisy, so I glued rubber-backed felt carpet underlay to the insides of the router housing, photo 6, and the inside face of the front panel, using hot melt glue.



7 A simple cowl for the air inlet, made from 6 and 18mm MDF

Running the router again, most of the noise now seemed to emanate from the air inlet next to the NVR. So I made a simple cowl, photo 7, which I screwed in place over the inlet, photo 8. This reduced the noise dramatically.

Finishing the table

I'd considered giving the unit several coats of clear acrylic varnish to keep dirt and finger marks at bay, but in the end I decided to paint it white. I gave it one coat of



8 The cowl fits over the top of the air inlet and reduces the noise dramatically



8 This fence has been designed to work with the Inca LS Positioner



10 'Slick' low-friction material helps the fence to slide smoothly



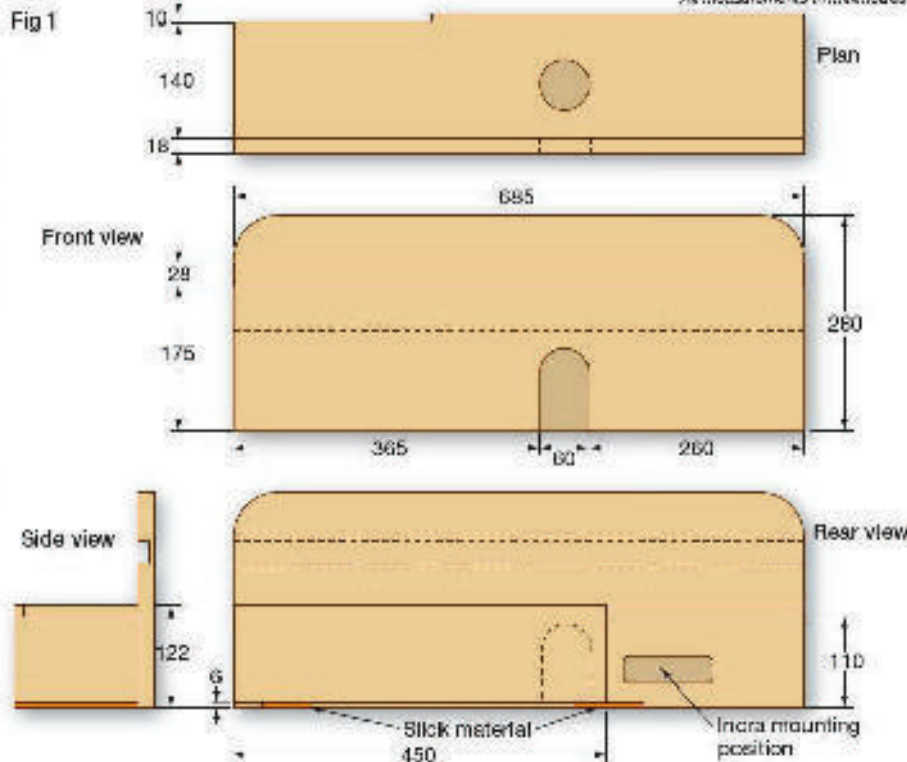
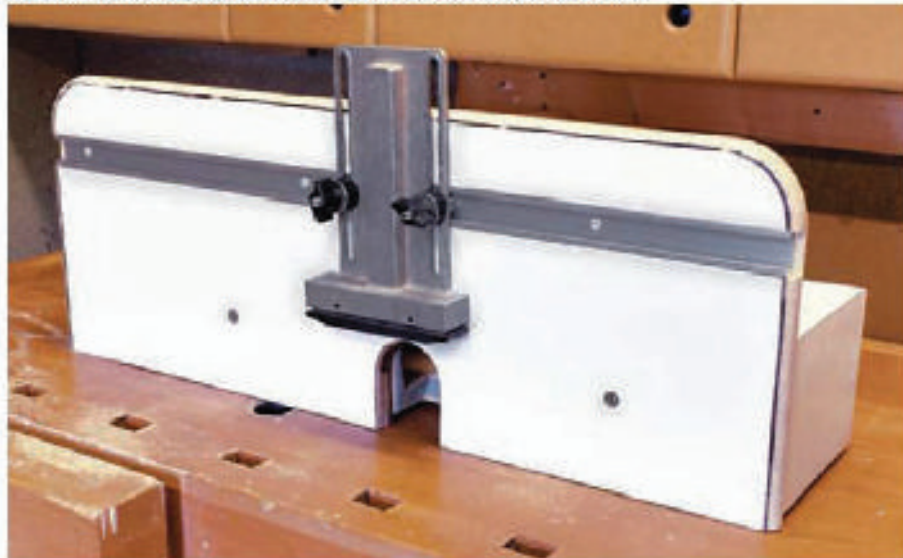
11 The short fence is a simple box with a cutter recess and dust extract hole

International MDF primer and two coats of Dulux Satinwood.

Making the fences

I've made two fences, one for use with the LS Positioner and a longer one that runs the length of the table. Both designs are similar in that they consist of a box section which

12 The short fence has a tall face with T-track and a DeWalt hold-down



gives the fence rigidity, allows for dust extraction and always ensures it is perfectly square to the table. I haven't provided the facility to adjust the projection of the out-feed fence, as I wanted to ensure the

fence is perfectly straight. The face of the short fence is removable; if I find I need an adjustable fence in the future I can easily make a separate false front to fit. I can also fit a zero-clearance fence in the same manner if necessary.

The short fence

It is vital that this is made perfectly square, as there's no room for adjustment once it has been assembled. See fig 1 for all the dimensional details. I've used pocket-hole screws for most of the construction, gluing and clamping the main box section together, photo 9. I used some of the spare Formica

to laminate the fence, using PVA rather than contact adhesive. I then fixed two pieces of 'Slick' low-friction material to the base, photo 10, making sure the screws are well recessed.

I fitted two nut inserts to connect the fence to the Inca, and a further two inserts to attach the face board. Finally I cut out the recess for the cutter and drilled a 60mm hole in the top for the dust extraction hose, photo 11. I've made a very tall face for the fence, laminating it with Formica and fitting T-track. This is screwed to the box section with countersunk machine screws, which are screwed into the nut inserts, photo 12.

The long fence

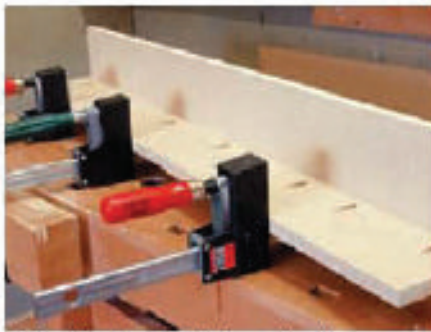
This has a similar construction to the short fence, fig 2, but this time I haven't made the face removable, photo 13. The fence attaches to the table by a T-track sliding mount bolt at one end, photo 14, and is simply clamped in position at the other, photo 15.

Fitting the T-track

This is another nerve-wracking job! The short front-to-back section of the track needs to be perfectly parallel to the fence, so I used the fence as a guide at one side and a guide clamp at the other, photo 16. The longer section can be cut parallel to the front edge, photo 17. To give the T-track a more secure fixing, as well as screwing it in place, I also ran a bead of Siloflex (similar to Gripfil Max) along each bottom edge, photo 18.

In conclusion

I'd been bedevilled with vibration when using large cutters in my old table, and I



13 The long fence is similar to the short one, but doesn't have a removable face



14 The fence attaches to the table by a T-track sliding mount bolt at one end...



15 ...and is simply clamped in position at the other end



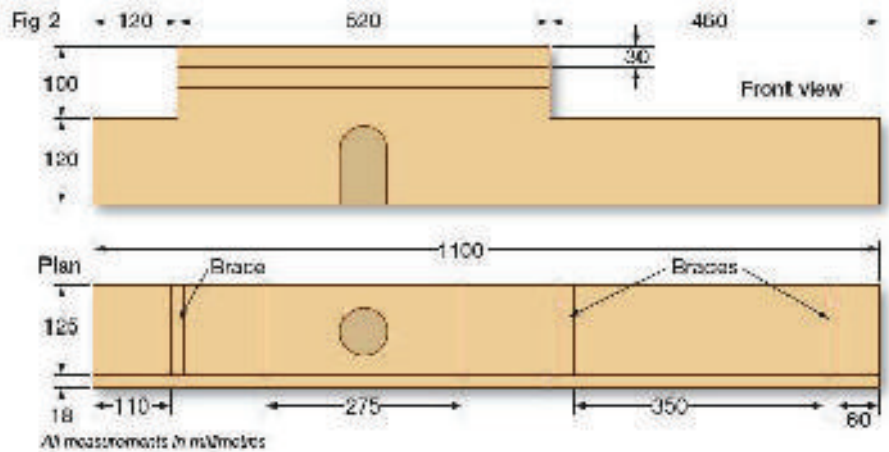
16 The short front-to-back section of T-track needs to be perfectly parallel to the fence



17 I stopped the long groove short as it will be mainly used for holdfasts



18 A bead of Sikaflex adhesive will help to keep the T-track in place



was determined to resolve the problem. Making the cabinet as massive as possible has certainly done the trick, although it's fairly hard work to move around; what I need now is a smoother workshop floor!

Each of the individual components has surpassed my expectations. The Unifit is absolutely brilliant. I haven't found getting the fine adjustment model with 32 turns per inch of travel to be a problem – in fact, quite the opposite. The Xtreme Xtension is a dream to use, and it now takes me just a few seconds to change a bit. The Inera LS Positioner is so accurate that I can even remove the complete fence and Positioner, in order to use the longer fence, and then refit the Inera in exactly the same position it was in previously.

I've been using the router table for a few weeks now, and the stability and lack of vibration ensure I get a much better finish than I was previously able to achieve. It's quiet in use, and for most routing operations (trenching in a table is always going to be a dusty job) the dust extraction is close to 100 per cent. Lastly, I never have to get fumbling for my router bits anymore. I think this has been easily the best addition I've ever made to the workshop.



Routing finger joints

RON FOX



Routing guru Ron Fox explains the basic principles behind successful finger joints using a variety of proprietary jig systems

Like finger joints, I find their symmetry more attractive than through dovetails for the corners of boxes. Admittedly they don't have the inherent strength of the locking pins and tails of a dovetail, but the castellations give a very long glue line that, with modern adhesives, is more than strong enough for boxes, chests, and carcasses.

Finger joints can be cut in various ways, including by hand. With a router, it isn't too difficult to make a home-made jig for use with either a hand-held or table-mounted router, but this article will concentrate on three popular commercial methods.

Sticky fingers

Finger joints present a few problems that you don't get with dovetails:

- 1 The fit of a dovetail is achieved by setting depth of cut exactly right with basic jigs, or making pins fit tails with the more sophisticated jigs. With finger joints, most jigs are of the fixed-template kind. The cutter is moved twice the width of the cut to make the next cut; for example, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ in jig, the template moves the cut 1in to position it for the next cut. You can have the world's most precise template, but if your cutter isn't exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ in in diameter the joint won't be a good fit.

The Woodlat overcomes this problem by not having a template and guide bushes at



all, and the Leigh jig by using a very highly engineered (and expensive) system of adjustable guide bushes.

- 2 You're more at the mercy of your board width, even with the Leigh jig. With a fixed template you can't raise just any width of board and guarantee an acceptable-looking joint. In general you have three choices, as shown in the picture (left).

- **Symmetrical joints** have full fingers at both ends of one board and full sockets at both ends of the mating board.
- **Asymmetrical joints** have a full finger at one end and a full socket at the other end of each board.
- **Centred joints** have a finger or a socket in the centre of each board, with further equally spaced cuts moving out towards the edges of the boards.



Symmetrical, asymmetrical and centred finger joints



The Leigh jig set for cutting the finger boards of a 3/4in joint

A selection of finger joints cut on the Leigh Jig



With the WoodRat you can accommodate any width of board by having a centre cut wider or narrower than the outer cuts, but with jigs, you're well advised to prepare your boards to one of the widths specified by the manufacturer.

Choosing a jig system

The simplest form of jig is the basic fixed template dovetail jig. With some of these it's possible to cut finger joints with the standard dovetail template and appropriate straight cutter; more often though a separate template, cutter and guide bush need to be bought.

Buying extra bits for basic jigs can be an expensive pastime; it's quite easy to add various accessories and end up spending more than if you'd gone for one of the more versatile jigs in the first place.

At the top end of the jig market is the Leigh. You have to add the finger joint template, guide bushes and cutters to the cost of the original dovetail jig, which runs up a formidable bill. What you get for this is a template with four different comb sizes, and a set of adjustable guide bushes to ensure that the fingers and sockets fit well.

Also at the top end of the market is the WoodRat. This isn't strictly a jig, since there are no templates or guide bushes involved. Among its many capabilities, however, is an unrivalled ability to produce finger joints of almost any size or spacing, in any width of board. All the setting up, marking out and positioning the cut has to be done by the



The template slid and pinned for the corresponding socket cuts

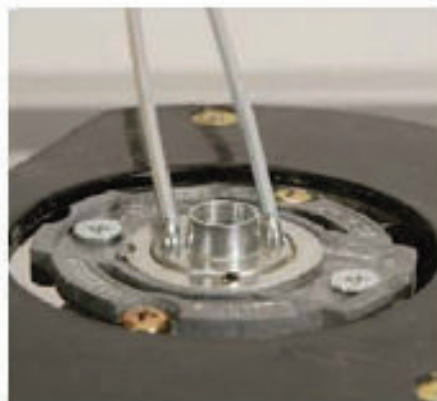
Marking out the first pin board on the WoodRat



user, unlike with a fixed comb jig where the settings are built into the jig.

Finally, there are one or two table-based finger jointing systems. Probably the best known is the Inera jig, which enables finger joints to be made by moving the fence between successive cuts.

The Triton system also provides for cutting finger joints with a special finger jointing attachment. This is available as an accessory, which fits on the Triton table and operates rather like the Inera jig. These will both be covered in a subsequent article.



The guide bush being adjusted for the best fit

Maintaining symmetry by working from both sides of the board towards the middle



A socket board being cut using the first finger board as the 'template'



1 Two finger boards interlocked to check the fit of the joint



2 A pin board being cut at the left-hand end of the DeWalt DE 6212 jig



3 The corresponding socket board being cut at the right-hand end of the jig. Note the adjustable stop to the right of the board



4 A board with the marked centre positioned by eye in the template. Note the adjustable stop at the left of the board

TESTING A BASIC JIG SET-UP

To test the set-up, two finger boards are cut and interlocked flat. The object is to check that the cutter is exactly the required diameter, and that the board edges line up. If the joints don't fit you'll have to try another cutter. If the board edges don't line up you have to adjust the stops, if there are any, or shim the board, photo 1.

When you're satisfied, proceed with the cutting. Finger boards are cut at the left-hand end of the jig, photo 2, and socket boards at the right-hand end, photo 3.

With an odd-width board you can, with a bit of fiddling, centre the board. Draw the centre line on the board then draw a line either side to give the width of the gap between the fingers on the template. Position and clamp the board by eye so that the two offset lines fall symmetrically under the template, photo 4.

You can now cut a board with a socket in the dead centre. You then use a socket board to position the pin boards, but you might well decide that it's easier to stick to the recommended board widths.

Basic Jigs

With most basic jigs the finger joint templates have to be bought as an accessory. An exception to this is the recently-introduced DeWalt DE 6212 jig which comes with two templates, one of which caters for finger joints. The appropriate guide bush is also included.

With all basic jigs the finger and socket boards are cut separately in the vertical position, with a backing board clamped behind them in the horizontal position to prevent breakout. For safety the backing board should be thicker than the box boards to avoid cutting into the body of the jig.

The Leigh Jig

The Leigh finger jointing attachment is a fixed-template jig with four basic sizes of joint (3/8in, 3/4in, 5/8in, 3/4in), in four different maximum widths (145in, 125in, 105in, and 85in). Simple home-made shims allow

half-size and quarter-size joints to be cut in each part of the template giving a very wide range of finger sizes. In addition, boards wider than the comb lengths can be made up by cutting and edge joining. A metric version of the jig is also available.

The Leigh works by positioning the comb for, say, the finger cuts, cutting all the finger boards then sliding the comb along the mounting bar to the socket position and cutting all the socket boards. The comb is held in each position with a metal pin. The correct fit for the joint is set by adjusting the height of the guide bush in its holder.

Apart from the range of sizes for the joints, the Leigh enables half-blind finger joints to be cut. These can be square or rounded. Square joints can also be cut on the WoodRat, though not as easily, but round ones are, I believe, unique to the Leigh. Half-blind finger joints require the finger boards to be routed in the horizontal

position with a stopped cut. Square socket boards are routed vertically. Rounded stopped joints are more complex, but are made clear in the Leigh Owners Manual.

The WoodRat

The WoodRat is superb as a dovetail and finger-jointing device but the user has to do all the work of setting up, choosing the size and style of joint, and positioning the cut.

There are three main requirements for accurate finger joints on the WoodRat:

- 1 Accurate marking out of the first board. I use a ruler and a 0.5mm clutch pencil.
- 2 Using a cutter narrower than the width of the sockets. This gives scope for fine-tuning the socket widths.
- 3 Keeping the joint symmetrical by twisting and turning the first board for each cut. Effectively you're working from both sides towards the middle, and the board will be symmetrical with regard to both ends and both faces.

With the first board cut in this manner you clamp it in the marker position and use it as your pattern for all subsequent boards, both finger and socket. Whatever the size and spacing of your first finger board, you cut all other boards, both finger and socket, with the original board in the marker position. This particular exercise has helped many of my course students to grasp the principles of WoodRat operation.

One of the features of WoodRat cutting is that you can cut part way through the thickness of the board then leap frog over it and cut from the other side; i.e. you cut both sides towards the middle. This is a very useful trick to reduce breakout and is particularly easy if you fit a PlungeBar to your router.

Making a choice

Finger joints can be strong and attractive, used in the right situation. For best results the expensive devices such as the Leigh Jig and the WoodRat are streets ahead of the basic jigs, but their cost is also on a different level. My personal favourite is the WoodRat, but if you want to cut exotic half-blind finger joints the Leigh Jig is the one.

FURTHER INFO

DeWalt Jig
DeWalt Power Tools
 ☎ 01753 567055
 🌐 www.dewalt.co.uk

Leigh Jig
Brimarc Associates Ltd
 ☎ 01826 884410
 🌐 www.brimarc.com

Woodrat
 ☎ 0645 458 2060
 🌐 www.woodrat.com

site

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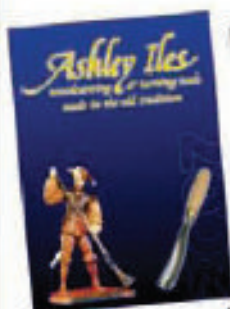
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Q&A

KEITH SMITH



The Woodsmith's here again to give you more no-nonsense answers to all your woodwork problems...

Q I'm running short of space in my workshop, and want to put a couple of my machines on mobile bases so I can move them out of the way when they're not in use. Do you know if there has been a review of mobile bases in the magazine? If not, can you recommend one?

P Drummond, Herts

A I thought I'd seen a review of mobile bases recently, but I've looked back through my index and can't find one. So here's some information about the two I've used.

The cheapest and most flexible is the Axminster mobile base kit. This comes as a kit of parts, which connect together in a timber frame. You need to provide your own timber, which needs to be hardwood as it houses the adjustable feet. This has a big advantage in that you can make it to any size (within reason); however, it's limited to carrying 125kg. Another potential problem is that it has a large castor which projects out about 160mm from the base. This can be a bit of a tripping hazard, especially if it's fitted to the front of the base... and if it's fitted to the rear it's awkward to get at and the machine won't fit back up against the wall. I've used mine for a mortiser and mounted the castor to the side. It took me a couple of hours to assemble.

The other base I have is the smaller of the two heavy-duty machine bases again sold by Axminster; this will carry 250kg and costs £60.77. Axminster also sells a larger model which will carry up to 540kg. This base is well designed and very quick to assemble. It has two fixed wheels and two castors; all the wheels can be locked for stability. I've fitted mine with the castors to the rear so there's no projection to the front, and this has worked well for me.



Axminster's larger base carries 540kg; it costs about £75



The Axminster mobile base kit costs just under £25



Axminster's smaller machine base will carry 250kg and costs £60.77

Q Can I glue tanalised timber? If so, which type of glue is the most effective to use?

Phil Beer, Dorset

A The simple answer is that tanalised timber can be glued with most woodworking adhesives. However, this type of timber is often stored outside at the woodyard, and will usually be too wet to take glue effectively until it has dried out. Ideally the wood should be allowed to acclimatise and settle to its final moisture content, which should be 20 per cent or less if you

wish to achieve a durable long-lasting bond.

As for glue, polyurethane adhesive would (until recently) have been my first choice, as it's cheap and easy to use. However, I've been testing glues recently, and I've been very disappointed with the performance of both of the polyurethane glues I've tried.

For this reason I'd suggest you use a resorcinol adhesive, such as Extraphen; the name has just been changed, so you may well find older stock still being sold as Polyproof. This is a two-part adhesive that needs mixing, so it's a bit more of a fiddle to use, but it is one of the few completely waterproof adhesives currently available. Polyproof is available as resin and hardener supplied together; a 500g pack costs £19.98 from Axminster Power Tools (0800 371822 www.axminster.co.uk)

Q I've recently discovered the joys of eBay, and see that even Axminster Power Tools have a shop there. They're selling their normal stock, but they also sell off some customer-returned machines and I see that sometimes these are going for about half the list price. Axminster state that you shouldn't expect the goods to be new and there will be some wear and tear and maybe some bits missing, but the machines appear to be in working order. Do you know if these machines are a good bet and worth the gamble, bearing in mind there is no warranty and I would be paying hundreds of pounds for the type of machine I'm interested in?

Iain Livingston, Glasgow



I made this replacement dust extraction housing for my second-hand planer.



I spent about four hours stripping down and readjusting the thicknesser.



The mortiser I bought was brand new, but rather shop-soiled.

A Axminster has an enviable reputation, but it's still a bit of a gamble buying second-hand machinery. However, I've bought three Jet machines from them – a 60A planer, a JPM 13 CSX thicknesser and a 719 A mortiser. They've all worked out at about half price.

The condition of the machinery varies. The planer came without a back panel and with the dust extraction housing missing. I fabricated both these parts easily enough and saved myself a spare parts bill of almost £50, but the machine also had a damaged knife lock bar; someone had stripped the threads, which meant I had to order a new part.

The thicknesser had a manufacturing fault: a bearing surface had been ground too tight and it stopped the out-feed roller from sliding. I lapped the faces with a diamond stone to free it. In all it took me about four hours to strip the machine, find the fault and reassemble and readjust everything.

The mortiser on the other hand was new. The box was damaged and it was a bit dirty, but otherwise it was perfect, so as you can see it's the lack of the draw. However, considering the potential savings, if you have some engineering skills and are willing to put some effort into repairing any faults, then I think it's well worth the risk.

Q I'm in the final stages of designing my new workshop and wonder if you have any specific tips regarding fitting the electrics. I have an electrician doing the work, but he's more experience in house wiring, so I thought I'd ask if there are any special considerations we should think about before he starts work.

Paul Collins, Mossley

A I take it you're planning a standard layout with a feed cut to the workshop and a sub-main consumer unit supplying the lighting, a 30A ring main and a dedicated 16A circuit fitted with industrial sockets. What I've done

differently with my own workshop is I have just two sockets fed directly from the consumer unit; I use these for the heater and dehumidifier, which I sometimes want to run through the night. For the ring main and 16A circuit I have fitted two isolator switches by the entry door; with these I can shut all the power off to the workshop when I leave at night. They are also useful if I have any young visitors, as I can ensure all the machinery is safely switched off. An added safety feature is that this type of switch often comes with the facility to lock it in the off position. I have my air filter running all the time the power is on, so this gives me an audible indication that the ring main is live, and I have a bulkhead light permanently fitted to the 16A circuit to warn me when the 16A circuit is powered up.

If you have any queries you would like us to try and answer, just write to the address below or email thewoodworker@magicalia.com and we'll try and give you an answer in the next available issue. Send in a photograph or sketch if it helps and remember to enclose a stamped SAE if you want us to return your pictures.

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CT5103	3y	£179.99	£219.99
CT5104	3y	£199.99	£239.99
CT5105	3y	£219.99	£259.99
CT5106	3y	£239.99	£279.99
CT5107	3y	£259.99	£299.99
CT5108	3y	£279.99	£319.99
CT5109	3y	£299.99	£339.99
CT5110	3y	£319.99	£359.99

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MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5125	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• 12 Speed reversible head lathe • Headstock rotating 360° & locks in 4 positions • 80mm between centres

RYOBI CORDLESS DRILL DRIVERS

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5126	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Small compact size • Power work light

Clarke BANDSAW WITH SANDING DISC

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5127	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Ideal machine for fast and accurate cutting in both hand and softwood • Fitted with 150mm diameter abrasive disc • 370watts motor • Cutting depth 145mm, throat depth 160mm

Clarke ROUTER TABLE

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5128	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Converts your router into a stationary router table • Suitable for most routers up to 150mm dia base plate

Clarke SCROLL SAW

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5129	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• 100w, 230v motor • 20mm dia cut thickness • 400 - 1,700rpm variable speed • Air blower removed dust from cutting area • Includes work light

Clarke WOODWORKING LATHE

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5130	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• 12 Speed reversible head lathe • Headstock rotating 360° & locks in 4 positions • 80mm between centres

Clarke NAIL/STAPLER AIR COMPRESSOR KIT

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5131	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• 2.2hp with pressure regulator • Air disp. 4.5c/min • Ideal for tacking, nailing and pointing etc. • Includes starter pack of nails and staples

Clarke CDS-300 DISC SANDER

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5132	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Fine finishing, accurate sanding & shaping • 750w input power • Disc Dia. 300mm • 4" belt table • Dual extraction fan

Clarke CIRCULAR SAWS

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CT5134	120w	180mm	£34.99	£41.99

• Heavy duty durable universal bench with excellent stability up to 125kg • Suitable for most work • Portable • One handle • 600mm x 160mm

Clarke BELT SANDERS

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5135	85w	140mm	£34.99	£41.99

• All models compatible with dust bag

Clarke AIRLESS SPRAY GUN

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5136	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Ideal for fast easy paint spraying on fences, sheds, garden ornaments etc.

schappach VARIABLE SPEED 12" BANDSAW

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5137	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Adjustable cutting speed from 275-700rpm • Top & bottom 3 roller pressure guide • Disc: Lathes 100/100/160mm • Fits from 4" to 4 1/2"

Clarke SASH CRAMP

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5138	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Two piece 912mm set • Robust "T" bar style construction

Clarke UNIVERSAL MITRE SAW STAND

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5139	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Heavy duty durable universal bench with excellent stability up to 125kg • Suitable for most work • Portable • One handle • 600mm x 160mm

Clarke ROLLER BALL STAND

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5140	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Allows feeding on from any direction • Rollers fitted with ball bearings for easy scrub • Large non slip feet for stability • Heavy duty

Clarke CARVING CHISEL SET

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5141	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Polished spring alloy steel chisel blades • Supplied in wooden storage case with handle

RYOBI SLIDING 10" CARRIAGE SAW

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5142	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• 1600w motor • 400Dpm • Cutting cap 50mm at 90° • 25mm at 45° • Table size 1100mm x 630mm • 3 Channels for other gauge

Clarke ALUMINIUM SASH CRAMPS

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5143	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Quick release lever for fast & easy use

DeWALT PRO RADIAL ARM SAWS

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5144	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Input power from 1450-4000w • Free standing • Pre-assembled • 4 roller bearings ensure high accuracy and durability

Clarke VARIABLE SPEED 12" BANDSAW

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5145	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Max cutting depth 80mm • Powerful 300w motor • Disc: Lathes 100/100/160mm • Black speed 200-6000rpm

Clarke 4" BELT/6" DISC SANDER

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5146	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Dual extraction fan • 4" x 30" belt table & locks 0-90° • 2200mm x 152mm table, fits 0-90° • 400w, 230v motor

Clarke 6" BELT/9" DISC SANDER

MODEL	MOOTOR	BLADE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5147	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Includes stand • 1 1/2 HP/230V/1 ph motor • 400W • £119.99 inc. VAT • £176.23 inc. VAT

Clarke BANDSAWS

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5148	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

• Includes stand

Clarke PLANERS & THICKNESSERS

MODEL	MOOTOR	PLUNGE	EX. EXT.	INC. EXT.
CT5149	1100w	65mm	£54.99	£64.99

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Drawer details

IAN TAYLOR



There's more to drawers than making the basic box I've described last month. Here he looks at some of the design variations that are possible

Last month, I looked at the construction of traditional inset drawers. But that's only where it starts. In practice there are many variations, and a big industry in manufactured drawer systems. So this month I'm going to have a quick review of the options, including a brief look at some design aspects.

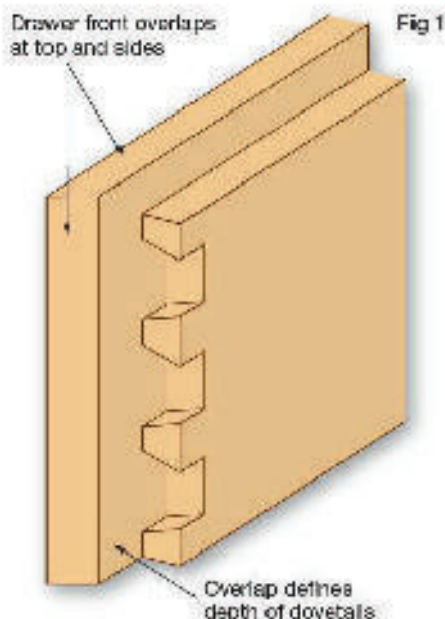
Overlapping fronts

When you make an inset drawer, you need to take a great deal of care over the fitting of the drawer to the opening. You need an even reveal at the sides, and a vertical fit that doesn't leave too big a gap above the drawer while allowing for seasonal expansion of the timber. All of this takes time and practice.

However, if you look at manufactured drawers in a showroom, you'll see that the drawer front overlaps the drawer opening. This has several advantages. First, the drawer



1 You can cut an overlapping drawer front using the router





DRAWER HEIGHTS

There's one common feature of mass-produced chests of drawers. However many drawers the unit has, invariably they are all the same height. It's obvious why this is so: one size fits all, so there's a significant cost saving in their manufacture.

However, if you look at a traditional chest of drawers (shown above), you'll note that there are deeper drawers at the bottom, and shallower ones at the top. Because the upper drawers are closer to eye height, you view them more square on, whereas the bottom drawers are viewed at an angle. Perspective makes the lower drawers appear shallower than those higher up, hence creating a perception that the upper drawers are deeper than they really are. It's a clever illusion!

Doing the maths

Here's how to work out the proportions. First you need to determine the total height of the drawer space, and the number of drawers you require. This determines the number of intermediate drawer support frames and so the combined thickness of all these components. Then you have to select the desired difference in height between adjacent drawers. Here's how it works for a typical chest.

Let's say that your overall drawer space is 1200 mm high, the drawer supports are 25 mm thick and you want five drawers. The available space for drawers is 1200 mm less the combined thickness of four 25 mm thick drawer support frames, which is 1100 mm. Divide this by 5 to get the average drawer height of 220 mm – the height of the middle drawer. If you have chosen a height increment of 20 mm, your five drawers need to be 180, 200, 220, 240 and 260 mm high.

box can be a looser fit in the opening, because it's hidden when the drawer is closed. And second, the overlapping front acts as an automatic drawer stop, removing another construction step. So it's no wonder that manufactured drawers tend to focus on this design. The overlap can be on all four edges, or only on the sides and top.

Making the overlap

So how do you make one? Well, it needs a fairly simple adaptation of the standard half-blind dovetail at the front. The rear joint details are exactly the same as for an inlaid drawer. If you rout a lip round the inside edges of your drawer front, the front dovetails are set back from the outer edges, to leave an overlapping drawer front – see **photo 1** and **fig 1**. Although marking out is a bit trickier, the cutting is actually easier, because the lip itself defines the bottom of the dovetail recess. Getting the right depth is also simplified because you have a flat surface to cut to.

If this looks too tricky (it's not, really), there's a shortcut that looks the same when the drawer is closed, but is much easier to make. Simply add a false overlapping front to a dovetailed drawer box, **photo 2**. The speed advantage here is that you can use through dovetails on your inner box – a much faster process. You need to take a bit of care in aligning the drawer front, before screwing it in place from the inside, especially if you have more than one drawer to deal with.

Sliding dovetails

The prerequisite of a long-lasting drawer is to give it solid joints at the front and rear. If you haven't achieved this, then pushing, pulling and banging against the drawer steps over the years are all going to loosen the drawer front. However, these joints don't have to be conventional dovetails. For some drawer designs, a sliding dovetail construction gives a stronger front joint, more easily than other approaches. I've used this typically on deep filing drawers where the sides need to be inset to give clearance for the runners (more of which later). This type of joint lends itself to router techniques, and the dovetail needs to be cut only on one side, **photo 3**.

Cock beading

Sometimes it's desirable to accentuate the drawer by adding beading round its edges. The origins of this embellishment stem from the late 18th century, when rich veneers started being used on high-class furniture. However, a veneer sheet simply applied across the front of a drawer creates two problems. First, the veneer construction becomes visible when the drawer is open. Second, the exposed edges are fragile and will become chipped and torn over time. The addition of a so-called cock beading, standing proud round the edges of the drawer, solves both problems.



2 Alternatively, simply fit the box with a false overlapping front



3 A front sliding dovetail gives a heavy drawer extra strength

Traditionally, the beading is shallow on the sides and bottom, but on the top extends across the full thickness of the front. This means that your elegant dovetails are visible on the drawer sides, but no join is visible across the top – see photo 4 and fig 2.

Careful rebating

Cutting the recesses for cock-beads is an ideal task for the router table, but you need a bit of care cutting the full-thickness rebate on the top. First, make sure that your drawer is accurately fitted to the opening before you start cutting the rebates for the beading. Cut the rebate across the top with the drawer front face down on the router table. Set the cutter depth so that there's a narrow fillet of timber left at the back of the drawer front. This gives a solid surface to bear against the fence across the whole drawer front. This fillet can then be cut away with a block plane and chisel to leave a clean top ready for the beading. The vertical and horizontal beading meets in a neat mitre joint, as shown in the inset to photo 4.



4 Cock beading frames and protects a veneered drawer front. Inset: The corners are neatly mitred



Match or contrast

You can of course use timber for the drawer box that matches the drawer front for an elegant if non-dramatic look. For a bolder appearance, use a contrasting timber. This can show off your dovetails to particularly good effect.

If you've used cock beading on deep drawers, it's advisable to use pins as well as glue when fixing the beads. This is because you have a cross grain assembly and there's a risk that the glue might fail over time. I would add pins on any drawers over about 125mm deep.

You don't have to go to the trouble of making cock beads to highlight the edges of your drawers, however. All sorts of routed mouldings can be used instead, photo 5. These are especially common on overlapping drawer fronts, but you can apply them in inset drawers too, to good effect.

Drawer gear

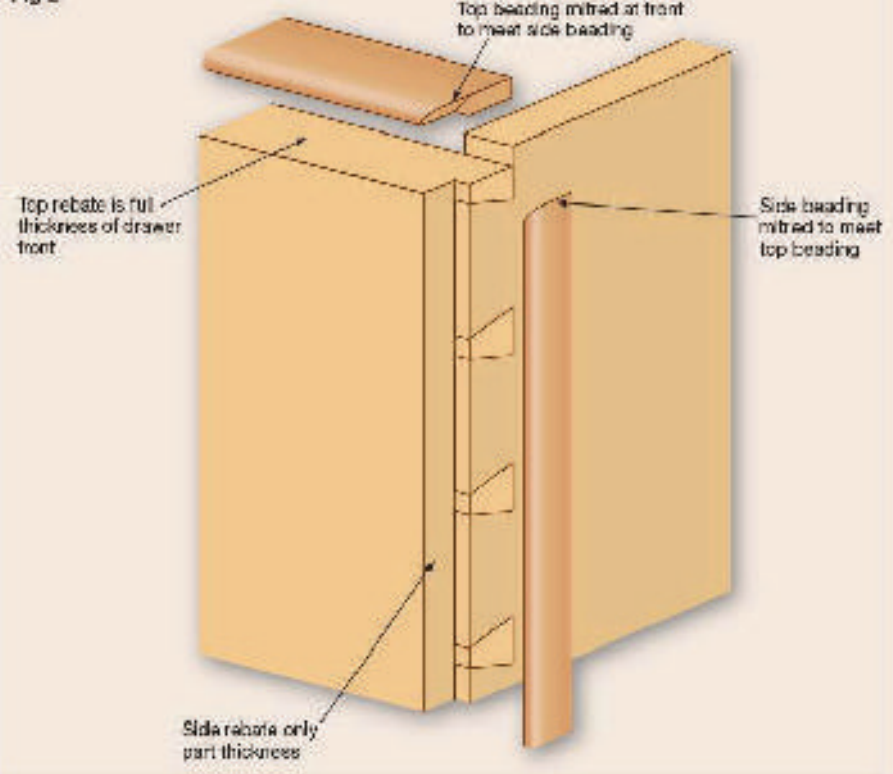
Modern kitchen designs rely on mechanical drawer slides. As well as allowing for industrial assembly techniques, they give a long and smooth life. These slides can also be very useful in your furniture construction.

For example, it would be difficult to design a good timber filing cabinet without drawer slides. Filing drawers can be very heavy, and without bearing grided supports they would be virtually impossible to slide easily. Other applications arise in hi-fi and audio cabinets where drawers must pull out fully.

Typically full extension slides will have three sliding components while partial extension versions only two. The catalogues show both types in various lengths to suit different drawer depths, typically ranging from 250mm up to 700mm – see photo 6.

Mechanical slides can be either side-mounted (where they're visible when the drawer is open), or bottom-mounted (where they remain completely out of sight). Assembly requirements differ according to the slide type being used.

Fig 2



5 Routed mouldings can be used to highlight your drawer edges

Fitting side-mounted gear

Side mounting slides, photo 7, are the easiest to fit. The principal requirement is that the fixed support and the moving slide are accurately positioned vertically, so that the drawer takes the correct position in its opening. They also require a precise gap typically around 12.5 mm between the drawer sides and the inside faces of the opening, to accommodate the supports and allow them to slide freely.

Getting both fixed sides accurately positioned needs a bit of assistance, since you are working on opposite inside faces of the finished cabinet. But a simple jig can help. I usually use a rectangular sheet of MDF. Drill pilot holes to match the slide mounting holes at the right height from one

edge of the sheet, and at the right distance in from an adjacent side.

Next, slip the sheet inside the cabinet and align these edges with the base and front. Use the pilot holes to drill the slide mounting holes on one side. Slide the jig across to the other side of the cabinet and repeat the process, to give accurate and matched mounting holes for both slides.

Fitting bottom-mounted gear

There are several different styles of bottom-mounted slides. Some versions, for example the Eban Tandem designs, place detailed constraints on the design of the drawer bottom, but there's another simpler version that gives you much more flexibility. This is a ball-bearing support with three components.

FURTHER INFO

Drawer gear suppliers
Isaac Lord
 ☎ 0845 600 8808
 🌐 www.isaaclord.co.uk

Woodfit
 ☎ 01257 226699
 🌐 www.woodfit.co.uk

They can be side- or bottom-mounted. Note that while the load capacity is 45 kg per pair when side-mounted, this falls to only 20kg when they're bottom-mounted. And you can't use lengths in excess of 400mm in the bottom-mounted mode. Precision is needed in aligning the elements screwed to the fixed and sliding components. You also need to plan solid supports when you're using these in the bottom mounting position. In the CD cabinet shown, the lower part of the slide is screwed to the support frame, photo 8, and the upper slide is fixed to the underside of the drawer, photo 9.

Read the rules

With all these systems, the manufacturers' data sheets set out the maximum drawer loading (which includes the weight of the drawer as well as its contents). It's important to pay attention to these when designing your cabinet and selecting your slides. For example, a fully loaded filing cabinet drawer can weigh more than 18 kg. The roller-type slides typically have a load capacity of 30 kg per pair, while the ball-bearing type can support up to 45kg when side-mounted.



6 Roller slides for side mounting (top) come in handed versions. Ball-bearing slides (bottom) can be side or bottom-mounted



7 Side-mounted full-extension roller slides are ideal for filing cabinets



8 The lower part of a bottom-mounted slide is screwed to the support frame...



9 ...while the upper part is fixed to the underside of the drawer

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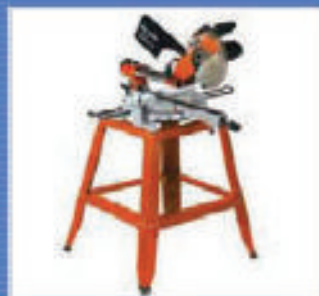
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HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do is send in the completed entry form (or a photocopy), accompanied by a brief description of your project and a selection of pictures.

- The description should include brief details of the materials, tools and techniques you used.
- The pictures should ideally be digital images, sent to us on a disc, but we can also accept prints or slides.
- Please send at least three pictures shot from different angles, but no more than 10 pictures per project. Enclose a strong stamped addressed envelope if you want prints or slides returned to you.

NEW CLOSING DATE: December 20th 2007

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- Employees of Magicalia Publishing Ltd, Einhell UK and the Toolbank group of companies, their agents or relatives are ineligible to enter.
- The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the judging.
- Entrants must agree to have their projects photographed for publicity purposes by Magicalia Publishing Ltd, Einhell and Faithfull.
- The competition is open to readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and Dore.
- By entering the competition, entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules.

ENTRY FORM

Send to:

Woodworker of the Year 2007
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Magicalia Publishing Ltd, Berwick House
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PLEASE INDICATE THE CATEGORY YOU'RE ENTERING

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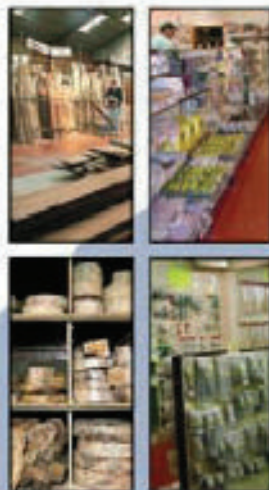
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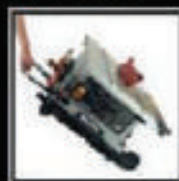
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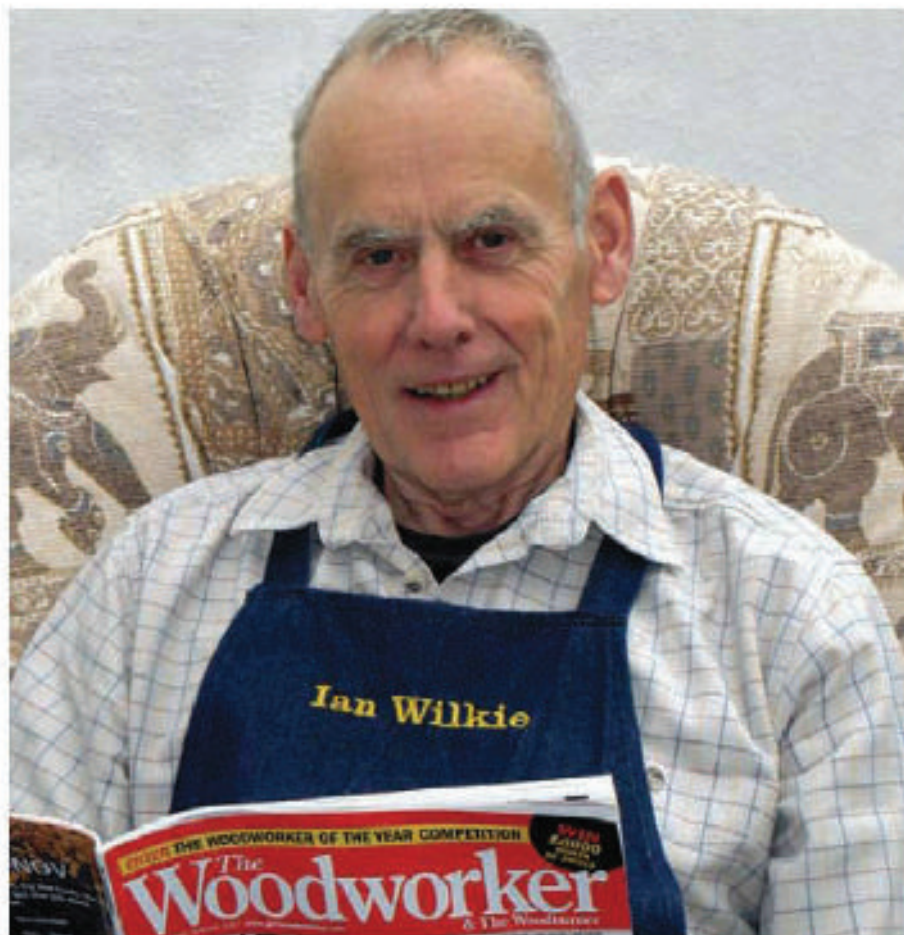
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If you enjoy woodworking, you'll want to continue with your hobby well into old age. Indeed, some people are only able to start taking woodworking seriously after they've retired and have more time and funds available. It's thoroughly enjoyable having the time to spend choosing a project, working out how you are going to tackle it and then producing the item. And in a time where everything is mass-produced, it's even more satisfying to be able to use your skills to 'make something'.

In this article I'm looking at some of the changes you may need to make to cope with the problems that arise as you get older. However, many of the points I identify apply equally to all age groups. Readers will have their own experiences, of course, and may disagree with some of the points highlighted here, but if the article provokes further debate that's a good thing. The objective is not to give up, but to find a way round a problem if it arises.

Labour saving

One of the first things you notice as you get older is that your power-to-weight ratio begins to fall off, and many repetitive tasks you once took in your stride start to become a hard slog. Many of the heavier workshop tasks such as sawing and planing can today be carried out by machine, which is a big

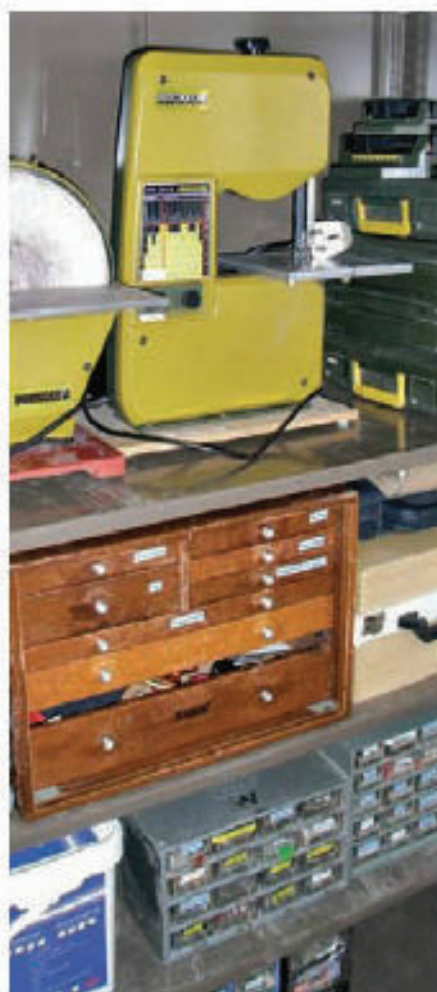


A helping hand

IAN WILKIE



Ian Wilkie looks at a number of ideas to take the hard work out of woodworking if you're not so young, as strong or as agile as you were in your prime



Storing tools and equipment in cupboards helps to protect them from rust and wood dust



A 2kW oil-filled radiator with a time-switch takes the chill away in a small workshop

help. Once, such machines would have been prohibitively expensive for the amateur on a limited budget, but thanks to cheap imports they're now relatively affordable. So if you don't own them already, start saving up for whichever labour-savers you'd find most useful. That's the birthday present list sorted!

Comfort zone

Your workshop should be pleasant, well lit and warm. Cold, damp garages and sheds might be acceptable when you're young, but old, cold, stiff hands have a habit of getting damaged easily. A small oil-filled radiator can make all the difference.

These heaters are thermostatically controlled and totally enclosed. Although they're quite heavy, the castors make it easy to move them out of the way during clean up sessions. Control yours with a time



A single isolating switch which turns everything off in the workshop will give peace of mind



Mobile bases make light work of moving heavy equipment around the workshop



A wall-mounted work light can be angled over a machine or bench for extra illumination



A magnifying lamp is very useful for really fine, close-up work



The Axminster extractor can be linked to any machine with an extraction take-off



This hex spanner with its large T handle makes tightening chuck jaws quite easy

switch which can be set to warm the workshop before work begins, and to turn off automatically at the end of the day. By the way, it isn't a good idea to use either a fan heater or an electric fire with radiant bars in a dusty environment.

Neat and tidy

The more equipment you can store inside cabinets or cupboards the better, it makes clearing up so much easier and stops things getting messy and dusty.

Personal safety is particularly important, and you should aim to keep the working area free of trailing leads and untidy stacks of loose timber to fall over, and machines with sharp projections ready to dig the unwary in the ribs.

If you ever find yourself worrying about whether you've left something running in the workshop, it's a good idea for peace of mind to have one main isolating switch with a neon indicator light, which will turn everything off when you leave the workshop at the end of a session.

On the level

It's a great help if all your working surfaces and benches are at the same height, to save lifting things unnecessarily. If you can store heavier items on a shelf at the same height as the bench, you'll avoid having to bend down.



The Trend Snappy T50 12V cordless impact driver makes screwing and unscrewing easy

Large machines such as bandsaws and thicknessers can be mounted on heavy-duty bases with lockable castors so they can be rolled out easily when needed. A lathe should be at a height where you can use it comfortably without neck and back strain, as you may be using it for long periods.

If you have a hard concrete floor, it's more restful to stand on a thick rubber fatigue mat. It's often better to sit on a stool rather than to stand when using equipment such as a scrollsaw.



The Moldex disposable face mask meets all the current EU standards



There is a new version of the Trend Airshield helmet called the Trend Airshield Pro.



The JSP helmet has a separate battery pack which clips to your belt

because the work can involve long spells of intense concentration.

A good light

Deteriorating eyesight is usually the first thing we become aware of as we grow older, but happily this can usually be corrected with spectacles or contact lenses. Whereas natural light through a large window is always best in a workshop, additional artificial light is usually necessary late in the day.

You'll also need a more concentrated light source to illuminate the work in hand. I recommend an Anglepoise type light which will take a cool, energy saving lamp. This can be bracketed onto the wall to free up bench space and stop it being affected by machine vibration, and is easily angled into the position required.

If you undertake a lot of fine, delicate work – perhaps with a scroll saw – you may find a magnifying lamp with a fluorescent circular daylight tube and a 1.75x lens in the centre helpful. These come with a bench bracket, but a floor stand is available at an extra cost.



Smaller projects make fewer demands of materials and expense

TIP: DOWN AND OUT

If you find bending down difficult, a 'grabber' is very good for picking up the tool or piece of wood that's rolled off the bench. A magnet on the end of a long stick will soon find and rescue that screw or fitting you've dropped in the corner.

The small print

As an aside to the visibility issue, I do wish manufacturers would address the fact when designing their equipment that reading small figures and settings on machines can be extremely difficult if your eyesight is less than perfect. There's plenty of room for improvement here! And while I'm about it, reading the small print on the backs of products such as adhesives and polishes can also be a pain. I'm often left wondering if the manufacturers really want us to read

their information at all!

If you have trouble reading instruction sheets and booklets, take them to your local photocopy shop and get them blown up in size – A4 to A3, for example.

Beating the dust

Many of us oldies experience breathing problems and allergies which can be exacerbated by inhaling fine dust, and it seems wise to take any reasonable precautions we can. Disposable dust masks complying with current EU regulations are now widely available. Those designed with a valve direct the exhaled downwards and reduce the tendency for glasses to fog up, but they're not suitable for woodworkers with beards!

These disposable masks, and products described as respirators, are very efficient but they do offer some air resistance. This can make it quite hard for woodworkers with breathing problems. For this reason I find both the

Airshield helmet from Trend and the Powercap helmet suitable for me.

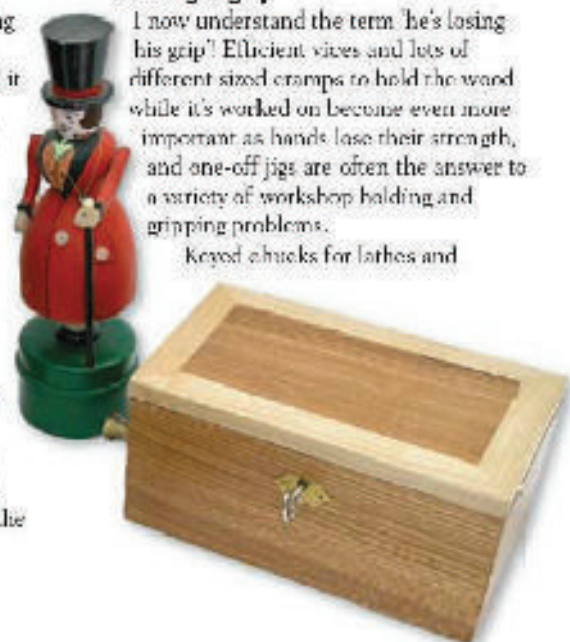
There's little or no resistance to breathing, both are comfortable to wear and give full-face protection; wearing glasses or having a beard is no problem.

These helmets have a built-in motor that provides a flow of filtered air over the face. They're powered by rechargeable batteries that give four to eight hours per charge. The built-in filters are very efficient and relatively long-lasting. Although they're expensive, I think most woodworkers find them a good investment. Incidentally, good extraction to take the dust directly from the machines also helps, as does a regular clean-up of the workshop.

Getting a grip

I now understand the term 'he's losing his grip'. Efficient vices and lots of different sized cramps to hold the wood while it's worked on become even more important as hands lose their strength, and one-off jigs are often the answer to a variety of workshop holding and gripping problems.

Keyed chucks for lathes and





Soft handles on these saws are much kinder to the hands



The table-top Proxon saw bench is portable and yet is capable of some quite hard work

drilling machines are easier to tighten than keyless ones. Small knobs or metal levers on machines can be very difficult and painful to use, and it pays to replace them if possible with larger knobs and Bristol-type levers, which are available from Trend.

Some hand tools are easier to grip than others. Many woodworkers will say that a hardwood handle on, for example, a chisel is far superior to one with a plastic soft grip, but I don't agree. Soft grip handles on saws, and power tools are so much kinder to the hand, whatever your age! I've always liked the cork-handled Ashley Iles turning tools (designed by the late Phil Beardon) for the same reason.

Easy driving

Cordless power screwdrivers are a boon when the wrist is a bit weak, and I have recently had a Trend Snappy 150 to try out. The 6mm hex bits that fit in the driver and cater for every possible screw pattern and size are widely available in DIY stores. They're very easy to put in and release, with no twisting action needed. I've put my modest collection of screwdrivers away in a box under the stairs to see if I can manage with just the Snappy. So far I'm very impressed with its quality, balance and ease of use.

Downsizing

As you get older, it may make more sense to undertake smaller projects which can be completed in a shorter time and cost less in materials. There are plenty of ways to go here; third-scale furniture, box-making,



I particularly enjoy using the cork-handled range of Ashley Iles turning tools

lretwork, small turned bowls and vases, carving, marquetry, wooden toys and models to name but a few.

Lifting and handling large sheets of timber can be taxing for anyone, but today there are retailers who offer a reliable mail order service and can supply a variety of good quality hardwoods, plywood or veneers in smaller sizes.

If you're moving to a smaller house, large machines may no longer be appropriate and it may be time to look at smaller equipment which will saw, thickness and sand as required. Such tools are definitely not to be scoffed at as toys, and if they're used within their design criteria they will give excellent results. For example, the Proxon range is used in light industry, and the machines can be moved around the workshop or stored in a cupboard with ease.

Clear out the clutter

We all have the tendency to accumulate extra tools and bits and pieces that we think will come in handy at some point; the years go by and they still sit there unwanted and unused! It's a good idea to de-clutter your toolboxes and cupboards from time to time, and as I was writing this article I thought I had better carry out my own advice and sort a lifetime collection of useful bits and pieces into some proper containers. The leftovers can go in the bin...



Do I really need to keep all these odd knobs? Stanley storage boxes will take all your bits and bobs

FURTHER INFO

Airshield Pro helmet and Powercap
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www.rutlands.co.uk

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Trend
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Snappy T50
Trend
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www.trend-uk.com



Bob was commissioned recently to make a wooden rugby ball on a stand as a presentation trophy. Here's how it turned out...



Bryn's mug tree is a simple turning project that makes clever use of a hexagonal template and a drill stand to position the six mug pegs accurately



Faced with the task of fashioning some flutes on the stem of a table lamp, Chris Child came up with this clever jig so his router could do the hard work



TURNING

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TOUCH AND TURN

Sharpening turning tools on water-cooled grinders rather than on dry wheels is becoming more and more popular. Many woodturners have already discovered the two main advantages of water cooling – sharper edges and a longer tool life.

To make the method even better for turners, Tormek has just introduced the TNT Sharpening System. TNT stands for Touch 'N' Turn. It means you just touch up the edge and go back to your turning, all in less than a minute.

New instructions

The TNT system includes a new Instruction Box with an 80-minute, fully indexed DVD and an illustrated instruction handbook which shows you how to shape and sharpen all your turning tools. The DVD has been made by Jeff Farris, who is an experienced American woodturning instructor, and the handbook has been written by Torngy Jansson, the inventor of the Tormek sharpening system.

Minimal steel

Using the unique Tormek jigs and techniques, a minimal amount of steel is removed at each sharpening. This means you create a finely honed surface on the tool, which leaves a more cleanly turned surface on your work. And since the profile is exactly replicated, your tool performs in the same way after every re-sharpening. Furthermore, the tools stay sharp longer, so you spend less time on sharpening and sanding and have more time for turning.

Book and film

The Handbook describes the whole TNT System and its possibilities. Numerous line drawings show step by step how to shape and sharpen your tools. In the DVD, Jeff Farris covers every type of turning tool, but focuses on those that are the most difficult to sharpen, such as fingernail bowl and spindle gouges and skewers with a curved edge. The film also contains useful turning tips for each type of tool.

The Instruction Box is included in the Tormek Woodturner's Kit (TNT-708), and can also be purchased separately. The Woodturner's Kit contains all the accessories you need to use the Tormek TNT system to its full capacity.

Brilmarc ☐ 0845 330 9100 ☐ www.brilmarc.com

1 Use a spindle roughing gouge to take the square to round, and make the ball's length on it



Up and under!

BOB CHAPMAN



Bob was commissioned recently to make a wooden rugby ball on a stand as a presentation trophy. Here's how it turned out...

I'm not very sporty myself, but I know that rugby is a game played by men with odd-shaped balls. It's the distinctive shape that makes a rugby ball instantly recognisable, so I reckoned it was worth spending a little time and effort to get it right. I borrowed a real rugby ball to measure its dimensions, and then scaled these down to suit a ball about 150mm long, which is what the customer required. A ball this size has a maximum scale diameter of close to 100mm.

Making a template

From these measurements I made a card template, fig 1. The trouble with templates

for convex curves is that the ends of the template prevent it getting close to the curve in the middle. To improve this access, I cut off the ends of the template and, with them removed, the central part of the curve can be approached much more closely. Later, I used sticky tape to hinge them back in position so they could be lifted back up when needed.

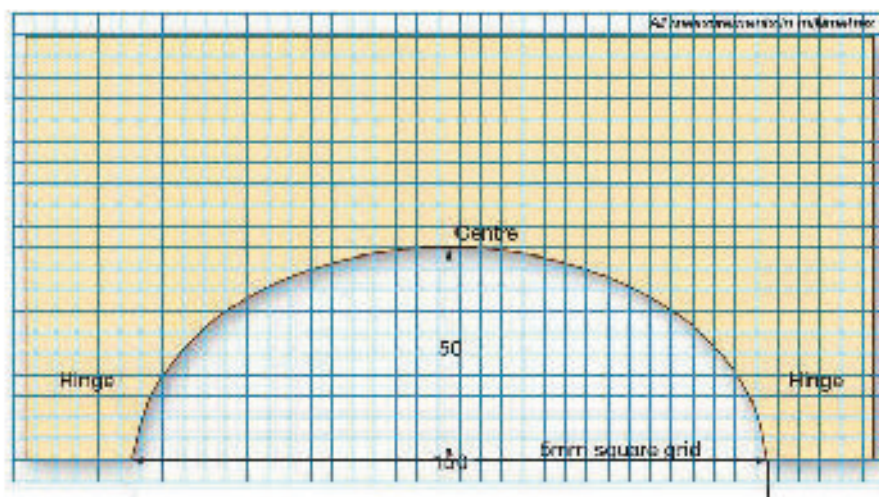
Becoming oval

My customer had asked for a pale wood, so I chose a piece of sycamore about 175mm (7in) long and a little over 100mm (4in) square, and mounted it between centres with a four-pronged drive. I then roughed it down to 100mm with a spindle roughing gouge, and marked the length of the ball on it from the template, photo 1.

Next, I used a 12mm bowl gouge to square off the ends, and then began shaping the ball with the same gouge, photo 2. Note that I've left a fairly substantial spigot to support the ends of the ball while I'm turning it. Accommodating this spigot was another good reason for removing the ends of the template.

Nearer the goal

As turning progressed the template fitted more and more closely, and I made light pencil marks to indicate the areas where finishing touches were needed, photo 3. I used a narrow parting tool to cut in the



2 Square off the ends with a bowl gouge, then start shaping the ball with the same gouge



3 Make light pencil marks to indicate areas where finishing touches are needed to the shape



4 Use a narrow parting tool to cut in the ends of the ball, following the curve carefully



5 Sand the ball lightly at this stage, then mark out the seams using the template as a guide

ends of the ball, following the curve, **photo 4**. I didn't part off the ball at this stage, although I reduced the spigot at the tailstock end to about 5mm or so, followed by the spigot at the other end. Always reduce the tailstock spigot first so you retain the strength at the headstock end to provide a firm drive for as long as it's needed.

Seaming away

When I was happy with the ball's shape I sanded it lightly, starting with 120 grit and working down to 400 grit, before marking out the seams, **photo 5**. I'd seen rugby balls with four panels, and with five, so I assumed that giving mine six would also be acceptable.

Having six seams rather than five makes marking out a great deal easier, and there are two ways of doing this. If you have indexing on your lathe, it will almost certainly have 24 positions and every fourth position will correspond to a seam. Use the template to draw the seam lines along the curved surface of the ball at each position.

If you don't have indexing, mark a pencil line around the central circumference of the ball. Measure the ball's diameter at this point as accurately as possible with callipers. Set a pair of compasses at half this diameter and step out six equally spaced marks around the circumference. Use the template as before to draw the lines along the ball.



6 Use a burr cutter in a Dremel tool to cut along all the seam lines



7 Sand along the seams to remove any fluff, apply sanding sealer and wipe off the excess



8 Remove the spigots by cutting through them carefully with a hacksaw



9 Tidy up the ends of the ball by shaving away the wood with a sharp craft knife



10 Complete the seams using the Dremel tool so they meet at the ends of the ball



11 Mark the region for the lacing and cut it as for the seams. Then drill out the lace holes



12 Cut short sections of shoelace and stick them into the holes with blobs of superglue



Stitch marks

With the ball still held on the lathe, I used a small burr in a Dremel to cut the seams into the ball, **photo 6**. It doesn't matter if they're not perfectly even, and the small irregularities introduced by the rotary cutter give a very good imitation of real stitching. When I'd cut all six seams, I sanded them lightly along their length with 400 grit abrasive to remove any blurr. I then applied sanding sealer and wiped off excess with a tissue, **photo 7**.

When the ball was dry I removed the spigots. I find it's best to cut these through with a hacksaw, **photo 8**. I then used a sharp craft knife to tidy up the ends, **photo 9**. With this done, I used the Dremel again to complete the ends of the seams so they all met at the sharp ends of the ball, **photo 10**.

way as the seams. I then used the same cutter to drill holes where the ends of the laces would be, **photo 11**. I sanded the area lightly to tidy up the cuts, then sealed and polished the whole ball, using a buffing wheel held in the lathe chuck.

To lace the ball, I cut short sections from a shoelace and glued the ends into the holes with small drops of superglue, **photo 12**.

All laced up

Copying my real ball, I marked out the region for the lacing, and cut it in the same

Taking the stand

To make the stand, I used a small piece of olive ash which I thought would contrast nicely with the ball. It was 70mm square, and I mounted it directly into the chuck while I turned a small spigot on one end, **photo 13**.

With the piece reversed and held securely on the spigot, I shaped it and hollowed out the end to make a cup for the ball to sit in, **photo 14**. I then cut away one side of the stand at an angle, **photo 15**, using my disc sander. This serves two functions; it will display the ball more attractively, making it look less like an egg in a giant egg-cup, and it also allows me to see how well the ball fits in the bottom of the hollow, **photo 16**. I wanted the ball to lean back slightly, so the shape of the hollow isn't an exact match to the shape of the ball.

When the fit looked right, I sanded, sealed and polished the stand. I then reversed it in the chuck. Despite the cutaway section, it's possible to hold the piece securely enough to turn away the spigot and tidy up the foot.

All that remained was to put the ball in the stand and admire the finished project. I'm glad to say the customer did!



13 Turn the square base section in the four-jaw chuck and form a small spigot on the end



14 Reverse the blank, finish turning it to round and hollow it out like a large eggcup



15 Cut away one face of the stand at an angle on the disc sander



16 Test the fit of the ball in the cup, and make any necessary adjustments

WIN!

GREAT PRIZES IN OUR TURNING COMPETITION

READY, STEADY, TURN!

INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKING EXHIBITION, ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON, 8-10 FEBRUARY 2008

Now's the time to make a start on your competition entries for our London show, to be held as usual at the Alexandra Palace. With such great prizes on offer, there's no excuse not to have a go!

THE PRIZES

Once again we've divided the competition into two categories: Enthusiast and Prestige. The prizes for each category are as follows:

1st Prize

A 5-day turning course in the South of France with Craft Supplies, worth over £1000 (or as an alternative, £350-worth of products from Craft Supplies), PLUS £250 donated by the Worshipful Company of Turners

2nd Prize

Products from the Record Power range to the value of £400

3rd Prize

Products from the Record Power range to the value of £200

4th Prize

Products from the Record Power range to the value of £75

RULES

- 1 The competitions are open to all readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Eire, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man
- 2 Entry implies acceptance of the rules as being final and legally binding
- 3 All entries must arrive before the closing date
- 4 All projects must be the entrant's own work
- 5 No entrant may win more than one prize
- 6 Projects should not have been featured in competitive events at other national woodworking shows
- 7 The judges reserve the right not to award all the prizes if there is an insufficiently high standard of entries
- 8 The judges' decisions are final



TURNING AT LE MOULIN The Craft Supplies courses are run by Nick and Fran Davidson, and are held at Le Moulin de la Materette; situated near the tiny hamlet of Durban-sur-Arize in the beautiful Ariège region of the French Pyrenees. They consist of five half-days of tuition for the turner with the course tutor, Jaimie Wallwin, which leaves plenty of free time to enjoy the facilities at Le Moulin and the beauty of the surrounding area. Non-turning partners can simply enjoy the five-day break. The 10-acre site has a large heated swimming pool, and there are facilities for badminton, table tennis, croquet and boules. Walkers and cyclists can enjoy the spectacular surroundings, wildlife and historic sights. Accommodation at Le Moulin is in en-suite rooms, with breakfast, buffet lunch and a four-course dinner each day all included in the prize. Visit www.materette.com for more details.

ENTRY FORM

If you intend to enter the competition, please complete this form and send it to the address below, to arrive no later than 25th January 2008.

Alexandra Palace Woodturning Competition
The Woodworker, Magicalia Ltd,
Berwick House, 8-10 Knoll Rise,
Orpington, Kent BR6 0EL

Please post your entry to the same address, to arrive no later than 1st February 2008. Alternatively, bring the entry to the exhibition on either 8th or 9th February 2008.

PLEASE FILL IN USING CAPITAL LETTERS

Competition category.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Daytime telephone number.....

Mobile telephone number.....

Title / description of entry.....

.....

Estimated value for insurance £.....

Signature..... Date.....



1 Mark the centre of the stem, and make a hole in each end to take the lathe centres



2 Fit the stem on the lathe and turn it down to a cylinder



3 Face off the edge of the cylinder with a parting tool...



4 ...then mark off and turn down a short section to fit in the template

It's a mug's game!

BRYNLEY EDWARDS



This simple turning project makes clever use of a hexagonal template and a drill stand. Bryn Edwards shows how it's done

Having seen the price of turned kitchen accessories in the shops, I decided to use up some Brazilian mahogany offcuts and make a mug tree and a matching kitchen roll holder myself.

The turning work was quite straightforward, as the pictures show; the only challenge was to drill the holes for the six mug pegs in precisely the right position and at the correct angle to the stem of the tree. There are three pegs at two levels; each group is spaced at a 120° angle, and the upper and lower groups are offset by 60°. A hexagonal template and my drill stand soon made light work of this, thanks to its tilting soleplate.

The whole job took no more than a couple of hours from start to finish, and the end result was, I think, well worth the effort.



5 Mark up and cut the hexagonal template and screw it to the stem



6 Tilt the drill stand soleplate to about 20° and drill out the holes, rotating the template by two facets at a time to drill each set of three



10 Mark off the position of the end knob on each peg...



14 Sand each peg smooth and apply a coat of friction polish



15 Use hot glue to stick the base of the mug tree to a faceplate



16 Fit the faceplate in the chuck and true up the edge of the base



20 Sand the base smooth; note the dust extraction nearby



21 Apply friction polish to the underside of the disc with a cloth



22 Put the disc on the four-jaw chuck and knock off the faceplate



24 ...then shape its edges to a smoothly rounded profile



25 Sand the disc smooth and apply friction polish as before



26 Drill a hole for the stem spigot in the centre of the base



7 Return the stem to the lathe and finish shaping the knob at the top



8 Still on the lathe, sand the stem and apply some friction polish



9 Next, cut six small blocks for the pegs and turn them to the round



11 ...then start turning it down carefully to its final diameter



12 Use callipers to check that each peg is the same diameter



13 Round off the thicker section at one end to form a knob



17 Next, reposition the tool rest and true up the face



18 Use a straightedge to check that the face of the disc is flat



19 Cut a shallow recess in the base for the four-jaw chuck



23 First remove the glue residue and true up the face...



27 Remove the base from the lathe and prepare to glue everything together



28 Assemble the mug tree and wipe off any excess adhesive with a damp cloth

THE KITCHEN ROLL HOLDER

This complements the mug tree, but has a slightly shorter and slimmer stem, a smaller base and, of course, no holes! Simply match its height to the brand of kitchen roll you use.





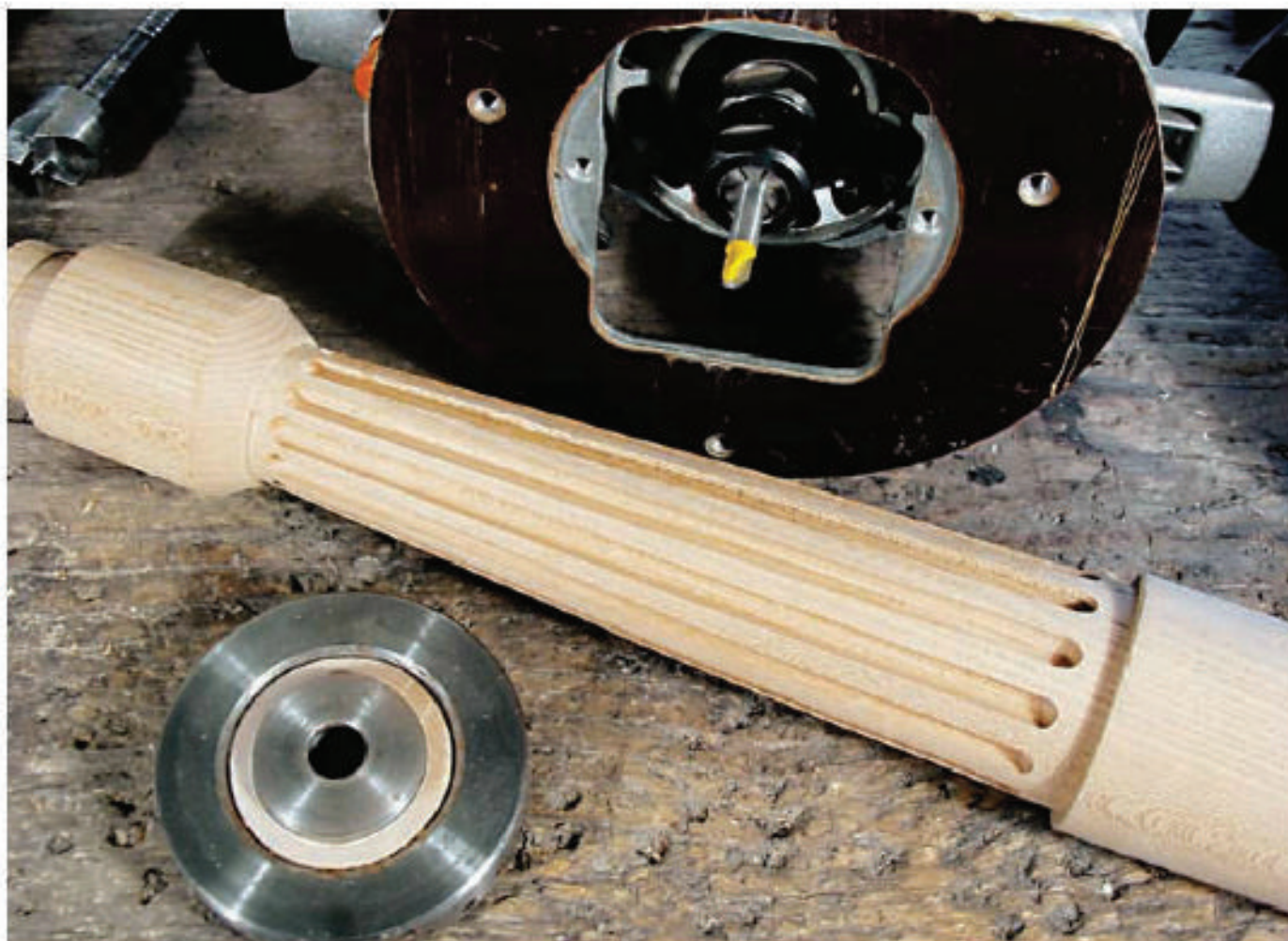
1 The undercarriage has a centre plate screwed to the baseboard, and a separate clamping plate



2 A top plate above the baseboard prevents the clamping screw hex nut from rotating



3 Fit a flat drill bit in the router and use this to align the jig with each centre in turn



Routing flutes on the lathe

CHRIS CHILD



Faced with fashioning flutes on the stem of a table lamp. Chris Child came up with this clever jig so his router could do the hard work

Making your own wooden lathe accessories can be as satisfying as any aspect of lathe work, but these aren't challenges that should be rushed or cobbled together at the same time as you are turning the actual project itself. Just like any piece of bought equipment, a home-made jig has to be solidly built using sound construction techniques if it is to work safely and reliably.

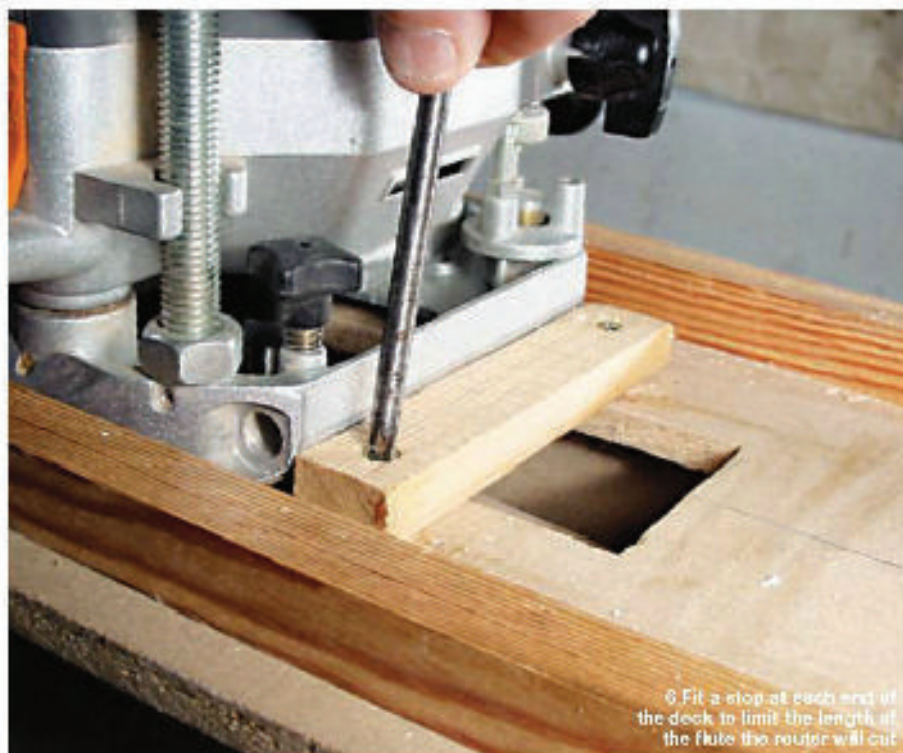
Some people like to do a drawing of the fully detailed scheme on paper before they start, but I prefer to work directly with the materials that are at hand and work out the design as I go, finding solutions to any



4 Fit the workpiece between centres and use a depth gauge to set the height of the table



5 To work on a tapered column, insert wedges as packing pieces between the box and bed bars



6 Fit a stop at each end of the deck to limit the length of the flute the router will cut

problems on the job. This approach is not to everyone's taste, as it can lead to one or two false starts – typically, having to dismantle a section and start over again – but it's the method that works for me and the one I employed for constructing this router box jig.

First things first

This router box was made so I could fashion the parallel flutes on the stem of a table lamp. My first consideration was to work out which of the main parts of the assembly to build first. I started with the deck or platform on which the router would slide, followed by the undercarriage which would attach the box to the lathe bed and then

racked the middle section of the rig with its box construction.

The top deck

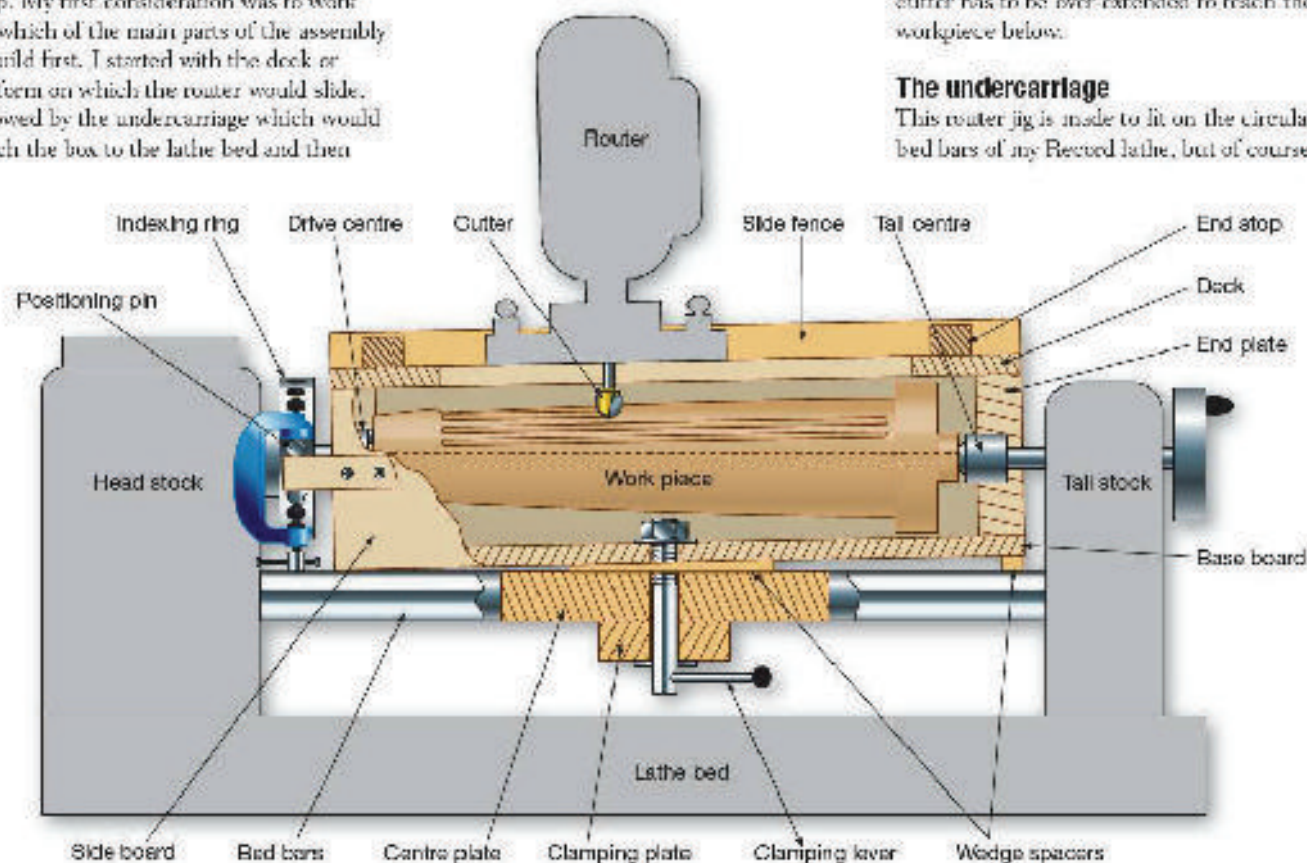
I used 10mm thick chipboard for the deck or platform along which the router would travel, and cut the rectangular aperture through which the router cutter projects using a jig saw. I provided a 'landing area' for the router to rest on at each end.

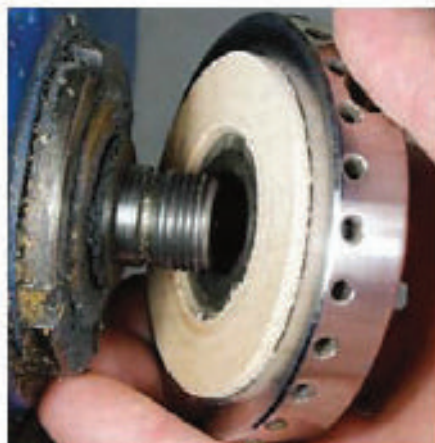
Make the width of the deck wide enough

to take the soleplate of your router, plus 30mm on each side for the guide strips. Cut the width of the aperture so that you have ease of access with your hand to manipulate the workpiece and position the undercarriage retaining nut. Make sure there is plenty of platform at each end to maintain the router in an upright position. Your deck needs to be thick enough to provide a firm support for the router, but not so thick that the shank of the router cutter has to be over-extended to reach the workpiece below.

The undercarriage

This router jig is made to fit on the circular bed bars of my Record lathe, but of course,





7 Jam-fit the indexing ring onto a wooden sleeve and fit it to the outside of the lathe's centre ejector



8 G-clamp a twist drill to a support block to act as the arm of the indexing jig



9 It's safer and more comfortable to work from the end of the lathe than from the side

you may need to modify the design of the undercarriage of your router box to fit onto the bed of your particular lathe.

The jig had to incorporate a device for ensuring that it could be fixed down in line with the lathe centres. To do so, this undercarriage simply has a 250mm length of hardwood (the centre plate shown in fig 1) which fits exactly between the bed bars of the lathe. Once this has been glued and screwed to a sheet of chipboard that rests on top of the bed bars, it not only locates the jig accurately; it also provides the construction with a strong, rigid keel.

Drill a hole through the centre of this plate and through an equally strong lower clamping plate (see fig 1 again) to take a nut and bolt for cramping the undercarriage down, photo 1. The Record tool rest clamping lever, supplied with the lathe, is ideal for this purpose and only requires a hexagonal recess in the top plate to stop the nut twisting round, photo 2.

The router box

The sides of the box are made out of the same 10mm chipboard as the deck. They're joined to the undercarriage and deck by means of softwood blocks, glued and

screwed along the edges. At each end of the box there's a thick hardwood end plate (see fig 1 again) which braces the box so that it is rigid and square. The height of the box sides need to be calculated to support the lower side of the deck just above the height of the workpiece or any chucking device which is holding it.

Setting up the jig

I used 20mm square softwood strip to make the guides for the router to run in. You need to set the side guides of the router box so that the router travels along the deck in perfect alignment with the lathe centres.

To set them up, I fixed centres in both the headstock and tailstock of the lathe. I then placed the router on the deck of the box and positioned it directly above each centre in turn, using a flat drill bit fitted in the router so that it met the centre below and both points could be accurately aligned, photo 3. I then G-clamped the guide strips down before screwing them in place.

Once this was done, I could set the height of the router box by fitting the workpiece between centres and using a depth gauge, photo 4. To work on a tapered column such as this, make the

adjustment in height by means of wedges and packing pieces placed between the box and the bed bars, photo 5. Finally position a stop at each end of the deck to limit the length of flute, photo 6 and fig 1 again.

Improvised indexing

I rigged up my own indexing device using a Masterchuck indexing ring. This ring is jam-fitted onto a wooden sleeve which is then fitted in the same manner to the outside of the lathe's centre ejector, photo 7. A twist drill acts as the arm of the indexing jig, and is G-clamped at each interval to a block of wood screwed to the side of the router box, photo 8.

Using the jig

I moved the lathe head along the bed so that the router box was at the end of the lathe. This enabled me to stand at the end of the lathe, photo 9, which is safer and more comfortable than bending sideways over the lathe bed. I then held the workpiece securely between centres. It was prevented from twisting round by the G-clamped indexing arm. Before starting work, I put on a protective ear and face shield.

I lubricated the deck and side guides with candle wax so the router would slide smoothly. I then fixed the cutter in the router at the required cutting depth and held it away from the work by tilting the sole plate up before switching on. The 20mm sides of the guides are high enough to prevent the router from wandering sideways.

I started the cut in the middle of the flute run, by gently lowering the router down as I directed it forwards. I took care to bring the router gently up to the top stop and then quickly reversed it to prevent burning at the end of the flute, photo 10. I then drew the router backwards and finished off the flute.

To cut the remaining flutes, I rotated the workpiece to the next indexing position in turn and repeated the process until the column was finished. The perfect symmetry of the results made all the preliminary work worthwhile.

10 Start the cut in the middle of the flute, gently lowering the router as you move it forward





This month's Giant Test features eight bench mortisers ranging in price from £89 to £299, and delivers a bargain best buy



Taylor's Testbench looks at a power planer, a brass mallet, a sanding kit, bradawls, holesaws, an 18V combi drill, aluminium sash cramps and sanding discs

ALSO TESTED

- Worx WT301KE hammer drill
- Woodstar ST10 table saw
- JCB D-PR12 router
- DeWalt DW745 table saw
- JCB-24PRBS router bit set
- Veritas apron plane

PLUS

MACHINERY CHECKLIST 5:
Belt, bobbin and combi sanders

OUR RATINGS

- 5 Faultless performance, excellent value for money
- 4 Very good performance, good value for money
- 3 Average performance, reasonable value for money
- 2 Less than satisfactory performance, poor value for money
- 1 A stinker: avoid at all costs!

Woodworker
BEST ON TEST

The tool in the group with the best overall performance

Woodworker
RECOMMENDED

Other tools on test that performed well

Woodworker
BEST VALUE

A great product for the price

ONTEST

Tools & accessories tested by our experts

PRICES: £23.45 (short set)
£29.32 (medium set)
£46.95 (long set)



JUST THE DRILL

Most woodworking projects need holes of one size or another. We now have a huge selection of drill bits of various types for making them, along with power tools and drilling machines to drive them. Bit technology has come a long way since the days of the humble centre bit – the one from which all other types have developed.

Centre bits were only ever suitable for drilling fairly shallow holes. They also perform poorly in end grain, tend to wander off line and need a lot of pressure to make them cut well. The long spiral auger bit was developed to overcome many of these problems, and has been refined over the years into a highly successful design. The fluting along its length provides very good ejection of the shavings, as well as giving excellent guidance to the bit. Its screw point means that little pressure is required to produce a clean and accurate hole.

Three times seven

Industrial Tool Supplies (London) are major suppliers of hand and machine tools, and among the vast assortment they offer are several types of drill bits, including these sets of seven auger bits. They come in three sizes, with overall lengths of 110mm, 235mm and 460mm. The diameters in each set are the same, ranging from 10 to 25mm. The tangs are the multi-fitting type, part 10mm diameter and part hexagonal, which means they will fit in a standard drill chuck or a traditional hand brace.

Sound performance

The bits look very impressive, but does their performance match their appearance? I found they functioned extremely well – so well, in fact, that when I used them with a drilling machine I found they could pull themselves into the wood unexpectedly fast. They work well in all types of wood, and produce a very clean and accurate hole. They're very sharp, and are easy to maintain in this condition with a small smooth file.

As a bonus, the sets are supplied in first-class aluminium storage cases.

These have fitted interiors, with all corners well rounded on the outside, and the largest set even has a carrying handle.

- ITS (London Ltd)
- 020 8498 3600
- www.itslondon.co.uk

Tested by Gordon Warr





**GIANT
TEST**

Bench mortisers

ANDY STANDING



The traditional mortise and tenon remains a staple in the woodworker's armoury of joints, but rather than cutting it by hand, powered machinery can now do the hard work. Mortisers are half the story and Andy Standing puts eight bench-toppers to the test

Although sophisticated modern machinery combined with advanced timber glues has given the woodworker many more choices when it comes to timber jointing, the mortise and tenon remains one of the most used of all the woodworking joints. When properly made, it has considerable structural strength, and it can be used in a wide range of woodworking situations.

Traditionally it was employed in the construction of timber-framed houses, and today it's still extensively used in quality furniture and joinery.

There are many variations to suit different applications and some also use wedges or pegs to increase their strength. To be effective, the joint relies

Continued on page 73

SAFETY FIRST

Mortisers are one of the safer types of workshop machines, but they can still pose potential danger. Follow these tips:

- Chisels and augers are sharp, so handle them carefully
- Check that the chuck key has been removed before starting the motor
- Before starting up, spin the chuck by hand to ensure that auger set-up is correct
- Always use guarding, and ensure that the machine is securely bolted down to a solid bench

Prices quoted are the best available at the time of writing. Always shop around as bargains are often on offer

AXMINSTER AW12BM



Woodworker
BEST VALUE

Axminster's AW12BM is a neat machine with some attractive features. It has a large adjustable plunging handle and a depth stop is clamped around one of the supporting bars. This incorporates a second haunch stop so that dual depth mortises can be rapidly cut. The NVR power switch also operates a low voltage work light.

The mortising table on the base is equipped with an MDF top to protect your chisels, and it also has an adjustable fence fitted with a hold-down. Unusually, a dust extraction pipe is attached to the hold-down and can be pointed directly into the side of the chisel to extract the shavings as they're ejected.

The AW12BM is an efficient machine. The fence is simple to position and has a useful fine adjuster, the plunging handle is comfortably shaped and provides good leverage, and the work light is a bonus, but it would be more useful if it could be switched on separately from the motor. The dust extraction is particularly good. This is a well designed machine, at a bargain price. It's supplied with a 1/4in chisel and a separate drilling chuck, so it can double as a pillar drill.

PRICE: £89.31

RATING



PROS

- Work light, tool tray, adjustable extraction pipe

CONS

- Work light switching

SPEC SHEET

Motor power	370W
Chisel capacity	12.7mm
Max capacity under chisel	120mm
Weight	26kg

FURTHER INFO

Axminster
☎ 0800 871822
🌐 www.axminster.co.uk

AXMINSTER AW16BMST



Woodworker
RECOMMENDED

The AW16BMST is a businesslike machine and is equipped with the luxury of a sliding table to which the timber is securely clamped and then moved across beneath the chisel using a lever. This is a feature normally found only on professional machines and makes mortising a quicker, easier and more accurate process.

The mortising head is supported by a sprung gas strut and mounted on a heavy cast column, and the depth stop uses a pair of locking collars on a steel rod. Access to the chuck is via a pair of plastic doors.

The sliding table is cast iron and has a large workpiece clamp. It adjusts both laterally and longitudinally, and a small lever is inserted into the shaft on the front. End stops are provided to limit the table movement.

In use the Axminster is an excellent machine, with a quiet motor and smooth plunging action. The sliding table is also excellent, with a smooth movement and reliable workpiece clamp. This is certainly an ideal machine for the enthusiast whilst also being good enough for light professional use. It's supplied with a 1/4in chisel and auger.

PRICE: £129.94

RATING



PROS

- Sliding table, quiet motor, large chisel capacity

CONS

- Nothing we found

SPEC SHEET

Motor power	370W
Chisel capacity	16mm
Max capacity under chisel	110mm
Weight	42kg

FURTHER INFO

Rexon
☎ 01709 876611
🌐 www.raxon.co.uk

SIP 01359 Mortiser



The SIP is a businesslike machine with an attractive price tag. It's quite similar in design to the Draper, with an MDF top on the table and the same fence and hold-down setup.

The return spring and depth stop are also the same as the Draper. It has a long plunging handle with an adjusting screw on the shaft so that you can tailor the length for your personal comfort.

The black motor body doesn't have any cooling fins and a simple NVR switch is fitted on the left. Access to the chuck is through a pair of removable plastic plugs which also contain clips to store the chuck key. The key itself, as is standard now, has a spring-loaded tip that makes it impossible to leave it in the chuck by mistake. The SIP is also supplied with a drilling chuck, so can double as a pillar drill.

In use the SIP has a remarkably smooth, quiet motor. The plunging action is good, though the return spring is perhaps a little on the strong side. The machine is easy to set up and the general quality of finish good. Overall this is a good machine at a very reasonable price.

PRICE: £109.95

RATING



PROS

- Smooth and quiet motor, drilling chuck supplied

CONS

- Strong return spring

SPEC SHEET

Motor power	375W
Chisel capacity	19mm
Max capacity under chisel	120mm
Weight	26kg

FURTHER INFO

SIP
 ☎ 01509 600359
 🌐 www.sip-group.com

JET 701



The Jet is the largest, heaviest and most powerful machine here. It's aimed at the professional user and has some attractive features. The base is extra large with a solid cast-iron fence which is easily adjusted with a rack and pinion system. A sturdy hold-down is fitted to the top of the fence and on the front of the table are a pair of adjustable rubber guide wheels which hold the workpiece against the fence.

To set the chisel-suger clearance, the mortising head has a pair of adjusting shims incorporated into the chisel mounting. A sliding alloy bracket fixed to the main column acts as a depth stop.

The long plunging handle is mounted on a spring-loaded shaft. Unusually, it can be mounted on either side of the mortising head if required.

On the top of the supporting column is a tool rack for storing the chisels, collars and chuck key. It also contains a conical diamond sharpening stone. For mortising large workpieces, such as doors, the column can be reversed so that the mortising head can be suspended from the edge of a bench over the floor.

In use the Jet is impressive. This is an excellent machine, ideal for the heavy user.

PRICE: £299

RATING



PROS

- Heavy-duty, powerful motor, swivelling head, and more...

CONS

- None

SPEC SHEET

Motor power	550W
Chisel capacity	19mm
Max capacity under chisel	140mm
Weight	42kg

FURTHER INFO

Axminster
 ☎ 0800 971822
 🌐 www.axminster.co.uk



1 Set the clearance between the chisel and the auger with a £1 coin



2 Align the edge of the chisel square with the fence using a try square as shown



3 Cut the mortise, working from right to left with the chipping slot facing to the right

SETTING UP A MORTISER

It's essential that the chisel is inserted into the machine with enough clearance between it and the auger so that the chippings can be efficiently ejected without jamming in the chisel. The simplest way to achieve this is to insert the chisel into its socket with a £1 coin between the shoulder of the chisel and the face of the socket to act as a spacer, preventing the chisel being pushed fully home, photo 1. This gives about 3mm of clearance. Tighten the holding screw, then insert the auger hard into the chisel and tighten the chuck.

Next, loosen the holding screw and

push the chisel fully home. Align the edge of the chisel square with the fence, photo 2, and ensure that the slot is pointing to the side at which you intend to start cutting the mortise. This means that the chippings will be ejected into the previously-cut section as you work your way across the joint.

Take care when making the initial cut. It's often wise to plunge down to full depth in stages, raising the chisel each time to eject the chippings. Move the workpiece along under the chisel until the joint is cut. Make each step about half a chisel width, photo 3. This reduces strain on the chisel assembly, and is especially sensible when mortising very hard

woods. The chisel may smoke a little and this is normal, but ensure that it isn't getting clogged. If it is, increase the clearance between the auger and chisel slightly.

To cut through mortises, always work through from both sides of the workpiece so that the mortise meets in the centre, otherwise you risk damaging the mortiser, causing breakout on the back of the workpiece, or severely overheating the chisel. Rather confusingly, catalogue photographs of mortisers often show them with the chisel slot facing forwards. They should never be used like this as the chippings would be unable to eject from the chisel.

on correct proportioning and accurate cutting. As a general rule of thumb, when two timbers of equal thickness are being joined, the thickness of the tenon is normally one third of the total.

Mortising by hand

Though in essence it's a simple joint to prepare, cutting an accurate mortise is an exacting process.

Traditionally the job is done using a mortise chisel – a square-edged tool that tapers slightly towards the handle to stop it becoming wedged in the joint. It's considerably stronger than the more common bevel-edged chisel, as it is designed for levering the waste out of deep mortises.

Using this method, however, means that every joint has to be individually marked out and hand cut, which is a long process. It also takes practice to produce a perfectly proportioned and straight-sided mortise.

Powered options

A variety of machines can be used to speed up the process. A router, fitted with a pair of fences, or an appropriate jig will cut a round-ended mortise, which will need squaring-up with a chisel. A stand-mounted power drill can be used to remove most of the waste, leaving only final finishing to be done with a chisel. A chain-mortiser – a kind of miniature plunging chain saw – will cut standard-sized mortises. Any kind of powered or hand boring machine can be used to remove some of the waste, but you'll still need a chisel to clean up the joint.

Dedicated machines

The real answer for speed, efficiency and versatility is a dedicated chisel mortiser. These will cut an accurate, square-ended mortise in moments. A good mortiser should be quick to set, accurate and easy to use. All

the models tested here are fitted with induction motors, so they run quietly.

Some machines have a travelling table onto which the timber is clamped, and can then be moved easily under the chisel, which considerably speeds up production work, and is a necessity if dealing with large workpieces.

The hollow chisel mortiser works by boring and cutting at the same time. This is accomplished by inserting a

spinning auger inside a square chisel, and as the tool is plunged into the work, the auger runs just ahead of the chisel to remove the bulk of the waste, and the chisel then squares the hole. Correct setting is vital to ensure that this process runs smoothly.

It's also possible to buy mortising attachments for pillar drills, although in my experience these rarely work well, and are generally a constant source of frustration.

WV VERDICT

A good chisel mortiser is a satisfying machine to use and will save hours of work. All the machines here will cut precise mortises without difficulty, though some offer greater capacity and sophistication. The **Record** is a particularly attractive machine with its solid build quality, compact size and excellent performance. The **Axminster AW16** with its solid sliding table and smooth operation makes an ideal choice for the enthusiastic user.

For those with a smaller budget, it has to be the **Axminster AW12**. It has the lowest price here, but still manages to offer a work light, dust extraction facility and a two-position depth stop. Finally, for those with a heavy workload the **Jet** is more than man enough to cope.

TAYLOR'S TEST BENCH

IAN TAYLOR



A round-up of all the latest tools, gadgets and equipment for your workshop

PRICE: KP0810 £141.06
KP0810K £151.06
KP0810CK £161.01

RATING

Value 0 5
Performance 0 5

PROS

- Powerful, for tough jobs, and relatively quiet.

CONS

- Nothing obvious

SPEC SHEET

Power	850W
No-load speed	15000rpm
Length	290mm
Max cutting depth	4mm
Weight	3.2kg

FURTHER INFO

Makita
☎ 01908 211678
🌐 www.msktask.com



MAKITA KP0810 POWER PLANER

The KP0810 planer is a heavy-duty tool, demonstrating Makita's traditional solid and robust build. With an 850W motor, it's rated at up to a 4mm depth of cut, so it's designed for hard work and heavy timber removal. Despite the power, I found the motor was a fair bit quieter than some less capable planers I've used.

The tool comes with some nice touches. The dust extraction can be connected to either side of the machine and worked effectively when coupled to my vacuum extract system. The dust bag supplied with the planer is bigger than most, but I much prefer extraction as on-machine dust bags tend to fill up very quickly and you have to keep stopping work to empty them.

Another neat little feature is a spring-loaded foot at the back of the machine which lets you put the saw down on the bench, without having to wait for the

blade to stop spinning. When you're planing it folds up out of the way.

The depth setting is through a robust handwheel situated above the front foot. It comes equipped with a parallel fence and rebating depth foot. The switch lock is accessible from both sides.

In operation this planer works well. At the maximum depth of cut in oak there's no sense of straining, and the finish is very good. I measured the actual depth achieved at its maximum setting and it was 4.4mm, a bit above the quoted maximum, but that only shows that the depth indications on all tools of this type are really only guides. The KP0810 comes without a carry case, which is a disadvantage if you're going to be taking it on-site. However the KP0810K version includes a case, and the KP0810CK has electronic constant speed (12,000rpm) and a carry case. Both of these versions cost a bit more (see price guide, left).

DAKOTA BRASS MALLET

Sometimes a conventional mallet doesn't feel right. They're fine for heavy pounding, but if you need a more gentle and controlled touch then something a bit more refined can be better. The Rutlands catalogue carries a couple of brass 'chisel hammers', and I tried out the bigger of the pair.

This mallet weighs 1½ lbs and overall is 207mm long, with a solid beech handle. The balance is very good, and by holding the head at the top

of the shaft, I found I could get a forceful hit on my chisel with very little effort.

Naturally, these tools cost more than a standard mallet, but if you have a lot of chiselling to do, you might find using one a bit less tiring. And for tasks needing a bit more finesse, the smaller, more dense and compact brass mallet will give you better control.



PRICE: £19.95

RATING

Value 0 5
Performance 0 5

PROS

- Well balanced for good control

CONS

- About three times the price of a standard carpenter's mallet

FURTHER INFO

Rutlands
☎ 01629 816 818
🌐 www.rutlands.co.uk

AXMINSTER DETAIL SANDING PEN KIT

It's often difficult to manage detailed sanding – getting between chair rungs or into sharp corners isn't easy. This sanding kit from Axminster might help if you've a lot of fine detailed sanding to do, or even just one special job.

The kit includes four different colour-coded sanding tools which support mini sanding belts. Each has a pointed and a rounded end for different



The abrasive is spring loaded around the tapered end

Great for getting into tight spaces

PRICE: £11.08

RATING

Value 5

Performance 5

PROS

- Puts you in control of your detailed sanding tasks

CONS

- Moderately expensive

FURTHER INFO

Axminster Power Tool Centre

☎ 0800 371 822

🌐 www.axminster.co.uk

sanding tasks. The tools are spring loaded, so that the belt is held under tension when fitted.

To change a belt, push the two parts together, slip off the old belt and replace it with a new one. When you release the tension the belt is pulled taut. When the

active tip is worn down, simply rotate the belt till you get a fresh abrasive tip.

The kit comes with four different grits (80, 180, 320, and 400) and includes five spare belts in each grade. A pack of five replacement belts is available at £3.23 (all grades).

DRAPER TRADITIONAL BRADAWLS



The Draper product range includes a couple of traditional style bradawls. One has a square-section blade, ground to a sharp point, the other a round blade, sharpened to a chisel point. Both have turned hardwood handles.

There's nothing flashy about these tools and you'd have found similar items in woodworkers' tool boxes a hundred years ago. But good designs stay with us! Both tend to cut the wood fibres,

rather than simply force them apart.

I preferred the square-section bradawl. It worked nicely in hardwood and softwood. To my taste, the diameter of the circular-section version was a bit too big and it wasn't sharp enough (though you could easily touch it up with a file). Both had flat ends to the handles which made them a bit less comfortable in use than versions with more rounded ends. But they're useful items for the toolbox nevertheless.

PRICE:

Square £3.99

Round £2.99

RATING

Value 5

Performance 5

PROS

- Useful items for your toolkit

CONS

- Flat ends on the turned handles make them less comfortable than some other versions

FURTHER INFO

Draper Tools

☎ 025 8049 4333

🌐 www.draper.co.uk



IRWIN BI-METAL HOLESAWS

Irwin has launched a new range of holesaws on the UK market. Made in USA, the saws have a variable-pitch tooth geometry (alternating 4 and 6 tpi) which reduces harmonic vibration by giving a faster cut and lower noise.

The saws cut non-ferrous metal, stainless steel, cast iron and wood, and the kit comes with a table specifying maximum speed in different materials - for all but the biggest diameters the maximum speed in wood is 1000rpm.

I got my hands on a kit of six selected

holesaws (from 19mm diameter to 57mm diameter) with matching mandrills, packaged in a nylon re-inforced kit box. Other kits are available.

The full Irwin range includes over 50 saws, from 18mm up to 152mm. Designed for hard work, they're completely different beasts to the DIY holesaw stacks. In my bench test they handled 30mm ash with no problem, but you need a powerful drill for the bigger diameters. If you need a hard-working hole saw, then these are worth having.

PRICE: Kit: £52

Separates:

19mm £4.92

57mm £10.32

Mandrill for

32mm+ £12.15

RATING

Value 0 5

Performance 0 5

PROS

- Industrial quality

CONS

- Most woodworkers won't need a full set

FURTHER INFO

Irwin

0114 244 9088

www.irwin.co.uk

PRICE: £79.99

RATING

Value 0 5

Performance 0 5

PROS

- Good performance for the price

CONS

- Nothing obvious

SPEC SHEET

Voltage	18V
Capacity	2.0Ah Ni-Cd (two batteries included)
No-load speed	0-400/0-1000rpm
Max torque	25Nm
Chuck capacity	13mm
Max drilling capacity	
wood	38mm
steel	13mm
masonry	13mm
Weight	2.8kg

FURTHER INFO

Screwfix

0600 41 41 41

www.screwfix.com

ERBAUER ERE009COM 18V COMBI DRILL



The ERE009COM is a new 18V drill in Screwfix's latest catalogue. It comes with a metal gearbox, 22 torque settings, a 13mm Jacobs keyless chuck, two batteries and a 1-hour intelligent charger, all packaged in a tough plastic carrying case. A magnetised pad above the battery housing is helpful for holding screws or screwdriver bits.

Like most Erbauer products, it's a robust tool at a good price. While not as rugged as the top pro brands, it's well ahead of the run-of-the-mill DIY products. I tried it out at close to its top capacity in hardwood and it did the business without straining. In hammer mode it cut a crisp 10mm hole in brick with little effort. This drill is a thoroughly good performer.

FAITHFULL ALUMINIUM SASH CRAMPS

Sash cramps are essential parts of most woodworker's toolkits. As soon as you want to edge-glue boards or assemble large frame and panel constructions, they're the ideal way of clamping them while the glue sets.

These cramps come in two lengths

PRICE: 36in £9.76
48in £10.88

RATING

Value 0  5
Performance 0  5

PROS

- Lightweight and effective

CONS

- You can find cheaper versions

FURTHER INFO

Toolbank

0800 084238

www.toolbank.com



A spring catch locks the head into the bar indents

– 36in and 48in. I tried out the 36in versions for edge-jointing an oak table top. The moving head slides on the aluminium extrusion and the spring catch locks it into the indents on top of the bar.

Since the indents are spaced every 25mm, setting the head positions is simple, and the screw extension needed

for a tight grip can be equally short. If I've any niggles they're fairly minor: the indents appeared a bit shallower than on other aluminium cramps I've used, and the screw action was also a bit rough, but I'm sure that would ease up with use. If you want a set of fairly cheap cramps, then this would be a good place to start.

HERMES MULTI-HOLE SANDING DISCS

PRICE:
150mm Velcro discs
£6.17 per 10 (120-320 grit)
£6.35 per 10 (80 grit)

RATING

Value 0  5
Performance 0  5

PROS

- Virtually dust-free sanding with a good extractor

CONS

- Relatively expensive

FURTHER INFO

Axminster Power Tool Centre

0800 971 872

www.axminster.co.uk

Most conventional sanding discs are punched specifically to match the hole array in the sander baseplate, but aligning the discs with the holes in the sanding pad can be fiddly. And since extraction is only via the defined holes, debris can build up and clog the cutting action prematurely.

These new Hermes discs have been developed to avoid these problems. The disc is perforated in a closely-spaced uniform array, so that extraction is spread across the whole surface. The dust moves through the Velcro hooks under the pad to the extraction points. The result is designed to improve extraction, and give a longer cutting life.

This looks to be the shape of things to come: the current Axminster catalogue lists 6 and 8 hole discs only in 40 and 60 grit versions, with all higher grits replaced by these new Hermes offerings. The medium is available in 125mm and 150mm Velcro discs, in ¼, ½ and ¾ sheets and in 125mm adhesive-backed discs. All the higher standard grits are available, from 80 to 320.

How did they work? Well with my 6in random-orbit sander coupled up to a vacuum, extraction was excellent. Usually, if you rub your hand across the surface immediately after sanding, you tend to get a fine powdery residue on your fingers. With these discs my hands were completely clean. They also appeared to cut for a bit longer than with conventional forms. So, a step forward, but at a price. They seem relatively expensive, since the conventional punched discs in the lower grit grades cost less than 40p each when bought in 50s, compared to these at around 49p.





PRICE: £119

RATING



PROS

- The adjustable handles
- The keyless chuck
- Good drilling capacities

CONS

- A little on the pricey side

SPEC SHEET

Power	710W
No-load blade speed	0-3500rpm
Impact rate	0-18000ipm
Max capacity	
wood	35mm*
masonry	20mm
steel	13mm
Weight	2.5kg
*50mm in our tests	

FURTHER INFO

Screwfix
 ☎ 0500 414141
 🌐 www.screwfix.com

WORX WT301KE hammer drill

GORDON WARR



A novel design for a percussion drill with a handle that revolves has impressed Gordon Warr

the drill to be mounted in a drill stand if required.

Plenty of power

In softwood, the maximum drilling diameter I achieved was 50mm, using a ssawtooth bit. An auger drill also sailed through the width of an 8in plank with no trouble.

Drilling steel always requires a lot of hand pressure, and to achieve the maximum capacity I always drill in stages, starting with a smaller drill bit before going up to the maximum capacity of 13mm that this drill is capable of. A spot of oil always helps too.

I found the movable handle a particular benefit when drilling masonry. Holes low down were easier to tackle with the handle in the raised position, while the opposite is true when drilling higher up. The machine comfortably managed 20mm diameter holes in solid brickwork.

Years ago, I thought that drill technology had reached its peak, and that no further developments were possible. How wrong I was then, and now this Worx drill from Screwfix has proved me wrong again.

Its unique feature, which the manufacturers call Revolver technology, is its handle. What's different from every other drill I've used is the way the handle is built into the body, allowing it to rotate so the angle between it and the drilling line can be varied from 35° to 90°.

The change of angle is quick and easy to make, and the handle locks positively in the chosen position. This means you can select the most convenient angle for the job you're doing, whether it's bench work indoors or overhead work outside.

Neat controls

The drill comes with a side handle, a graduated depth stop and its own plastic storage kit box. The two little levers on the drill body that control the forward/reverse action and the drill/hammer mode are a little unusual too. You have to press the end in before you can move them; then they spring back and lock so they can't be moved while using the drill.

The trigger controls the variable speed, and has a lock-on button. The 13mm chuck is keyless, and the 43mm diameter collar allows

WV VERDICT

This is an excellent drill which achieves its manufacturer's stated drilling capacities with ease. It's good to see that drill design hasn't yet reached its limit, and the adjustable handle on this model is a worthwhile advance.



The unusual controls feature locking buttons



Moving the handle makes overhead drilling easier

PRICE: £474.99

RATING



PROS

- Very accurate
- Low-friction table surface
- Good fences

CONS

- None

SPEC SHEET

Power	1700W
Blade diameter	250mm
Max depth of cut	
at 90°	77mm
at 45°	57mm
Table size	680mm x 570mm
Weight	22kg

FURTHER INFO

Dewalt
0700 333 258
www.dewalt.co.uk



DEWALT DW745 table saw

ANDY STANDING



Tough and accurate, Dewalt's latest portable table saw definitely gets Andy Standing's approval



The solid mitre fence



Accurate enough for decent mitre joints

The DW745 is DeWalt's latest version of their portable table saw and aims to provide the site worker with the sort of accuracy he might expect in the workshop, whilst still being compact and light enough to move around.

Table & fences

The table is made from a heavy alloy with a durable low-friction coating. There are two grooves, one on each side of the blade, for the adjustable mitre fence. This fits snugly in the table groove. The rip fence is the same design as the one on the previous model, and is fixed to a pair of rails at the front and the back of the table.

These rails are controlled by a knob on a rack and pinion system which means that the fence can be wound in and out from the blade while remaining perfectly parallel. The rails also extend past the edge of the table, giving a generous maximum ripping capacity of 410mm.

A rip scale is clearly marked on the front rail and there's a locking lever on the right-hand side to secure the fence. The rip fence is a two-part design so it can be withdrawn for ripping solid wood and also reversed for dealing with thin workpieces and bevel cutting.

Blade controls

The DeWalt is simply arranged with a standard NVR switch on the left of the front

panel and a single handwheel in the centre which sets the blade height and angle. Turning the handwheel adjusts the height, and the angle is set by releasing the integrated locking lever and pushing the handwheel to the left until the desired angle is reached.

A dust port is provided both on the top of the crown guard and on the saw casing itself.

In use

This saw is a pleasure to use. Although it has a brush motor it runs smoothly and isn't unduly noisy. The fences both work extremely well and the smooth table and quality blades produce an excellent finish. The whole machine is light and easy to move around and sturdy enough to withstand sustained use.

WV VERDICT

Overall this is a well-designed and efficient tool. Its light weight makes it easy to transport and the sturdy construction makes it reliable and accurate. It's supplied ready to use and a folding stand is available as an accessory.

BLACK & DECKER Autoselect power tools

ANDY STANDING



This new system from B&D aims to help you select the optimum drilling or cutting speed - Andy Standing takes a look

ON TEST

Black & Decker's new Autoselect system is available on a range of cordless drills and a jigsaw, and uses pictures instead of numbers for speed, torque and pendulum settings. So if you want to drill a hole using a flat bit, simply turn the selector to the picture of the flat bit, and off you go. To cut a piece of worktop with the jigsaw, just select the worktop picture on the dial, and make the cut. Clever, but are the tools any good? Read on...

FURTHER INFO

Black & Decker
011753 511204
www.blackanddecker.co.uk

KS900SK Autoselect jigsaw



This impressive-looking plastic-bodied tool has a rubber-insulated handle and a large, comfortable trigger. On the side is a useful hinged compartment for storing three blades, in front of which is the Autoselect dial. This controls both the speed and the pendulum setting and is clearly marked, running from low speed, no pendulum, (picture of tortoise) to high speed, no pendulum, (picture of a worktop). The intermediate settings cover metal, timber and PVC.

The baseplate has a built-in dust extract system with a vacuum connector, and a tool-free angle adjusting system. It can be tilted to 45° simply by releasing the locking lever. There are click stops at the usual settings and a small readout window. Blade changing is equally easy using a simple sprung lever.

Equipped with a 620 watt motor, it performs well and can cope with timber up to 85mm thick.



The jigsaw's Autoselect dial has seven pictures

PRICE: £53.63

RATING

Value: 0 5
Performance: 0 5

PROS

- Easy base angle adjustment
- Quick blade changing
- Handy blade store

CONS

- No variable speed trigger

SPEC SHEET

Power	620W
Max depth of cut:	
timber	85mm
steel	9mm
aluminium	16mm
Weight	2.8kg

WV VERDICT

The Autoselectors on this snazzy-looking saw are simple to use and work well, as does the integrated dust extraction system. The only thing that lets it down is that it doesn't have a variable-speed trigger, but the speed selections are well matched to the jobs it tackles.

PS142KB Autoselect 14.4v combi drill

The drill looks much like any other, and uses a 1.6Ah NiCd battery which slides onto the rubber-covered handle. On top is an LED battery charge indicator. Though the drill has two speeds, there's no gear selector switch. Instead, where standard drills have the torque setting ring, this has an Autoselect ring which acts as gear, hammer, and torque ring selector. So if you want to drive in some screws, select one of the pictures of a screw. This sets the drill at its low speed and the torque setting to suit the screw size.

There are six screwdriving positions, then a setting for drilling metal, which again selects the low speed but switches off the torque control. Next are settings for drilling timber at high speed, and finally the masonry setting which selects high speed and hammer function. The keyless chuck has a capacity of only 10mm whereas for most tools in this class it's 13mm.



PRICE: £81.95

RATING

Value: 0 5
Performance: 0 5

PROS

- Easy to use
- Keyless chuck

CONS

- Only 10mm chuck capacity
- Limited torque settings

SPEC SHEET

Max drilling capacity:	
timber	30mm
steel	10mm
masonry	10mm

Accessories supplied: storage case, 2 batteries, charger

WV VERDICT

This combi performs acceptably, but has a rather limited range of torque settings for screwdriving and isn't as powerful as some other machines in its class. It's a simple-to-use tool that would suit the more occasional user.

PRICE: £49.99

RATING

Value 0  5
Performance 0  5

PROS

- Easy-to-make adjustments
- Excellent depth stop
- Unexpectedly quiet

CONS

- No fine fence adjustment

SPEC SHEET

Power 1500W
No-load speeds 8000-26000rpm
Collets 6.35 (1/4in), 8 and 12.7 (1/2in)
Max cutter diameter 37mm
Max depth of plunge 50mm
Accessories: Side fence, 20mm guide bush, side roller guide, trimmer joint, dust hood, box of 6 cutters

FURTHER INFO

JCB

☎ 0845 602 1381 for stockists

🌐 www.jcbshop.co.uk



ON TEST

JCB D-PR12 router

GORDON WARR



The JCB name is now well established in the power tool field. Gordon Warr checks out their 1/2in router...

At a shade under £50, JCB's router looks as though it belongs in the budget class, yet its features suggest otherwise. For a start, it's a 1/2in router, while most in this price group are only 1/4in or 3/8in models.

The die-cast alloy base is 175mm in diameter, with two flats 140mm apart. The underside has a plastic facing, which is removed so the rectangular shape of the guide bush can be seated in the recess formed for this purpose. It's held in place as the facing is screwed back – there is no direct securing of the guide bush to the base.

The handles are a substantial size, and are tilted forwards. The on-off switch is in the right-hand handle, and there's also a safety button which has to be depressed first. This means that the router is best used in one direction, but my guess is that left-handed users will soon familiarise themselves with this arrangement. The safety button might cause problems when the router is used in a router table.

There's a plunger that you depress to lock the spindle while changing cutters; a spanner is provided for this. Remember that the collet must be an exact match for the cutter shank. This machine can cater for the three common shank sizes.

Setting up

The depth control is in two stages, apart from the revolving turret. The control plunger has a coarse setting adjusted by a knob which can be locked; then there's a fine setting adjusted by a rotating knob at the top of the plunger. Both parts of the system are

graduated, with the top knob enabling the finest of adjustments to be made.

The side fence locates in the base in the usual way, and allows for cuts to be made up to around 250mm from the spindle. The plastic facings can be adjusted to cater for cutters of different diameters, but there is no fine adjustment to the setting of the fence. The roller follower fits to the fence after the facings have been removed. There is a small amount of vertical adjustment to this follower, allowing cuts to be made on the face of a workpiece with a curved edge.

The router in use

The range of cuts you can make with a router is almost endless, so I restricted my trials to the most common operations. These included moulding and rebating straight and curved edges, trenching and grooving, chamfering, guide bush work in conjunction with templates, and trimmer operations. The necessary adjustments for these cuts were easy to make, and where required the depth stop facilities proved to be excellent. One unexpected bonus was that this router is far quieter than most others I've tried in this size range.

WV VERDICT

Everything I examined and tested about this router looked the part. If what's hidden inside the body is as good, then it offers really remarkable value for money.

JCB-24PRBS router bit set

GORDON WARR

Gordon also tries out JCB's set of 24 router cutters, and is well pleased with the results

ON TEST



The set of five cutters included with the JCB router (opposite) will enable the beginner to do

some basic routing. However, this set of 24 TCT cutters offers a comprehensive selection that will considerably broaden the router's performance. There are 18 with 3/4in shanks, and six with 1/2in shanks.

Best of all is the case in which the cutters are housed – it has an aluminium alloy frame with a clear plastic top, and has a handle and a couple of clips to prevent it from opening accidentally. Each cutter has its own dedicated and labelled position.

The quality of the cutters is very pleasing. I can't forecast the cutter life, but if each were used for just two or three projects, you would get a very good return for their cost. Each cutter costs just £1.25 – less than you'd probably spend on abrasive paper for one project.

WW VERDICT

This is a very good set of cutters for a newcomer to the router. The quality is better than might be expected for the price, although it's difficult to forecast how well they'll last.

PRICE: £29.99

RATING

Value: 0 [5 bars] 5
Performance: 0 [5 bars] 5

FURTHER INFO

JCB

0845 602 1381 for stockists
www.jcbshop.co.uk

VERITAS apron plane

IAN WILKIE



Veritas has a well deserved reputation for innovation, design and quality engineering. Ian sees if this little block plane measures up

ON TEST



This low-angle bevel-up block plane is made in Canada from ductile cast iron, which is less likely to

fracture if the plane is dropped than ordinary cast iron, and has brass adjustment knobs. The model I tested had a 32mm wide HCS blade with a bevel angle of 25°. A spare blade ground with a bevel of 38° would be useful to tackle difficult grain.

The more expensive model has an A2 steel blade. This will keep its edge for longer but requires much more effort to hone effectively, and I was more than happy with the HCS blade tested. Spare blades cost £9.98 (HCS) and £18.13 (A2 steel) respectively.

Detailed instructions are

included, with practical advice on getting the best out of the tool. I sharpened and honed the blade on a Tormek grinder, using the plane iron jig provided with the machine. Honing on the leather wheel gives a really superb finish, but remember that the wheel must be rotating away from the blade.

The plane is only 140mm long and fits comfortably into the palm of the hand. And at only 14oz, it can be slipped comfortably into an apron pocket. I soon realised that this tool delivers, with superb all-round cutting performance and perfect balance. It was a

pleasure to use.

To keep the plane clean and to deter rust, I'd recommend investing in a black Veritas plane sock, which costs £6.37. The silicone-treated cotton bag resists moisture and has a drawstring closure.

WW VERDICT

This is an expensive plane, but is worth every penny. The quality of manufacture is superb, the finish is excellent and the attention to detail cannot be faulted. Pick up the plane and I guarantee you won't want to be parted from it!

PRICE:

with HCS blade £59.24
with A2 steel blade £67.18

RATING

Value: 0 [5 bars] 5
Performance: 0 [5 bars] 5

FURTHER INFO

Chronos Ltd

01582 471900

www.chronos.ltd.uk

MACHINERY CHECKLIST

5: Belt, bobbin and combination sanders

MAKE & MODEL		FEATURES					
BELT SANDERS							
		Power (watts)	Sanding plate size (mm)	Belt length (mm)	Weight (kg)	Price	
SIP	1512	900	150 x 75	533	3.7	£40.95	
Draper	PT75	850	150 x 75	533	4	£42.99	
Erbauer	ERB907	900	150 x 75	457	3.5	£49.99	
Black & Decker	KA85EK	600	145 x 75	457	3.1	£50	
Bosch	PBS7AE	600	150 x 75	457	2.4	£54.99	
Makita	9911	650	140 x 75	457	2.6	£75.53	
Draper	BS875K	800	140 x 75	533	3.3	£75.95	
Ryobi	EBS0576V	950	150 x 75	533	5	£88.95	
Metabo	BAE1075	1000	150 x 75	533	3.6	£195.10	
Bosch	GBS75AE	750	160 x 75	533	3.4	£201.91	
De Walt	DW433	600	140 x 75	533	5.8	£219	
BOBBIN SANDERS							
		Power (watts)	Spindle stroke (mm)	Table size (mm)	Bobbins supplied (mm)	Weight (kg)	Price
SIP	D1482	370	24	370 x 370	50, 38, 22	33	£154
Draper	BBS370	370	24	370 x 370	50, 38, 22	35	£172
Jet	JBO85	370	22	370 x 370	50, 36, 16, 12, 6	35	£299
COMBINATION SANDERS							
		Power (watts)	Disc diameter (mm)	Belt width (mm)	Table size (mm)	Weight (kg)	Price
Record	BDS150	400	152	101	225 x 159	17	£85.67
Draper	BDS368	400	200	100	263 x 152	20	£89.95
SIP	01262	375	150	101	225 x 159	17	£92.95
Chamwood	W407	375	150	101	225 x 159	17	£99.95
Rexon	BD46A	450	152	101	225 x 159	25	£99.99
Aminster	AS 40B	400	203	101	225 x 150	18	£104.84

Looking for new kit for your workshop? Our reference section brings together details of all the woodworking machines we've tested in recent years that are still available today. This month's checklist looks at belt, bobbin and combination sanders, with a total of 20 models featured. It includes ● a specification summary ● the current price ● manufacturer contact details, including website addresses ● our verdict on the machine ● the issue of *The Woodworker* in which we originally reviewed it, so you can re-read the full test report if you wish

■ NEXT MONTH

Machinery Reference 6 rounds up random orbit, palm and detail sanders

FURTHER INFO		VERDICT	Rating (out of 5)	Tested
Contact	In our opinion			
SIP 01509 500359 www.sip-group.com	A good light-use machine. Well made and comfortable to hold. Attractive price	4	July 2006	
Draper 02380 266355 www.draper.co.uk	Basic, budget-priced machine aimed at the home user	3½	July 2006	
Screwfix Direct 0500 414141 www.screwfix.com	Good quality budget-priced machine supplied with sanding frame. Well made and a good performer	4	July 2006	
Black & Decker 01753 511234 www.blackanddecker.co.uk	Basic machine, though supplied with sanding frame. Ideal for home user	3½	July 2006	
Bosch 01895 838743 www.boschpowertools.co.uk	Attractive and sleek machine with Micro Filter dust collection. Supplied with inversion stand. Good performer	4½	July 2006	
Makita 01900 211678 www.makita.co.uk	Lightweight, compact machine, ideal for finishing work	4	July 2006	
Draper 02380 266355 www.draper.co.uk	Slightly cumbersome sander with adjustable front handle and variable speed. Poor dust extraction, but comfortable to use	4	Aug 2007	
Ryobi 01828 894400 www.ryobipower.co.uk	Substantial and sturdy machine supplied with sanding frame and inversion clamps. Good performer at a realistic price	4	July 2006	
Metabo 02380 732000 www.metabo.co.uk	Powerful heavyweight machine for pro use. Versatile and capable of handling any job	4	July 2006	
Bosch 01895 838743 www.boschpowertools.co.uk	A good quality pro machine that combines performance with versatility. Supplied with Inversion stand and fence. Good for benchtop work	4	July 2006	
De Walt 0700 338258 www.dewalt.co.uk	Excellent pro machine. Very rugged build and powerful performance. Useful accessories available	4½	July 2006	
Contact	In our opinion			
SIP 01509 500359 www.sip-group.com	Rugged machine at a reasonable price. Similar to the Draper. Straightforward design. Good performance	4	Feb 2007	
Draper 02380 266355 www.draper.co.uk	Solid machine supplied with steel floorstand. Similar to the SIP. A good reliable machine	4	Feb 2007	
Adminster 0800 371822 www.adminster.co.uk	Professional bobbin sander with full range of accessories designed for sustained use. A reliable performer	4½	Feb 2007	
Contact	In our opinion			
Record 0870 7701777 www.recordpower.co.uk	The Record appears similar to the SIP and the Chamwood though has in fact been modified with stronger table brackets for more robust operation. Supplied with a 5 year guarantee	4	Sept 2007	
Draper 02380 266355 www.draper.co.uk	Excellent combination machine with large sanding disc and useful vertical fence. Versatile and with effective dust extraction	4½	Sept 2007	
SIP 01509 500359 www.sip-group.com	Good value machine, similar to both the Chamwood and Record, but with the advantage of a tilting miter fence. Good performer	4½	Sept 2007	
Chamwood 01530 516926 www.chamwood.net	Straightforward machine similar to the Record and SIP. Easy to use and a good performer	4	Sept 2007	
Rexon 01703 876511 www.raxon.co.uk	Smooth running heavyweight machine with good performance. Rather fiddly to adjust and fitted with small sanding disc	3½	Sept 2007	
Adminster 0800 371822 www.adminster.co.uk	Smooth running machine with large disc and ribbed alloy table. Good performer, though some of the fittings are a little flimsy	4	Sept 2007	

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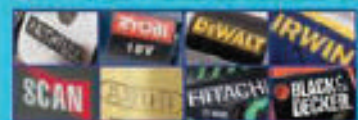
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FEBRUARY 2007

PROJECTS: Tool chest, Fire surround, Kitchen units, Saw handle

Kitchen table

FEATURES: Lova spoons, Secret drawers p16, Iron Night, Drill press, This of workshop, 2006 Index

TESTS: Giant test: Bobbin sanders, Six of the best: eye protection, Nakita miter table, Bosch i-Drive, Draper pocket knife, Inzele screwdrivers, Trend pocket hole jig, Henry Taylor Kyo tools

TURNING: Going global, Treeds like best, Grain holders



MARCH 2007

PROJECTS: Oval dresser box, Kitchen ladder units

FEATURES: Handling sheet materials, Tyrolcan canning festival, Inventing in forestry, Secret drawers p16, This of workshop, Iron might: cantilevered, Wlaser coffee, Handsmooth dovetails

TESTS: Giant test: pro palm sanders, Six of the best: utility knives, Ryobi one-kit, Freud FT3000 router, Draper diamond wheels set, Nakita impact driver, Tescam 2012 naler

TURNING: Cardedicks, Tractor engine, Towel rail



APRIL 2007

PROJECTS: Low dresser, Cherry bed, Black Forest stool

FEATURES: Saw blade test, Handcut dovetails, Planemaking p11: metalwork, My Fairy review, Secret drawers p16, Iron might: steel extractors

TESTS: Giant test: biscuit joiners p11, Dewalt dovetail jig, Bosch P6R 14.4 drill driver, Sanyo Proedge sharpening system, Behlen sockets, Ammeter rolling rule, LED light

TURNING: Ering stand, Shaker ring-headed knob, Elm paper



MAY 2007

PROJECTS: Planemaking p12: rose plans, Smoker case case, Garing flowers, Wildlife nesters p11, Jewellery box

FEATURES: Doemaking, Why buy a mini-jointer?, Door filing bed, Feather mitre, Merglas, Mitre blade tune-up

TESTS: Giant test: biscuit joiners p12, Orenai scroll saw, Bosch GF900 router, Metabo multihammer, DeWalt hold downs, Faithful wheel dresser, Zeno router saw

TURNING: Quiche, Split hollow turn techniques, Planing & colouring, Finials



JUNE 2007

PROJECTS: Kitchen dresser, Wildlife nesters, Bell-top clock, Oak laminated door

FEATURES: Mitres & bevels, Plane making part 3, French polishing

TESTS: Giant test: Small routers, Draper Expert circular saw, Wolfcraft depth stops, Sawtooth digital calliper, Ammeter work lights, Dakota rounders & tables, Draper vice, Japanese saws, Metabo SCM saw, JessEm Band R LR FX

TURNING: Quiche, Split hollow turn techniques, Planing & colouring, Finials



JULY 2007

PROJECTS: Full-front bureau, Mobile primer stand, Oak dining table, Wildlife nesters

FEATURES: Routing with a multi-profile router, Plane making part 4: The jack plane

TESTS: Giant test: Plane thicknesses, Ammeter planer, Japanese chisels, Sawtooth letter-number stamp set, Faithful sawback bit set and carpenter's braces, Draper Expert sander, Ammeter bench dogs, Metabo bench thicknesser, Bosch sliding mitre saw, SP 120 mitre saw, Machine-Dex saw gauges, Six of the best: Tool belts



AUGUST 2007

PROJECTS: Wash dresser, Bee clamping jig, Country-style table, Motore frame, Arts & Crafts headboards

FEATURES: Planemaking part 5, Upgrading your grinder

TESTS: Giant test: Cordless jigsaws, Feller combination on woodworking machine, Draper Expert belt sander, Forge Steel saw, Ammeter workshop magnet, Dakota minisaw, Ebacon percussor drill, Ammeter corner chisel, Faithful screwink set, Dakota angle gauge, Festool Kapex sliding mitre saw, CMT router, Six of the best: Work gloves

TURNING: Measuring and marking, Hand mirror



SEPTEMBER 2007

PROJECTS: Writing slope, TV cabinet, MCF bed base

FEATURES: Planemaking part 6, Getting the best from your cordless, Air filter silencer

TURNING: Pearwood spoons, Table lamp, Unusual chucks

TESTS: Giant test: Combination sanders, Rage 3 mitre saw, Jet bench thicknesser, Festool circular saw, Woodstar miter table, Draper cantilever drill driver, Dakota mitre square, Belt chisel set, Ammeter punch set, Forge Steel laser, Pick-up tool set, Pull saw, Zenoer shaloo spray, Ashley Lee carvers, Tormek Tuning tool, Router base guide, Six of the best: Ederson 1999



OCTOBER 2007

PROJECTS: Oak display cabinet, Fitted table, Chest of drawers restoration

FEATURES: Bench-top router jigs, Planemaking part 7, A brief history of screws

TURNING: Off-centre chucks, Rotunda moneybox, Trimlines

TESTS: Giant test: Wheelstone grinders, Hammer bandaw, Sidegrinder, Draper jigsaw, Ammeter storage, Ryobi One-Drive driver, Inwin wood bits, Gel sander, Dakota polishing kit, Festool T855 saw blades, Ammeter and SP dust extractors, Bosch palm router, SP bandsaw, Six of the best: Mallets

NEW MACHINERY CHECKLIST



AUTUMN SPECIAL 2007

PROJECTS: Venetian sofa table, Incident carving, Marble shelf, Blade paint windows

FEATURES: Doweling, Planemaking part 8, Thicknesser jig

TURNING: Beech toolrest, Gurnick bowl, Sanding on the lathe, Flutes and grooves

TESTS: Giant test: Jointers, Miller-Jewell system, SP bandsaw, Wood circular saw, Anant rebate plane, Bosch sander, Ryobi One-Drive, Inwin wood bits, Forge Steel planes, Hitachi circular saw, Draper trackles, Schopach table saw, SP plane/thicknesser, Makita bench thicknesser, Six of the best: Combsinks

MACHINERY CHECKLIST



NOVEMBER 2007

PROJECTS: Mahogany table clock, Oak coffee table

FEATURES: Designing a router table, Planemaking part 9, Routing accurate joints

TURNING: Cherry and mahogany clocks, Collar: chucking techniques

TESTS: Giant test - Circular saws, SP spindle moulder, Tormek sharpening system, Hitachi laminate trimmer, Skil and Draper saws, Black & Decker drill, Dream Milliwat, Forge Steel block plane, Inza gauge / rules, Metabo planer thicknesser, Schopach sander, Ebacon combi bit, Six of the best: G-clamps

MACHINERY CHECKLIST



DECEMBER 2007

PROJECTS: Oak double bed, Model train, Fencil cases

FEATURES: Puzzle heaven, Building a router table, Anatomy of a drawer, Plug cutters, Weekend grower, Woodworkers on the web

TURNING: Wire top and spigot, Sand, Polishing on the lathe

TESTS: Giant test - Cordless drills, Faithful wheelstone, Draper leveling guide, Hitachi cordless circular saw, Forge Steel tool sets, Behlen's Wood Touch-up OAT, Draper planer, Ammeter Orb-Job, Dream Versalp, Light chiselling jig, SP workbench, Trend router, Six of the best: Block planes

MACHINERY CHECKLIST

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Woodworking hand tools, especially old wood and metal planes, wanted by collector. Write to Mr B Jackson, 10 Ayr Close, Stamford PE9 2TS or call
01780 751768 (Lincs)

Spare parts for a Wadkin BZB 20in bandsaw, especially top and bottom guides and top door to cover bandsaw wheel.
07724 386061 (Chwyd)

Whitehead 12 x 4in planer/thicknesser, Record TS200C table saw on stand or similar machine.
0161 624 7751 (Lancs)

USE THIS FORM TO BOOK YOUR **FREE AD**

This space is available only to private individuals wishing to buy or sell woodworking machinery and tools. The maximum value of any item for sale must not exceed £500. For items over £500, please ring 01609 806252. Each coupon is valid for one free insertion in the next available issue. **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WORDS 20.** The publisher accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in this section.

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Please publish this advertisement in the next available edition of *The Woodworker*. I am a private advertiser and have no trade connections.

PLEASE TICK: FOR SALE WANTED

My advertisement reads as follows (max. 20 words):

Please write your advertisement clearly in **BLOCK CAPITALS** then send it to: **The Woodworker Marketplace**, Magicalia Publishing Ltd, Berwick House, 8-10 Knoll Rise, Orpington, Kent BR6 6EL. Or email your free ad to: thewoodworker@magicalia.com
Send/email a photograph of your item and we'll include it with your ad for **FREE**.

6 OF THE BEST EAR DEFENDERS



There can be few woodworkers who aren't aware of the dangers of inhaling wood dust, but this is not the only health hazard in the workshop. Exposure to high levels of noise can cause permanent hearing damage. This doesn't just apply to those who use large industrial machinery; many smaller machines are capable of generating dangerously high noise levels, especially in an enclosed space. Here's a selection of ear defenders, any of which will protect you.

1 3M 1440
Price: £17.26
3M ☎ 0870 608 0060 ☐ www.3m.com

This sturdy and well-inside pair of muffs has a well padded headband and adjustable ear cups. The headband also has an adjustment to control how tightly your head is gripped, so you can get a good fit. Light and secure, these muffs also sit comfortably round the neck when not in use.



2 Axminster Electronic
Price: £11.64

Axminster ☎ 0800 371822 ☐ www.axminster.co.uk

These ear muffs incorporate a microphone and speakers in the ear pieces. This system allows you to hear normally when ambient sound levels are below 85dB(A), but above that the electronics shut off the microphone and your ears are protected. This is ideal if you work with other people. They're efficient and convenient, though a little on the heavy side.



3 Bilsom Lightning L2F
Price: £12.99

Screwfix Direct ☎ 0500 414141 ☐ www.screwfix.com

These muffs are cleverly designed so the earpieces fold up into the headband. The well-shaped ear cups have a good range of adjustment, but the strongly sprung headband means that they grip the head rather tightly, making them a little uncomfortable for prolonged use. They offer very good sound insulation.



4 Peltor Optime 1
Price: £9.99

Screwfix Direct ☎ 0500 414141 ☐ www.screwfix.com

These ear muffs have liquid- and foam-filled sealing rings on the ear pieces to ensure an efficient seal against the user's head. They're lightweight and comfortable to wear, with a wide supportive headband. They provide good sound insulation, though they're uncomfortable to wear round the neck when not in use. They're good value, and recommended.



5 Axminster Deluxe
Price: £4.23

Axminster ☎ 0800 371822 ☐ www.axminster.co.uk

These are light though rather bulky ear muffs. They're comfortable to wear, but the rather flimsy construction means they need to be treated with care. The earpieces fold up into headband for easy storage. These are a good budget buy.



6 1510 FM Radio
Price: £77.02

Contact 3M ☎ 0870 608 0060 ☐ www.3m.com

Here's the ultimate luxury for the woodworking radio addict – lightweight ear defenders with a high quality built in FM radio. This gives excellent reception, with mono sound but no fading or interference. Radio features include self-seeking tuning with easy controls and adjustable volume, and a durable rubber aerial. They're supremely comfortable, offer good insulation, and sit comfortably round the neck when not in use. They're a little pricey, but worth every penny.

The Best is Now Even Better

Introducing the new Tormek T-7 including the latest patented innovations.



7
YEAR
WARRANTY

The ultimate solution for square edges



• With the newly developed Square Edge Jig SE-76, putting perfectly square edges on your tools has never been easier! It aligns your tool precisely at 90° to the grindstone every time.

...and always a perfect stone



• A grinding stone should run true and have a flat surface to give a good result, the T-7 therefore comes with the Stone Grader SP-650 and the new and unique Truing and Dressing Tool TT-50 with screw feed. It mounts instantly in a fixed position and the cutting depth is set precisely with the Micro Adjust.

To learn more visit www.tormek.us

FREE GRINDSTONES FOR LIFE!

Buy your Tormek T-7 before the end of 2007 and get free replacement grindstones for the rest of your life!

Look below for participating dealers or call us for complete details: 0845 330 9100

LIFETIME FREE STONE CERTIFICATE

When you purchase a Tormek T-7 before the end of 2007, you will receive a Lifetime Free Stone Certificate. This certificate entitles you to receive a free replacement grinding stone for the rest of your life. The certificate is valid for the replacement of the grinding stone only. It does not cover the cost of the grinding stone itself. The certificate is valid for the replacement of the grinding stone only. It does not cover the cost of the grinding stone itself. The certificate is valid for the replacement of the grinding stone only. It does not cover the cost of the grinding stone itself.



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Sharpening Innovation

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RECORD POWER

SHEFFIELD · ENGLAND*

Introducing the new **TS200C** Compact Table Saw

Record Power looks to have brought something new to the entry-level market with the TS200C, a saw that not only packs a decent punch, but also boasts a 10" blade to give a superior depth of cut. Just as importantly, the TS200C beats it's peers on price in a like-for-like features comparison.

Good Woodworking, October 2007



WINTER SPECIAL

SAVE OVER **£79**

TS200C Table Saw RRP £559.99

PLUS TS200E Right Hand Extension RRP £69.99

PLUS TS200W Focal Wheelkit RRP £49.99

DEAL PRICE
£599.95
INC VAT

This table saw has been designed to provide the serious home cabinet or furniture maker with a solid, accurate and versatile machine in a compact form and at a very competitive price.



KEY FEATURES

- 3HP INJECTION MOTOR
- 80MM DEPTH OF CUT
- CAST IRON CONSTRUCTION & TABLE
- CAST IRON COLUMN
- CAST IRON BASE
- INDUSTRIAL DESIGN ON USER FRIENDLY SCALE
- ALUMINIUM FINISHED SLIDING BEAM
- SOLID STEEL RACK
- 10" BLADE
- STEEL FRAME
- RACK AND PINION RISE AND TILT
- COMPACT FOOTPRINT
- HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

KEY SPEC

MAX BLADE SIZE: 720mm
BLADE BORE: 30mm
MAX RIP: 305mm
MAX RIP WITH OPTIONAL TS200-E: 610mm
MAX CUT RPT: 1.45° / 0.5mm / 54mm
MOTOR POWER (OUTPUT): 2HP
SIZE: H1040mm x W1000mm x D1100mm
WEIGHT: 51kg



The heavy base is fixed to a solid cast iron mount and fitted with micro-adjustment.



Easily handles compound in the cuts.



Solid slip rakes mounted on solid steel base.



Industrial steel sliding beam for maximum cross cutting accuracy.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO ARRANGE A DEMONSTRATION:

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or contact: Record Power Ltd, Unit B Ireland Industrial Estate
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Telephone: 0870 770 1777

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