November 2014 Woodturner November 2014 Woodturner www.getwoodworking.com



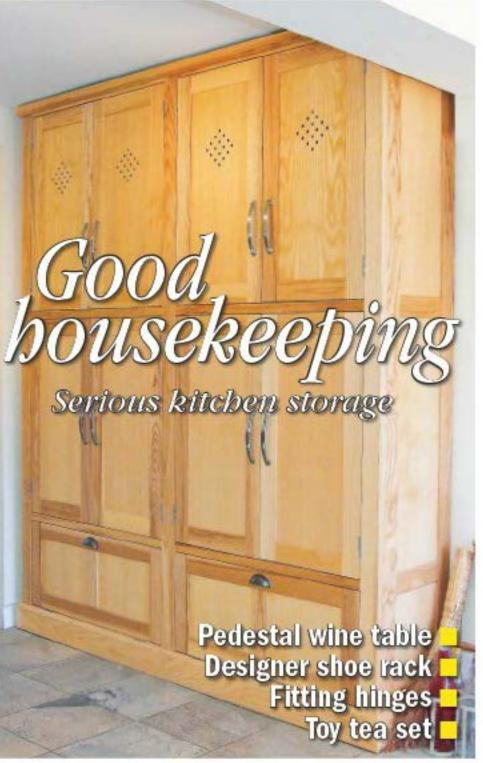
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welcome

here's something about working with wood which seems to be universally attractive to the average human being, it's not just the beauty of the material itself; it's something more than that. Is it the ease (I) with which a person can put their own stamp on a simple anterior they've made? Or maybe it's the opportunity it provides us with to exercise our technical skills in a clear and potentially attractive way for all to see. For our ancestors – from ancient to fairly recent – it was often the only way to acquire necessary and useful items in a tough and unforgiving world.

Non-fatal attraction

And it's not just woodworking either. In my travels out and about in the world of toil, I've been noticing an increased interest in making things of late, especially amongst younger people. All sorts of tolk are rediscovering the joys and pleasures of creating and constructing, and I for one am very pleased to witness it.

Maybe it's a simple reaction to our mass-produced and homogenised world, a chance to simply express ourselves in a world of high-tech gadgetry controlled by computer-aided

Maybe it's a simple reaction to our mass-produced and homogenised world, a chance to simply express ourselves in a world of high-tech gadgetry controlled by computer-aided everything. Perhaps the reduced or non-existent workshop time in schools in recent years has played a part. But whatever the reason, new generations are taking up tools again and exploring the many benefits of custom-made crafts.

Make it

I participated in a 'mini maker fair' down my way recently and was impressed with the number of visitors who called in and took part in workshops and demonstrations of a wide range of high- and low-tech disciplines. These included all manner of electronics, 3D primiting, robotics and the like, with yours truly doing what he could to fly the flag for old-school woodworking.

It was gratifying to observe the interest shown in my simple woody fare – consisting mainly of dovetall samples, tools, biscult and Domino joints – which seemed to strike a chord with many a punter, young and old alike. One proud perent even wrote to me afterwards to tell me just how excited his smallish son had been to watch my basic demo of cutting a curve with a coping saw and planting it smooth. Apparently a block plane is now top of the youngster's wish list!

Help and inspire

So, when it comes to making it, don't forget that this magazine belongs to all of us, and if there's anything you'd like to see featured, just drop me a line and i'll see what can be done. Also, if you know of any young people who have been inspired to stand at a bench and make something, please let me know and we'll look at what we can do to to further their ambitions.

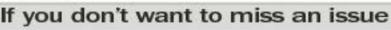
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21 Five-star trammel

Peter Parfitt says he's spent a lot of time over the years making impromptu trammels for circular router work, and has finally decided to make a decent one from Plexiglas

29 Three legs good

David Cockburn has made some 25 versions of this small pedestal wine table over the years, so he should know how to fit the dovetailed legs by now. Here's how he does it

34 Routing panels in solid wood Ron Fox explains that panelled doors don't have to have a separate jointed frame and floating panel; instead you can rout them quickly and easily

39 Making time

from solid wood

Mechanical devices made from wood are always impressive, and few more so than a working timepiece. The unusual clock described here has been made by Christopher Blasius, one of our German readers

45 A perfect fit

Hanging doors is an exacting process that shouldn't be rushed, but approached methodically to achieve the best results. Andy Standing guides you through the process

49 Apto shoe rack

We spotted Hannah Knowles' piece at the 2014 New Designers show in London earlier this year. Struck by its originality, we asked her to describe how it came into being

53 The chair doctor

If you've got an old favourite chair that's past its best, you've probably wondered whether to scrap it or try to repair it. Peter Bishop has some simple fixes

TURNING

59 A flatter platter

Say 'platter', and most people imagine a large circular dish. Most are round, but there's no reason why they shouldn't be square or rectangular instead. Colin Simpson shows how

65 Turned to a T

lan Wilkie presents a little turning project that will take no more than a few hours and will use up some of your offcuts. It will also make a lovely present for any toddlers in your family

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Voodwor

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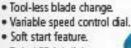


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In brief...



The DV18DGL also features an LED light for use where visibility is difficult, and there's a built-in drill bit holder for easy accessory storage. A spindle lock function ensures user safety when changing

drill bits, and rotational speed can be controlled with a simple switch. The price is around £100. www.hitachi-powertools.co.uk

Cutting corners

The world's leading construction connector manufacturer, Simpson Strong Tie, is breaking into the consumer market with Simply Build it, a unique new product which enables consumers to design and assemble a robust and modular table or work bench at any height, length or depth out of any timber material.

The kit, which retails at £45, includes screws and heavy-duty timber connectors specially designed to ensure true corners and enable purchasers to construct items for garage storage organisation, garden and greenhouse furniture, pet homes and even furniture. www.simplybulldit.co.uk



Draper Tools has a brand new website. The completely redesigned site has a fresh, clean look and can now be viewed seamlessly from desktops, tablets and smartphones. Visitors to the website will find all the latest information on new products, promotions and more.

The new site features improved navigation and product classification, making it quick and simple for anyone to find the product or range they need. Not only is it easy to find the right product; It's also never been easier to find stockist information either. The site can use a mobile phone's geolocation and direct smartphone users to their nearest stockist, while desktop users can simply enter their postcode. www.drapertools.com



Proxoon miniature tools come with a reputation for quality, and this small angle polisher is no exception. It has a quiet, powerful DC motor with continuously variable speed control. The main body of the machine is made from glass-fibre reinforced polyamide with a softer section on the underside, making it very comfortable to hold.

The polisher is supplied with a rubber backing disc with hookand-loop fastening, a polishing sponge, a lambswool polishing disc, polishing felt for metals and non-ferrous metals, 12 sanding discs and Nigrin polishing emulsion plus a microfibre cloth. The polisher and accessories are stored in a tough polypropylene case. The price is £89.95

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Twin extraction

The new Jet DC-2300 is a twin-bag chip and coarse dust extractor, mounted on castors for easy mobility around the workshop. It can be connected to up to three smaller machines via its three 100mm connectors. The manufacturer recommends connecting it to a simple 125mm metal duct system.



An alloy-bodied motor drives a high-efficiency impeller fan; the air flowing into the begs is via metal tubes, again creating efficient airflow. Plastic waste sacks are used which are held in place with quickrelease metal straps. The large polyester air filters can be replaced with two cartridge filters which upgrade the filtration capability to handle sanding machines. The unit is fitted with a 13A plug, but in some cases it may need a 16A supply. The price is £419.95. www.brlmarc.com



See the expert

Deneb Puchalski, the hand tool and sharpening guru from Lie-Nielsen, will be visiting Ireland, England and Scotland this November. Deneb is the recognised authority on how to get the very best from these superb tools. He can help with advice on sharpening, plane tuning and many more techniques. His passion and enthusiasm for the tools he works with are clear to all who have seen his demonstrations

You can see Deneb in action for free at any of these venues:

- 12 Nov: St Mary's College, Galway, Ireland (evening)
- 13 Nov: The Carpentry Store, Naas, Ireland (afternoon)
- 15 Nov: Axminster Tools, Nuneaton (afternoon)
- 16 Nov: The Sheffleld Tap, Sheaf St, Sheffleld (afternoon/evening)
- 17 Nov: The Town Wall, Pink Lane, Newcastle (afternoon/evening)
- 18 Nov: Stoans, Argyle St, Glasgow (afternoon/evening)
- 19 Nov: Brodles Timber, Dunkeld, Perth (all day)
- 21-23 Nov: North of England Woodworking & Power Tool Show. Harrogate (all three days)

For more details and precise directions, please visit www.brimarc.com

Latest catalogue

The new Machine Mart catalogue is out now. Its 500 pages are packed with over 7500 great products, so there's sure to be something for everyone in this biggest ever issue. From garage equipment to woodworking, generators to power tools, there's everything you need to get the job done, and there are over 1800 price cuts and new products Included. For a free copy visit any of the 65 Machine Mart superstores, call 0844 880 1265 or visit

www.machinemart.co.uk





Lathe bargains

If you're looking to upgrade your lathe this autumn or taking up woodturning as a serious hobby, request a copy of the Jet Lathes leaflet and take a look at some of the great offers now available on these machines.

Ranging from the small JWL-1221VS right up to the mighty 42248 heavy-duty lathe, there are some attractive packages and significant savings to be had. Many of the packages include the Evolution SK114 chuck or Clubman SK100 chuck plus sultable sets of Jaws.

The leaflet also features the new JWL-1015VS and standard JWL-1015 woodkurning lathes with all of the most important features needed by the serious woodturner. All the offers are valid until 31st December 2014.

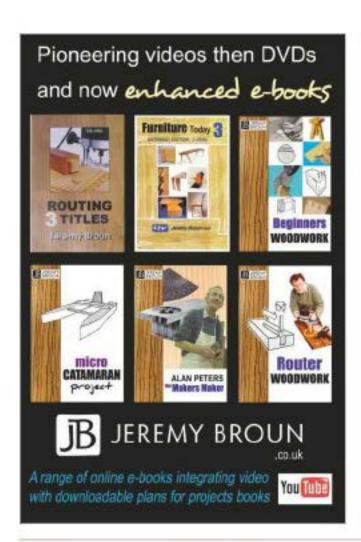
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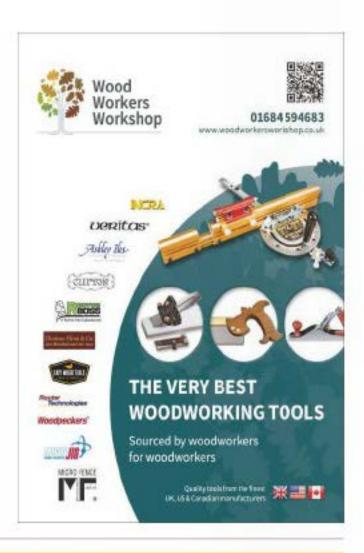


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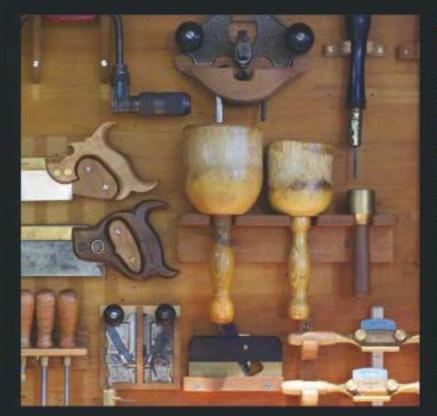
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In brief...

Record offers

The Record Power Autumn/ Winter 2014/15 catalogue is now available, it features great-value deals across the full range of products, plus two brand new sections. The guide to the Record Power bandsawrange gives a summary of the full range, accompanied by a new series of online videos.



There is also a feature on getting started in woodturning, which offers some new superb value package deals almed to help new tumers get started.

Lastly, turn to page 3 of the catalogue or visit www.recordpower.co.uk/ competitions for details of how to be in with the chance of winning a fantastic G3 chuck and range of jaws package worth over £226!

Pick up a free copy from your local Record Power stockist or call Record Power on 01246 571 020 to request your copy.



On the beach

Two contemporary beach houses, with floating foundations, stainless steel frames and Kebonywood cladding have been unveiled at Camber Sands in East Sussex. Architects Walker and Martin were commissioned by a private client to build the houses right on the seafront, on the site of an old bungalow Just metres from the beach, the houses are in fact almost embedded in the dunes.

The challenges of the location became apparent last winter

during the construction phase, when the site was battered by the severe storms and tidal surges that hit the country and gales swept up the beach, blasting the building with sand as it began to take form. Consequently, the huts have been built with the requisite resilience and ability to fend off the elements in their exposed position on the coast, providing ample protection for their new owners to enjoy the calm, warm summer days.

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In the shed

After a record-breaking 2,000 entries and 20,000 public votes, the Allotment Roof Shed from London has been crowned winner of the 2014 Shed of the Year competition sponsored by Cuprinol. Revealed for the first time by George Clarke on Channel 4's Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year, the nail-biting competition came to a close with Allotment Roof Shed owner Joel Bird, 39, taking home the coveted title along with £1000, £100 of Cuprinol products, a winner's plaque and a glant crown for this shed.

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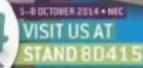


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What's new from



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DLX2040TJ 18V 5Ah BRUSHLESS TWIN-PACK

MANUFACTURER: Makita D&M GUIDE PRICE: £419 95

This new 16V 5Ah twin-pack from Makita features the DHP481 two-speed brushless combi drill and the DTD129 brushless impact driver. The set comes complete in a MakiPac carry case containing a DC18RC charger and two 18V 5Ah lithium-ion batteries. These offer an unbeatable 45-minute charge time, and are the same size and weight as Makita's 4.0Ah and 3.0Ah batteries but provide up to 33 per cent extra runtime.

The DHP481 delivers speeds of 0-550rpm and 0-2100rpm, with impact rates of 0-8250lpm and 0-31,500lpm respectively. It has 21 torque settings and twin LED work lights. The DTD129 has a maximum torque of 160Nm, with variable speed of 0-2500rpm and an impact rate of 0-2200lpm.



DJV181Z BRUSHLESS BODY-GRIP JIGSAW

MANUFACTURER: Makita

D&M GUIDE PRICE: £199 95 (body only plus MakPac case)

The DJV181 is the first cordiess body-grip jigsaw from Maktia. The brushless motor produces 600-3,500 strokes per minute with a stroke length of 26mm, and can cut wood up to 135mm thick as well as steel (10mm) and aluminium (20mm). The rigid aluminium base titis from 0° to 45° to left and right, it has three orbital and plain cutting settings, and features a variable speed control dial as well as a soft start. The blower function, combined with the twin LED work lights, ensures a highly visible cutting line. We are also including a FREE MakPac carry case worth £42.54.





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DCB102 10.8V-18V DUAL-PORT & USB CHARGER

MANUFACTURER: DeWalt D&M GUIDE PRICE: £99.95

This new dual-port charger simultaneously charges two DeWalt 10.8V, 14.4V and 18V XR Li-lon slide-pack batteries, and is equipped with two USB charging ports for maximum versatility. A bright LED indicator clearly shows the battery charge status.



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Good housekeeping

The traditional housekeeper's cupboard has been around since the 17th century. Here's a modern version with a generous amount of easy-access floor-to-celling storage that's ideal for holding provisions, non-consumable items and even small appliances

he style of this cupboard complements the rest of this kitchen's cabinetry, with inset doors and chamfered frame edges for easy cleaning. Diamond-shaped ventilation holes provide an attractive decorative feature. It's made in ash for the outside and birch plywood on the inside. Butt hinges with a satin chrome finish hang the main doors, and gas stays control the lowering of the bottom doors.

For easy transportation the cupboard is made in two main sections that join together seamlessly. The two sections sit on a base frame with added decorative wood to make a plinth, and are finished with a top comice.

Carcasses first

Begin work on the two carcasses by dimensioning the plywood sides and shelf panels to their final measurements. Then cover the front edge of the intermediate shelves with a strip of ash. I glued the lipping to the shelves, photo 1, and held it in position using low-tack tape. When the glue is dry, trim off any overhangs and sand the lipping flush. These intermediate shelves are made 4mm narrower than their counterparts, so they dear the closed doors. This is also a convenient time to round over the edges of the lipped shelves.

Next, mark the sides with the shelf positions and rout through grooves to a depth of 4mm. I used the Trend Varilig clamp guide and router baseplate, enabling the grooves to be cut very quickly and accurately, photo 2.

Each housing joint is pulled tight using three 50 x 5mm screws. Drill the clearance holes in the sides for the screws and countersink them, photo 3.1 used the router for accuracy here.

Assembling the panels

Sand all the panels before assembling the carcasses. Begin by inserting the shelves into their housings, arranging the panels with their best faces visible. Ensure that the



Glue the ash lipping to intermediate shelves and secure it with low-tack tape



Drill the clearance holes for the screws In the sides and countersink them



Cut the 4mm deep grooves for the shelves In the side panels using a router



Cramp up the assembly, ensuring that all the shelves are at right angles to the sides



Part	Qty	L	W	Material
CARCASSES				
Back	2	2109	912	6 ply
Base and top	4	914	364	18 ply
Shelf	4	892	364	18 ply
Inner shelf	6	892	340	18 ply
Shelf trim	6	892	20	18 ash
Side	4	2075	364	15 ply
SIDES				
Bottom panel	2	304	248	6 mdf
Middle panel	2	785	248	6 mdf
Top panel	2	766	248	6 mdf
Rall	8	240	70	20 ash
Stile	4	2111	70	20 ash
FACE FRAME				
Muntin	1	2111	56	20 ash
Top rail	6	836	32	20 ash
Base rall	2	836	20	18 ash
Stile	2	2111	70	20 ash
LOWER DOORS				
Muntin	2	227	70	20 ash
Panel	4	321	235	6 mdf
Rall	4	696	70	20 ash
Stile	4	367	70	20 ash
MAIN DOORS				
Panel	8	683	286	6 mdf
Rall	16	278	70	20 ash
Stile	16	815	70	20 ash
PLINTH				
Base bearer	3	282	96	44 softwood
Base side	2	1868	96	44 softwood
Plinth front	1	1908	106	20 ash
Plinth side	2	420	106	20 ash
CORNICE				
Front	1	1908	40	20 ash
Panel	1	1880	396	6 ply
Side	2	420	40	20 ash

You will also need 20 64mm butt hinges, eight handles, two pulls, two stays and 20 8mm diameter rare-earth magnets.



Drive in all the fixing screws to pull the joints up tight and check for squareness



Position the two carcasses side by side and level them using shims

shelves are at right angles to the side panels, photo 4, and pull the joints tight with the screws. Then assemble the top and base panels with more screws, photo 5.

Next, position the two carcasses on a flat surface and add shims underneath until they're level and their edges align, photo 6. Now joint the carcasses together using cabinet connector bolts, photo 7. Try to position the bolts so they're hidden by the face frame at the front and by the shelves at the rear.

The outer frames

Now make the pair of ash sides, using a frame-and-panel construction including a pair of intermediate rails. I made the frame 16mm wider than the carcasses to accommodate the back panel and to leave a 10mm void for easier installation when the unit is placed against the wall.

Prepare the stiles and rails, cutting their length to sult your jointing method. I used floating tenon joints with PVA glue; other jointing options include dowels, pocket-hole screws and mortise-and-tenon joints.

Flout grooves along the stiles and rails to accept the ash-veneered mdf panels. I used the router table fitted with a 6.35mm slot cutter. I also routed a chamfer along the inner edges of the rails, photo 9.

Next, cut the veneered panels to fit the frames. Sand all the parts and then assemble them, photo 9. Cramp everything together, check for squareness and remove any glue that's been squeezed out, photo 10.

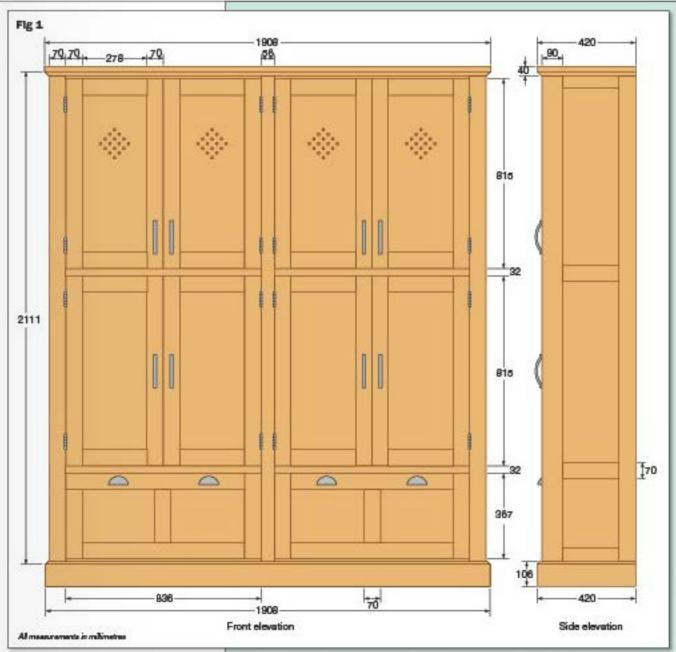
Comer stiles

Next, fit the face-frame stiles to the ash side assemblies. This is easily done with the sides held in the bench vice. I butt-jointed the stiles with PVA glue, using floating tenons to align the surfaces flush, photo 11. Again cramp the joint tight until it's dry.

This is a convenient time to rout a decorative chamfer along the outside corner edge of the stiles using a hand router. Avoid scorching by taking several light passes and keeping the router moving, photo 12. I stopped the chamfer about 70mm from each end.

Offer up the ash side assemblies to the carcasses and mark the face-frame stiles with the door hinge positions, photo 12. Then you can easily cut the hinge recesses at the bench. I cut them using a homemade jig and a hand router fitted with a. guide bush and straight cutter, photo 14.

Now it's time to attach the sides to the carcasses. I used PVA glue and pulled the frame tight using small screws that were positioned out of view inside the carcass, photo 15.



Face work time

Prepare and attach the face-frame muntin and rails to the carcasses. Start by offering up the muntin and mark the location of the door hinges; then cut their recesses as earlier. Position the muntin centrally and attach it to just one of the carcasses, enabling them to separate later. I jointed the muntin using PVA glue and floating tenons. Cramp the muntin tight until the glue is dry, photo 16.

Next, attach the face-frame rails to the remaining shelf edges, carcass top and base. Cut their lengths to be a tight fit between the stiles and the muntin, and position them flush with the surfaces. Make the base rails the same width as the base panels, and also cut the hinge recesses for the lower doors before fitting them. Again I attached the rails using glue and floating tenons, and cramped them until dry, photo 17.



Joint the two carcasses together using concealed cabinet connector bolts



Assemble the side panels after slotting the veneered infili panels into place



Groove and chamfer the ralis for the side panels, ready for assembly



Cramp up each panel and remove any squeezed-out glue with an old chisel



Fit the face-frame stiles to the side assemblies, using floating tenons to help align them

Offer the side assemblies up to the carcass and mark the stiles with the door hinge positions



Pull the side assembly tight to the carcass using glue and small screws





Attach the face-frame ralls using glue and floating tenons. Again, cramp until dry



Out the door stiles and rails to size and prepare them for jointing



Rout a decorative stopped chamfer along the outside comer edge of the stiles



Cut the hinge recesses, I used my router and a simple home-made guide jig



Cramp the face-frame muntin to just one carcass and leave until the glue is dry



Cut the back panels slightly undersize and attach them with self-tapping screws



Cut the door panels to size, assemble the doors and check they're flat and square

Adding the back panels

Now cut and attach the ply back panels. If you cut these a few millimetres undersize, it makes their alignment easier. Double-check that the carcasses are square before attaching the backs, I used self-tapping and countersinking screws, photo 19, as this gives the option of removing the backs later so it's easier to apply the finish.

Making the doors

There are only two sizes of door to make, and their construction is very similar to that used earlier for the ash sides. Try to select and plane the stock for the stiles and rails to be as flat as possible, as this will make doors much easier to align when hanging them later. Trim the pieces to length to suit your jointing method, photo 19, then mark out and cut the joints.

Rout the grooves for the ash-veneered door panels and cut chamfers along the rails. Then cut the panels to size and sand all the parts smooth. Glue up the doors, cramp everything together, check that surfaces are flush, photo 20, and remove any squeezed-out glue.

I cut the decorative diamond pattern in the upper door panels using a home-made mdf template and a hand router fitted with a guide bush and a 10mm straight cutter, photo 21.

Hanging the doors

Offer up each door within the cupboard and mark it with the position of the hinge recesses you cut earlier. Use the marks as a reference and cut the door hinge recesses. This is a good time to number each of the doors to ensure you refit them in the same position during final assembly.

Next, hang the doors. At this stage I usually attach each hinge leaf using only a single screw, photo 22, adding the remaining screws after any adjustments during the final installation on-site. With the doors hung, mark and trim their edges for a consistent fit. Here a plastic spacer helps, photo 23.

Fitting the hardware

Next, make and fit the door stop blocks. I made these from ash offcuts, attached them to the underside of the shelves using screws, photo 24, and covered their heads with ash plugs. I made the door catches using pairs of 8mm diameter rare-earth magnets, recessed into the stop blocks and door stiles, glued in place and covered with filer. I cut the magnet recesses using a hand router fitted with a small straight cutter guided by a home-made template, photo 25.

While the doors are hung, mark the positions for the handles. Remove the doors and drill the fixing holes. I like to counterbore the holes so the fixing bolt heads are recessed.

Next, fit the lower door stays that control the speed and extent of the door opening. Position the stays using the instructions supplied. I needed to make some spacer blocks using ash offcuts to position one of the stay brackets correctly, photo 26.

Adding the comice and plinth

The cornice unit consists of a horizontal panel that holds three cornice mouldings in alignment. Start by temporarily attaching a. 6mm thick plywood panel to the top of the cupboard, dimensioned with a 6mm overhang along the front and sides, photo 27. Then make the comice moulding from a length of ash, cutting a 12mm chamfer along its length on the router table, fitted with a 45° chamfer cutter. Also cut a 6mm deep slot in the rear face of the moulding to fit over the panel overhang.

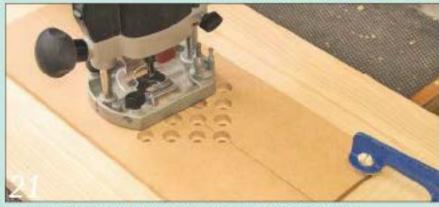
Now cut the mouldings to length using mitres at the corner joints and glue them onto the plywood panel. I used low-tack tape to hold them in position until the glue dried, photo 28. Now you can detach the completed cornice unit, ready for moving the cupboard out of the workshop.

Make the base frame from lengths of 96 x 45mm softwood. I used simple butt joints, each held tight with three 100mm screws, photo 29. Make the frame dimensions the same as the carcasse footprint, less about 30mm at the back if there is a wall skirting board present. Include a centre bearer to support the cupboard weight where the two carcasses join together. Finally, prepare the ash plinth front and side pieces with mitred corners, ready for fixing during installation using glue and large pins.

Finishing and fitting

Dismantle the cupboard and check all the parts are clean, sanded, with any exposed edges rounded over, and generally dust-free. Then apply your favourite finish to all the parts. I applied two coats of oil using a small roller and a foam brush, sanding between coats to remove any nibs using wet-and-dry paper, finishing with a coat of liquid wax.

Installation is a straightforward reassembly of the cupboard sections. Start by levelling the base frame, then position the two main sections and secure them together and also to the wall. Then hang all the doors and check their alignment. Finally, attach the ash plinth pieces and slide the cornice in position.



Cut the decorative diamond pattern using a home-made template and hand router



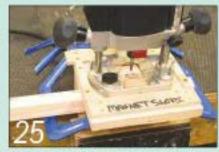
Attach each hinge leaf using a single screw. I add the rest during final assembly



Using a spacer to mark the doors so you can trim them for a consistent #t



Fit the door stop blocks to the undersides of the shelves and conceal the fixings



Cut the recesses for the rare-earth magnets using a hand router and a template



Position and fix the lower door stays. One had to be fitted with a spacer block



6mm overhang at the front and sides



Cut mitres on the comice mouldings and glue them to the plywood panel



Make up the base frame from lengths of softwood using simple butt joints



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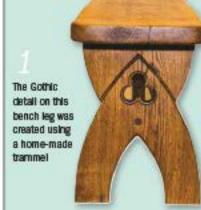
Five-star trammel

I've spent a significant amount of time over the years making impromptu trammels for circular router work, and have finally decided to make a decent one from Plexiglas

uring the construction of the Gothic garden bench described in a recent Issue of The Woodworker, photo 1, I made up yet another router trammel from a scrap of plywood. It then joined the five other impromptu trammels that never seem to get used a second time and just accumulate dust in a corner of the

workshop. This router trammel project has changed all that, and I now have a rather neat little trammel that was easy to make using normal woodworking tools.

I chose Plexiglas as it's easy to work, doesn't swell or warp when the humidity changes, and is reasonably strong. Perspex is a similar material and would be just as





The Festool mitre saw on its lowest speed setting made perfect cuts every time



I cut most of the 25mm channel in the main body using the table saw ...



...and turned to my trusty coping saw to make that awkward last cut by hand



A 30mm Forstner bit works perfectly well for drilling large holes in plastic sheet.



I started by trimming the final bit of waste from the 25mm channel



I then tackled the slide assembly, cutting the four slots which allow it to slide to and fro



I scribed lines across the width of the main body and the slide at 100mm intervals

good. There is no plastics supplier near me, so rather than ordering from the internet i visited my local commercial signmakers and managed to get an offcut at a very reasonable price.

Designing the trammel

The Gothic bench has sparked some Interest in that design style amongst my customers, so I wanted to be able to cover all possible sizes and variations, including matching tables that would require a working radius of up to 450mm.

Router trammels can be fixed to the router as a sub-base, as an addition to the side fence or as an attachment to the fence rails. Alternatively, the trammel can have a hole the exact size of a guidebush that's attached to the router, thus allowing the router to be easily inserted or removed.

I favour the guidebush approach as it allows the router to remain facing the operator while the trammel rotates. This stops power leads and extraction hoses from getting wrapped around the router when cutting longer arcs.

Construction details

My previous trammels have had one or more holes drilled in them to take the trammel pin, but no means of fine adjustment, I wanted to have an adjustable slide that could be fixed in place once the required radius had been set, fig 1.

The main body measures 432 x 165mm in size, and has a 25mm channel to take a sliding bar in which a number of 4mm holes are drilled for the trammel pin. The bar is attached to a 137 x 100mm carriage piece by two 5mm countersunk machine screws and washers secured with locknuts. By having the trammel pin holes every 25mm, the slide assembly would only need to move about 30mm.

My plastic sheet was just 5mm thick, but my UJK brand guide bush has a 10mm boss that protrudes below the router base. I therefore had to make a spacer to ensure that the guide bush did not protrude. A 25mm wide bracing plece is used to provide support at the open end of the channel

Cutting the parts

I frequently cut Perspex and Plexiglas with my bandsaw, mitre saw, circular saw and table saw. It is also very easy to use a router, in a router table, to machine slots and trim curved sections. Hole cutting, even with Forstner bits, is also straightforward.

I use the lowest speed possible for these machines. This stops the plastic from

heating up, which can cause some cut quality issues. Eye protection is essential and it's best to take the time to clean up well afterwards before the plastic dust and swarf spreads far and wide.

The plastic was cut to size on the mitre saw, photo 2, and the table saw, photo 3.1 scribed a centre line for the guide bush hole across the width of the main body which would be used as a reference mark later. I cut the majority of the 25mm channel in the main body using the table saw I then used a coping saw to remove the waste, photo 4.

Precision machining

The largest guidebush in my UJK set is 30mm in diameter, and I've found this to be the best size for trammel work as it allows: plenty of room for a variety of cutters in the router. I cut the hole using a 30mm Forstner bit, photo 5.

I then fitted a 6mm cutter in the router table and used this to machine all the parts. I started by trimming the final bit of waste from the 25mm channel, photo 6, and then tackled the slide assembly, photo 7. The main features are the four slots which allow the assembly to slide to and fro on the main body. I staggered these slots and made them 40mm long. I also cut a window at the centre of this piece to allow access to the trammel oin holes in the slide which would be fixed below

Minor tweaks

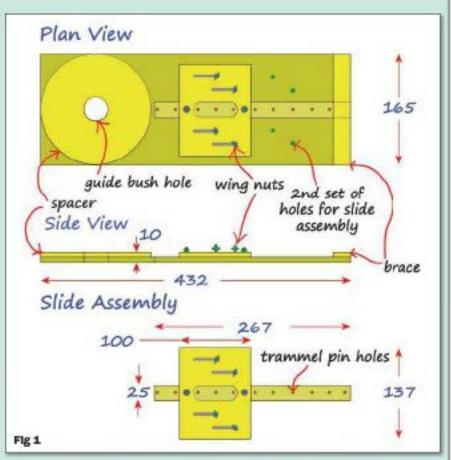
To ease the setting up of the trammel I scribed some lines across the width of the main body and across the slide, at 100mm intervals measured from the centre line for the guidebush, photo 9.

As my plastic was only 5mm thick, I cut a spacer on the bandsaw to the same diameter as my router base, photo 9. I made a 30mm hole through the centre and put my guidebush through it, photo 10. I then used some Tensol 12 glue to fix the spacer in place using the guidebush to match it to the hole in the main body, photo 11.

Assebling the trammel

The two parts of the slide assembly were joined together carefully, photo 12, to ensure that the slots for the securing bolts were parallel to the edge of the main body; otherwise it wouldn't slide to and fro freely. The best way to do this is with a square. Once the holes were drilled, I spread Tensol 12 glue between the parts before screwing them together. A pair of 5mm countersunk machine screws were used, with washers and locknuts.

The purpose of the glue is to help to





I cut a guidebush spacer on the bandsaw to the same diameter as my router base



Next I made a 30mm hole through the centre of the spacer and put my guidebush through it



I then glued the spacer in place using the guidebush to match it to the hole in the main body



The slide assembly parts are held in place with cramps so the two screw holes can be drilled



I allowed the glue to dry overnight, and the parts were ready for assembly the following morning



The first stage was to fit the slide assembly into the channel in the main body



I drilled the holes at the end of the four slots furthest away from the router end



Move the slide assembly up against the brace for drilling the second set of holes

I used four machine screws with washers and wingnuts to secure the silde assembly to the main body





The proof of the pudding... the trammel performed faultiessly, as Iti hoped it would!

minimise any stress, close to the guidebush hole or the machine screws, on the main body and slide assembly respectively. However, it's not worth buying special glue like Tensol 12 just to build one trammel. Superglue would probably be good enough but, if you're making a trammel like this, ask the advice of the plastics supplier.

I allowed the glue to dry overnight, and the parts were ready for assembly the following morning, photo 13. I used four 6mm countersunk machine screws with washers and wingnuts, photo 14, to fix the slide assembly to the main body.

Drilling holes

When setting up to drill the 6mm holes for the screws, I brought the parts together with the slide assembly in towards the router end as far as it would go. Then i secured everything to the bench with a pair of cramps, photo 15, and drilled the holes at the end of the four slots furthest away from the router end, as shown in fig 1.

To increase the range of radii of the trammel, I drilled a second set of holes further away from the router end. I moved the slide assembly until it was up against the bracing piece, photo 16. I then drilled four 6mm holes with the drill positioned at

the left-hand end (furthest away from the brace) of each of the four slots.

The eight 6mm holes were then countersunk from underneath and all the edges of the main body and side assembly were given a light sanding using 120 grlt paper. Everything was then assembled, photo 17, and tested, photo 19.

Afterthoughts

- I made the spacer circular to match my router base, but it would have been perfectly satisfactory to use a square of plastic cut to the right size. I drilled the guidebush hole in the main body and spacer separately, but this could have been done in one operation after gluing.
- I cut out the central section from the slide assembly plate (the 137 x 100mm part) to provide access to the trammel pin holes in the slide. This isn't really necessary, as the pin holes could be extended through the plate.
- If you wanted to use this trammel for radii smaller than that of the router base, the slot could be extended to just short of the guidebush hole. A relief channel could be cut on the router table on the underside of the spacer to make room for the head of a 4mm rivet for use as a trammel pin.



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The triangular plate needs to be fixed with two screws. It matches a plywood insert that is fixed inside the jig to stabilise the pedestal. Make sure the V-plate is central, and the fence is set correctly



The 4 x 2 in bar holds the jig in a vice. Notice the wedge supporting the end of the pedestal



With the pedestal held in the Jig you can shape the socket, cutting through the triangular plate

MAKING THE JIG

The most interesting part of this job is cutting the dovetall sockets in the pedestal. This must be done accurately or the legs will be all askew My solution is to make a jig into which the pedestal fits. I fixed a triangular register plate to the end of the pedestal. This matches an insert that is fitted inside the jig to hold the pedestal in

the three positions. An L-shaped wedge supports the pedestal at the other end.

Like many jigs it is made from offcuts from around the workshop. The bar at the front is a piece of 4 x 2in PAR softwood, and is extended for holding in a vice. To that are fixed softwood sides, though these could easily be ply, and to those an mdf or

ply base, which does nothing more than offer a base to support the pedestal.

I used a couple of routers to remove the waste with a 1/an straight cutter and then to form the dovetall. It's really important that the cutter is positioned centrally on the axis of the dovetall socket, or the leg will veer off at an angle.



Turn away the waste with a bowl gouge, but finish with a scraper if you want and abrasive



Turn the edge of the tabletop with the lathe running slowly. The centre is turned with a bowl gouge



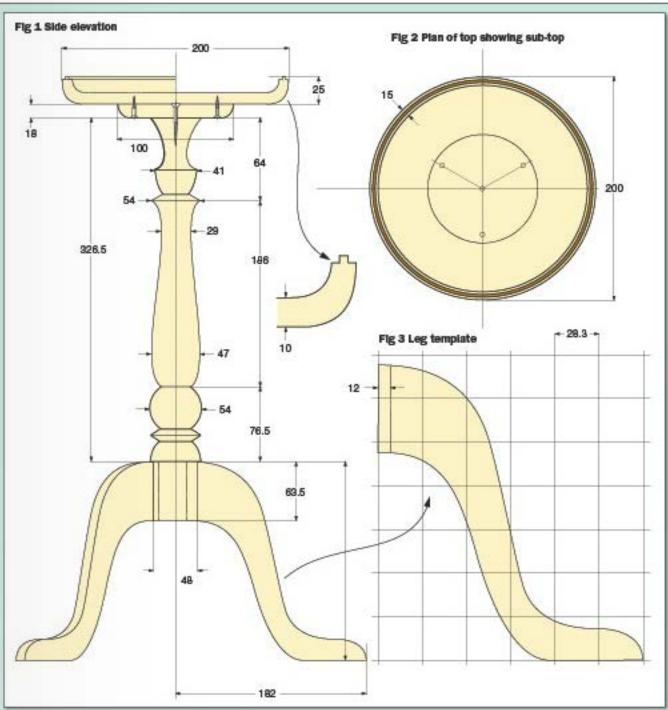
From a woodworking perspective, the table is pretty straightforward. It has a bowl-turned top and sub-top screwed to a spindle-turned pedestal with bandsawn legs dovetalled into it.

The fun part of this project is the dovetailed legs. Many people make flats on the spindle so that they can shape the legs on a router table but that's a machine-made method, which is not really in keeping with the 18th century style. Some people even use dowels to attach the legs. A big three-legged dining table requires a different approach for adequate strength, but for this little table it is best to use plain, saw-cut dovetalls. My idea here is to retain the cylindrical spindle and still be able to deliver a good fit for the legs without too much fiddling.

If you make them one at a time it takes about half a day to produce this table. No doubt you could improve on that if you can find the customers to make it worthwhile. Otherwise this is something of a spare time project or to try out some new techniques.

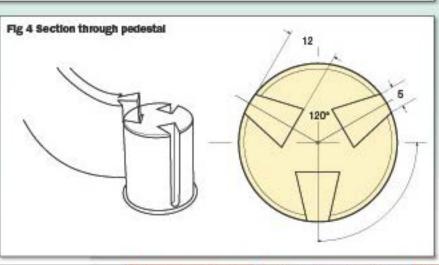
Making the pedestal

Turn the spindle blank to a 55mm diameter cylinder. Follow the diagram to mark it out



NOT SO CLEVER ...

The first time I used the jig to cut the dovetall sockets in a pedestal, it never occurred to me that I had to be particularly careful in the positioning of the router. I didn't adjust the fence accurately and the socket wasn't exactly on the axis line, nor was it at right angles to the diameter. I had to fudge the shoulders on the legs to make it fit, with one higher than the other. I now position the sockets accurately by stepping round with a compass.





By taping the legs together, you can cut sand them all in one go for accuracy and speed



This jig holds the leg vertical in both planes for cutting the dovetall on a bandsaw

and then turn it to shape. The only critical point is to ensure that the cylinder into which the legs will be dovetailed is uniform in diameter and there is a wider cylinder above to act as a stop. Don't overdo the sandpaper if you want to retain the crisp edges, which will be admired by other woodworkers.

Construct the Jig for routing the dovetail sockets in the pedestal. Attach a plywood triangle with 20mm sides to the bottom end of the pedestal with a couple of small screws. This serves as an indexing 'ring'. The torque generated by the router bit is quite enough to turn the spindle slightly in the jig, resulting in a curved dovetall slot which will be difficult to fit. That is why you should attach the indexing triangle with a screw through the centre and another, where it won't get in the way of the router, to stop it rotating.

Take extra care that you cut the dovetall slot exactly on the diameter, as it is rather too easy to cut it a little off centre. The router cutter must be set up exactly on the centre line of the three sockets, which are set at 120° to each other. Once you are



The quickest way to cut the dovetalls on the legs is with a bandsaw. The step hides any gaps



It is vitally important that the sockets are worked accurately or the leg will need adjustment.

aware of the risk, careful measurement will avoid this error.

These days you can buy a light-duty router for less than £40, so it makes sense to have a couple of them set up to use in turn. First remove the bulk of the waste with a straight 1/Jin bit, then cut the slot to shape with a dovetall cutter. Repeat the same two cuts for the other two leg locations.

Making the top

Considered as woodturning, the top is a. shallow bowl 200mm in diameter and 25mm deep. Most of the wood can be removed with the bowl gouge. Take a final very light cut on the table top with a scraper to achieve a perfectly flat surface, and finish it with Danish oil while it's still on the lathe.

The sub-top is a simple 100mm diameter turned disk with a rounded edge. Mark the centre, remove it from the lathe and drill countersunk holes for the assembly screws.

Making the legs

Make a template from the plan; tape the three blanks together, bandsaw the legs to shape and remove the saw marks from the edges with a drum sander, identical legs will ensure that the tabletop is horizontal so long as the dovetalls are inserted to the same depth.

The next step is to cut the male dovetalls. The two critical dimensions are the width of the dovetall and the location of the shoulders; get these right and mistakes in other areas can be fudged. In my case the dovetall was 12mm wide and the shoulders were also 12mm from the edge, so I marked these dimensions with a mortise gauge and a cutting gauge respectively. Make a little Jig which will hold the leg blank in the right position in relation to the bandsawtable. Verify that the blade is at right angles to the table and make your two cuts on each side of each leg blank. Test-fit the legs to the pedestal and adjust with a file or rasp if necessary. You shouldn't need to insert wedges to fill any gaps, but in any case don't assemble it yet.

Legs that are thinner at the ankle and have a wider but pointed foot are preferred to those that are flat sided. Having made both types, I'm not convinced that the extra. work carving the legs is worthwhile for a small table. If however you want to make 'the best', then you will have started with legs which are 20mm thick and you should now carve away 2mm from each side of the thigh, 3mm from each side of the ankle and leave the foot full width.

The rounding must also be carved by hand and should be a semi-circle down the shin, while the foot itself has a slight ridge along the top edge. Respect the grain direction as you carve and finish with a scraper to achieve an even surface. The alternative approach is to make the leg blanks 15mm thick and just round over the top edge on a router table. If you do take the trouble to make the shapeller legs, make sure you point them out to your customer or they may not be noticed!



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BY RON FOX

Routing panels in solid wood

Panelled doors don't have to have a separate frame and panel. Ron Fox explains how to create them in solid wood

rame-and-panel construction is a well-known feature of furniture work and, when carried out with a router, usually involves a heavy-duty machine, large expensive cutters and a router table. However, you can also create pleasing effects by making decorative cuts in the surface of a panel with simple cutters and a router used in the hand.

At its simplest, you can make a panelled effect by plunging a suitably shaped cutter into the surface of a board and following a template. At a more sophisticated level, you can use several cutters, perhaps bearing-

guided or used with guide bushes, photo 1, to place one cut adjacent to another and give a more realistic effect.

Simple classic panel

The 'classic panel' cutter is a two-flute plunge cutter with a radiused bottom cut that allows it to be plunged into the surface of a board. In the example, I am using a 1/Lin-shank CMT 848-190 cutter, but similar cutters are available from most major suppliers. The cutter has a 19mm maximum diameter and I used it with a 26mm guide bush. This gives an offset of 4.5mm (28 - 19 = 9,9+2=4.5), which has to be allowed for when you're making the template.

If the panel effect forms a simple rectangle, the template can consist of four straight edges taped to the surface. Take the workplece - a door, say - and mark the notional outline of the 'frame'. Draw a second rectangle around the first, bigger by the offset of the cutter/guide-bush combination. Tape the straight edges to this outer rectangle, place scraps of the same thickness in the middle to prevent the router from titting, and set a shallow depth of cut on the router, photo 2.

This shows a rectangular panel with four straight edges of 18mm mdf taped to it, and pieces of the same thickness mdf taped in the centre. Make several light passes in a clockwise direction until you've achieved the desired effect; photo 2 shows the finished door with a corresponding drawer. front. The pencilled lines, to which the straight edges were taped, are clearly visible. The edges of the door can now be moulded if desired.

The above example used a guide bush to position the cut, but top-bearing versions of many of these cutters are available. With



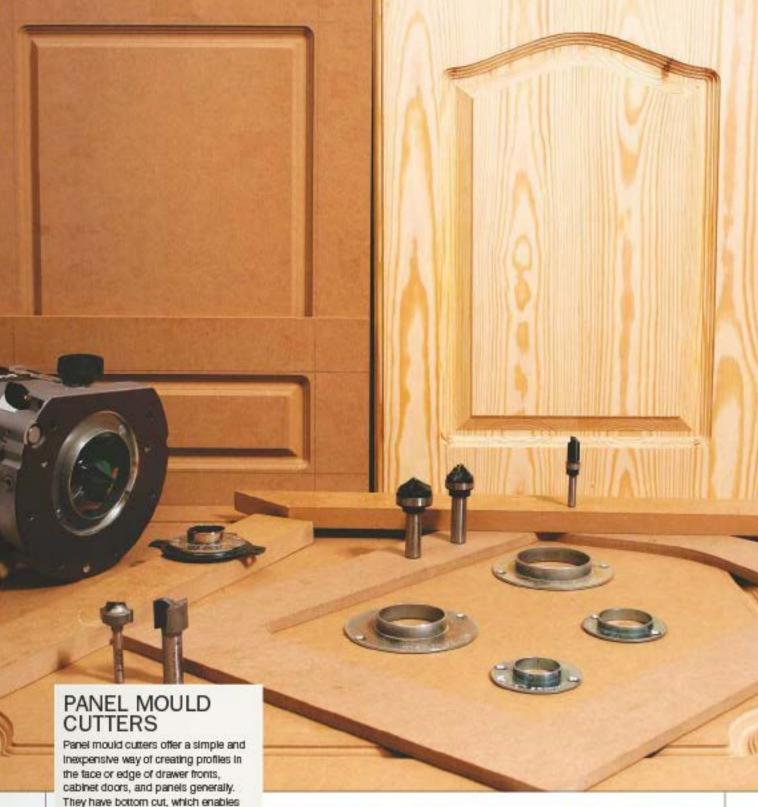
There is a wide range of cutters suitable for surface decoration



Straight strips of MDF taped to the panel guide the router



The cathedral arched panel and the template made from it



them to be plunged into the surface of the work. They are used with templates and are guided either by bearings mounted above the blades or by means of guide bushes. They are particularly useful for surface decoration of doors, drawers, and panels.

these, the bearing is run against the edge of the template, doing away with the need for a guide bush. This method is illustrated later in this feature.

This simple form of surface decoration is particularly suitable for items in mdf that will be painted. For such work, a wide range of suitable cutters will be found in almost any supplier's catalogue.

Using several cutters

You can create more elaborate and realistic panelled effects by using several cutters in conjunction with large guide bushes. The

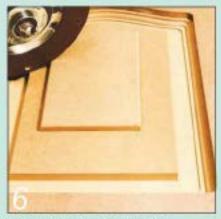
only routers that I know of that can take bushes larger than 40mm in diameter are the Trend T9, T10, and T11 models. These have optional guide bushes of 50, 60 and 70mm in diameter. However, it isn't too difficult to make a false base for your particular router to take these large bushes.

To flustrate the method, I'll make a door using the Trend T11, with one standard and two large guide bushes, plus three Trend cutters: the 4/60 19mm straight, the 7/2 ovolo, and the C045 V-groover.

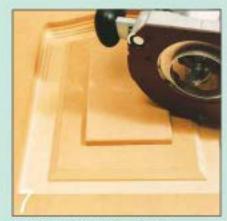
For this example I decided to make a cathedral-arched door. This requires a



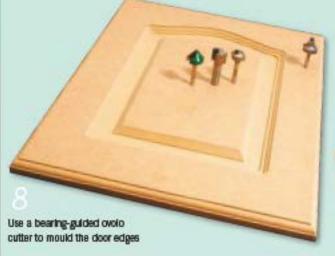
The first stage of the process uses a straight cutter and a 50mm guide bush

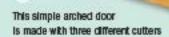


The second stage uses an ovolo cutter and a 32mm guide bush



The third stage uses a chamfer cutter and a 70mm guide bush









Using a straight edge with a templatetrim cutter in your router to trim your moulded panels to an exact size.

template and I made one in 9mm mdf. First, make a simple arched shape to represent the panel. Next, pin this arched panel to another piece of 9mm mdf and carefully cut round it with a 1/2 in diameter cutter and a 12mm guide bush in the router.

The key thing in this operation is to start with the dimensions of the required panel, decide on the combination of guide bushes and cutters that you'll use, and make the template to match; photo 4 shows the arched panel and the template made from it.

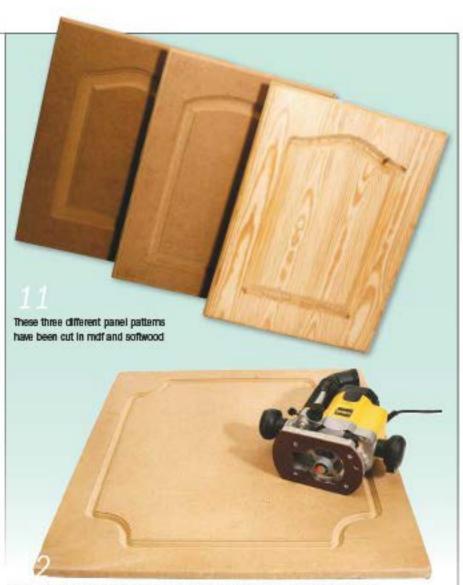
Tape the template to the workpiece with the usual anti-tilt piece in the centre and make the door in three stages, cutting in a clockwise direction to help keep the guide bush against the template.

Stage 1 involves fitting the 4/60 straight cutter and the 50mm guide bush and making a cut 11mm deep. Take several passes to achieve the final depth, photo 5. In stage 2, replace the 50mm guide bush with one of 32mm and fit the 7/2 ovolo cutter. Make the cut to a final depth of 8mm, photo 6. Stage 3 involves fitting the 70mm guide bush and C045 chamfer cutter and making a cut to 10mm depth, photo 7.

Finally, mould the edge with a suitable cutter such as a bearing-guided ovolo. Photo 9 shows the finished door and the cutters used, including the bearing-guided ovolo. Photo 9 shows a simpler arched door made with different cutters but the same guide bushes.

Bearing-guided cutters

A set of special top-bearing cutters that produce an effect close to the traditional frame-and-panel appearance is available from Wealden Tool Company, Each set consists of a profile cutter and a panel raise



Other panels such as this bath panel can be made using the same routing techniques

cutter. Sets are available on 1/ain, 8mm or Win shanks.

As examples I used a 1/lin shank set and made two arched doors: the cathedral arch in softwood and the simpler one in mdf.

The templates are made in exactly the way described above but in 18mm mdf. The reason for this is that the cutters are guided by top bearings and the templates must be thick enough to position the bearings for the initial passes.

With the template taped or pinned to the workplece, make the first cut with the profile cutter in a clockwise direction around the template. The recommended full depth of cut is 10-12mm.

Make the second cut with the panel raise cutter. This cuts away the inner part of the profile, creating a raised panel. This cut is also made in a clockwise direction around the template. The combined effect of the two cutters is a quite realistic panelled door. Photo 10 shows the cathedral-arched door made in softwood, the Raise-a-Panel cutters used, and the template.

The Wealden cutter sets are the most straightforward for achieving a realistic

panelled effect, and they have the advantage of being bearing-guided and therefore Independent of guide bushes. Photo 11 shows three doors with different patterns - a cathedral arch made with three different cutters and guide bushes, the simple arch made with the Wealden cutters, and the cathedral arch with the same two cutters.

Other panels

These methods are equally relevant to panels other than doors. As an example, I made a panel for the end of a bath, photo 12. This is out In 15mm molf with the cutter used in the first door. As before you need a template and the cutter is used with a guide bush and packing piece equal in thickness to the template.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
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Making time

Mechanical devices made from wood are always Impressive, and few more so than a working and accurate timeplece. The clock described here has been made by one of our German readers, and full plans for making it are available from his website

his straightforward clock is designed as an entry-level device which can be made by anyone with the time and care to spare; you don't have to be a full-time clockmaker to complete it!

Through its simple yet thoughtful design, anyone with a scroll saw and a steady hand can build the clock if they cut the parts carefully and exercise sufficient patience during the construction.

Minimal movement

The number of moving parts has been reduced to only the essentials, and as there is no minute hand the clock doesn't need a complex dial train. By having the hour hand

fixed, it's only necessary for the dial to rotate to display the current time; this operating motion gave the clock its name, Rotara. It's easy to read the time from Rotara's face, and you can mark additional quarter hour indicator holes on the hour wheel for improved time-telling accuracy.

Maximum efficiency

Optimized tooth geometry (the size and shape of the gear toothing for smooth running), the carefully calculated frame design and an improved pendulum suspension system all simplify the making of the clock considerably, as well as enhancing its operational performance.



I've christened my home-made CNC router machine Solidis

A CLOCKMAKER'S GLOSSARY

Anchor Constrains the escape wheel to single-tooth movement

Gear shaft or axle Arbor A decorative ring on Chapter ring

the clock face upon which the hours are Indicated

CNC Computer Numerical Control, gMng three-axis digital instructions for machine movement

Dial (time) train The gears which drive the hour and minute hands

Drive weight Provides a constant force to power the clock via the going

Escape wheel Vertically mounted wheel controlled by the anchor, part of the escapement

Escapement The mechanism that controls the swing of the pendulum to a regular Interval

Going train Main gear train, transmits the force of the mainspring or

Hour wheel The wheel in a clock which carries the hour hand and forms the last piece of the dial train, usually rotating twice in 24 hours

Movement Mounting plates or frame between which the gears are housed

Suspended, swinging Pendulum rod and weight (bob) that regulates the clock movement

Pinions Small gears Regulator Mechanism that allows the pendulum to be adjusted for Increased accuracy

General arrangement Wheel train of gears in a mechanical timepiece

Wheels Large gears



The wall-mounted frame is the baseplate to which all the other parts are fitted



The escape wheel and spacer can be centred on a twist drill bit...



...and fitted to the lowest frame arbor along with a pinion



Align the gear, the small pinion and the spacer on a drill bit

The drive weight is attached to a cord which is wound around the winding barrel. To wind the clock, you simply move the counterweight downwards, it couldn't be any faster and easier. This will give a running time of approximately 25 hours.

CNC router

I have made all the parts for Rotara with my CNC router, photo 1. Having been Interested in making automata and similar devices for some time, I have developed my own homemade CNC machine to make the cutting-out work simpler and more accurate. it's called Solidis, and I plan to describe its construction in The Woodworker in the near future. Enthusiasts of the scrollsaw will have no problem cutting out the components, and even a hand fretsaw will get the job done if used with care.

The right materials

For making the clock I recommend Baltic birch plywood, because this is the best plywood you can get. Birch plywood is preferable because it is dimensionally consistent and is relatively resistant to humidity and movement. Far-eastern and poplar plywood should be avoided because of their poor quality and general unreliability.

The work is made a lot easier if you stick the paper plans to your plywood with a craft glue or aerosol spray adhesive. This leaves no residue when you remove it from the wood, and ensures you achieve a greater accuracy. To remove the paper from the wood I've found it is sometimes necessary to heat it a little bit with a hot air blower.

Making the frame

The frame is the baseplate onto which all the other parts are attached, photo 2. Rotara uses a so-called single frame which is very simple because tolerances during the cutting process are not so tight as they would be on a multiple-frame device.

The axies (or arbors) are from brass rod; this is normally available in the right dimensions at your local hardware store or DIY shed. You only have to cut them to the right length. The frame is attached to the wall with two screws, which aren't visible.

Perfectly round

The escape wheel, photo 3, is the most Important part in the clock, it must be a perfect circle to obtain a uniform ticking motion. But don't worry; this can be readily achieved with a bench-top disc sander. Just take a piece of scrap wood and position the wheel on it so that it overhangs slightly. By using a close-fitting drill bit as a temporary

centre, the scrap timber can be clamped to the sander table and the wheel slowly rotated against the disc until it is perfectly round. Once finished, the escape wheel is the first wheel that can be fixed to the frame, photo 4.

Getting into gear

Cutting the gears is not as difficult as most people think. If you use spiral blades for your scrollsaw, you can cut the teeth with extreme precision. All of the small parts should be drilled before cutting them out, because at this point they can be held more securely. To align the holes of the gear, the small pinion and the spacer, you can use a drill bit again, photo 5. These parts can then be added to the frame, photo 6.

Over a barrel

The winding barrel, as its name suggests, is where the cord is wound up, and from which the weight is suspended. It is designed as a sandwich wheel, consisting of several layers. You need to drill three holes for the pins of the ratchet mechanism into the face of this wheel, photo 7. The three ratchets, photo 9, ensure that the weight is firmly connected to the going train. If you wind up the clock, the ratchet releases the connection and you can then pull the weight without moving the other gears. Fit them in place on the frame, photo 9.

A swinging time

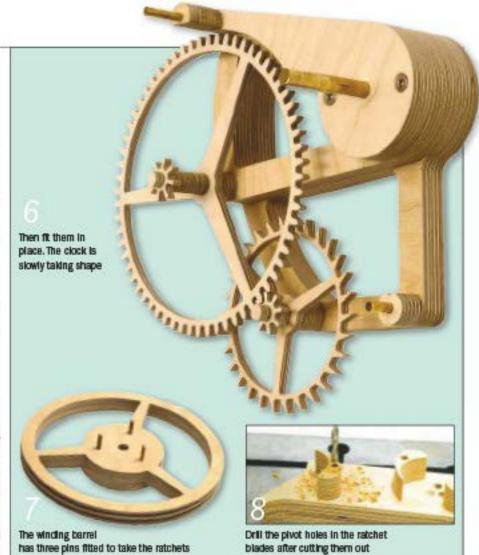
The pendulum regulates the time impulses of the clock. My construction of the bob also employs a sandwich technique. Drill a hole in the end of the central section after cutting it to shape, photo 10. The middle part of the sandwich is hollow so that lead shot can be poured into it, photo 11. These very small lead balls are available from diving and sailing suppliers, who sell them to make up ballast bags and the like.

The pendulum also needs to be adjustable, so I have included a threaded rod at the bottom for calibration, it is Important to get the centre of gravity as low as possible. The threaded rod is screwed. into the bottom of the pendulum shaft, which is then fitted into the pendulum bob, photo 12.

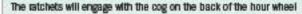
You'll note that the top of the pendulum shaft terminates in a special head which is the last piece of the pendulum to be fitted. This incorporates a V-shaped pin which reduces the friction of the pendulum as it swings, photo 13. The finished pendulum can now be fitted to the frame, photo 14.

A vital link

The anchor connects the pendulum with the escape wheel, and is consequently a very









The end of the pendulum bob is drilled to take the adjuster rod



The hollow central section of the bob is filled with lead shot...



...before being assembled and fixed to the pendulum shaft



The pendulum head has a V-shaped Internal pin to reduce friction



The anchor is drilled to accept the two small adjusting grub screws

These can be accessed from each side of the anchor...





...and adjusted to bear against the peg on the pendulum





The ratchet cog wheel is fixed to the back of the hour wheel



The hour wheel can now be set in position; note the fixed hour hand



important part of the mechanism, photo 15. To calibrate the anchor easily, two small grub screws are set into the end which attaches to the pendulum, photo 16. A tap (and die) can be used to make the threads, or you can simply drive the screws directly into a pilot hole. With the anchor fitted, photo 17, the clock gets another step closer to completion.

Telling the time

As this clock has a fixed hour hand, the dial of the clock has to rotate twice every day. That's the reason the dial is also known as the hour wheel

The ratchet wheel is fixed to the back of the hour wheel, photo 19, and is glued in place after a drill bit has been used to align the two holes. The hour wheel can now be fitted to the clock, followed by the hour hand which is fixed in place and allows the dial to rotate behind it, photo 19.

Carry that weight

Rotara needs two weights to function fully, photo 20. The bigger one is the drive weight; this exerts a constant gravity-aided force on the winding barrel which is transferred to the going train and drives the whole mechanism. I've made the drive weight from acrylic tube so you can see the lead balls, but you could make it in any shape or material you prefer.

The small one acts as a counterweight, and ensures that the winding barrel winds up the loose end of the cord clearly and without tangles.

The clock is now complete, but you may want to apply a finish. Contrasting stains are always a good idea, and can highlight the various components. Paint is an alternative, but it should only be applied very sparingly. Aerosol paint is a possible option as it will avoid clogging up the workings and undoing all your hard work!

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to see the clock being. made, visit my YouTube channel

(youtube.com/user/holzmechanik). You can buy the plans at my website www.holzmechanik.de They are in English and German, and consist of building instructions, a materials list with reference sources, assembly drawings and part drawings. You can print most parts at full size for ease of cutting. If you want to make the parts with a CNC machine, I can send you the digital duf file too.



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BY ANDY STANDING

perfect fit

Door hanging is an exacting process that shouldn't be rushed, but approached methodically to achieve the best result. There are many types of door hinge available; in this feature we're concentrating on traditional butt hinges

he majority of hinges are made from either steel or brass. Steel is the cheaper material and is normally used for general joinery applications, such as hanging house doors and windows. Traditionally the brass butt hinge is used in high-quality furniture applications. There are good reasons for this. It won't rust and is generally unaffected by temperature or humidity. An extruded brass hinge will be strong and precisely made, with accurately drilled, square-edged leaves and a tight hinge pin. Cheaper hinges tend to be made to a lower specification, with uneven leaves

and loose hinge pins; these can cause problems both during fitting and in use.

Butt hinges must be recessed into both the frame and the door for appearance and maximum strength. Flush hinges, on the other hand, don't need to be recessed and so are easier to fit. However, they're also considerably weaker than the equivalent butt hinge, and so are generally used only for lightweight applications.

Size and place

It's also important to select the correct hinge size. This is dictated by the thickness



Start by marking out the hinge positions on the door. Use a try square to line up with the edge of the rail and mark the position with a scalpel or marking knife



Place the hinge on the door against this mark and butt the try square up against it. Remove the hinge and make a second mark to show the precise length of the hinge on the door



Take a marking gauge and set it to a fraction short of the full width of the hinge leaf. This means that the hinge knuckle will stand a little proud of the front, ensuring that the door will open through 180° without fouling the frame



Use a second marking gauge to set the thickness of the leaf. Don't set it too deep; otherwise the door will bind in the frame. Brass butt hinges usually have tapered leaves, with the thickest point being close to the knuckle. Set your gauge close to this



Use the first marking gauge to mark the hinge width on the door edge



Switch to the second marking gauge and use this to mark the depth of the recess on the face of the door

USING A ROUTER

Recessing hinges is a job that a router will do extremely well. It is easy to set up and quick to use. If you use the same size of hinges a lot, then you can make up a dedicated Jig to speed up the process, though this is not entirely necessary. A router fitted with a side fence and a straight cutter of around 18mm in diameter will be ideal. Start by marking out the hinge position as before.



1 Stand the router on the door edge and plunge the cutter so it is just in contact with the door. Set the side fence so that the edge of the cutter will just reach the marked line at the rear of the recess



2 Without releasing the router plunge mechanism, remove it from the door and set the depth of cut by sandwiching a hinge leaf between the turret and the depth setting rod



3 Using this setting, carefully rout out the recess. Make sure that you don't run over the lines. Square off the rounded corners of the recess with a chisel



4 As there is little support for the router on the door edge, it's all too easy to let it tip and consequently make an inaccurate cut. Make a simple right-angled support out of scrap mdf or plywood and clamp this to the door as shown



5 Here is a simple Jig for hinge recessing. To use It the router is fitted with a straight cutter and guidebush, and the size of the aperture is governed by this. Make the top plate wide to give the machine support, and screw a batten underneath so that it can be cramped to the door

of the door. The hinge leaf should be wide enough to sit neatly on the door, leaving a minimum of around 3mm of timber at the back. The fixing holes should be as close to the centre line of the door stile as possible.

Once you have the correct hinge, where should you place it, and how many do you need? For the majority of applications, two hinges are enough. Occasionally, on a very heavy door, a third hinge may be added for extra strength. Traditionally door hinges are placed about 150mm from the top of the door and 228mm up from the bottom. If the door is panelled they can be lined up with the edges of the ralls.

Before you begin

To give yourself the best possible chance of success, both the door and frame should be perfectly square and flat. Carefully plane the door edge until it fits into the frame with a small clearance all round. Once the hinges have been fitted and the door has been temporarily hung it will be easier to adjust the gap to sult, but keep it small to

Before fitting your hinges, make sure that they are also flat and square. Dress any rough edges with a file if necessary, and gently run a countersink bit into the screw holes to make sure that the screw heads will sit flush. Brass hinges can be cleaned before fitting with a piece of 320-grit abrasive paper.

Here is a set of instructions for hanging a door using standard butt hinges, in some circumstances makers may choose to angle the hinge more towards the door or the frame, perhaps to blend in with a moulded edge. Here both leaves are equally recessed, which is the normal practice.

Open the hinges and offer the door up to the frame. Use a plece of folded abrasive paper as a shim under the bottom of the hanging stile to position it. Mark the hinge positions on the frame face with a marking knife. Remove the door and square off the marks with the try square. Now use your two gauges on the frame and remove the waste as before, with a chisel, Test-fit the door





To make it easier to see the gauge marks, run a sharpened pencil along the marked lines



Pare out the waste with a wide chisel, finally working up to the marked lines. Clean up the recess so its base is level



Drill pilot holes for the screws. Use a selfcentring drill bit as shown, to ensure that the holes are centred in the countersinks

Hang the door with just one central screw in each hinge at this stage. Now is the time to check the gap around the door and to even it up if necessary. Try to keep It as small as possible. When all adjustments have been made, 1t the remaining screws to the hinges and close the door





Start removing the waste by making a series of parallel cuts across the grain with a chisel. Keep them shallow and be careful not to run over any of the marked lines.



Place the hinge leaf in the recess to check its fit, and trim away wood if necessary so it fits flush with the wood. Make sure the knuckle is clear of the door edge



Alternatively, run a countersink bit lightly into each countersink to mark the pilot hole position before drilling it with a twist drill bit. Fit the hinges to the door with just the middle screw

Close the door. The hinge knuckle is just proud of the door face and parallel to its edge. There should be an even clearance gap all round the door





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Apto shoe rack

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

In our ongoing search for new takes on old ideas. The Woodworker has great pleasure in presenting this unusual piece of furniture from a new maker; may It inspire us all to explore things further!...

e interact with products all the time, from smacking the button on the moming alarm clock to flicking the light switch off before we go to bed. Everyday products are some of the most helpful and important things we use, but we tend to notice them only when they fall.

A product group which stuck in my mind as falling time and time again was flat-pack furniture. Whether it was the awkward fittings and fixtures, the instruction leaflet or even just the quality of the product, I wanted to try changing the stigmas around this range of furniture.

The result of my project is a modular flat-pack furniture range, which consists of a shoe rack, a coffee table and two side tables. The shoe rack just has a top added to make the coffee table, and the top and dowel is cut to create the two side tables.

A pipe dream

The initial use of copper plumbing pipe and fittings seemed to happen by accident. I was looking for a simple and quick way to create a curve within the modelling stage of my design. To my amazement, the fittings did the job perfectly and it led me to think of



The ash dowels had a rough finish and needed a lot of hand sanding



The 15mm diameter holes for the cross bars were bored with a flat wood bit.



I went for a high polish and a coat of lacquer on all the copper fittings



A gentle tap with a hammer ensured that the fittings were fully seated



The cross bars were glued into their drilled holes in the two long side rails

I assembled each rack section in turn, checking that the rails were perfectly parallel



how I could develop furniture by using only off-the-shelf parts. I wanted to use these as it would not only make the flat-pack range cheap, but also easy to make and repair.

Choosing sizes

I started to do a bit of digging into the standard diameters of wood dowel, and also the different sizes and types of pipe fitting that were readily available. I used 15 and 22mm capillary pipe fittings (the slimline type that are soldered on) as you can purchase them from your local DIY store without any hassle.

I opted for ash dowel due its affordability, sustainability and its lightweight properties. I've used 22, 15 and 9.5mm diameter dowel for the project.

Minimising waste

My first step was cutting the dowel to length and ensuring that there wasn't much waste. I decided on four 600mm lengths of 22mm dowel for the shoe rack, with 300mm spare. I then used these 300mm lengths to produce the side table prototype.

The 15mm dowel needed to be cut for the cross bars; I could get three per length with 100mm waste. For the shoe rack and side table, I needed fifteen lengths overall, which were cut out of five 1m lengths and left me with 500mm waste.

The 9.5mm dowel was the last to be cut: I needed 300mm dowel lengths and used 2m for this project. Out of the entire dowel I had 1m of waste, which didn't seem bad considering I was making three pieces of furniture.

Collecting components

This piece is made from four 1m lengths of 22mm dowel, drilled and ready for the cross bars - ten 300mm pieces of 15mm dowel. As for the pipe fittings, you need four 22mm tees and elbows, and of course some 22mm diameter copper pipe.

Since I like to do all my cutting at once, I used a table saw to cut mdf tabletops, which were then veneered on both sides. I didn't use solid ash as I would have had to plane it to 12mm thick and this just seemed like a. waste of ash. The veneer was stuck on with cold-press veneer glue and left for 24 hours in the press. This was a good job done and allowed me to move onto the next stage.

Precision drilling

Drilling the holes was the next thing to be done on the 22mm dowel. It was important that the holes were exactly 63mm apart, starting from the centre. I started off by holding each length in a vice, finding the centre on each end and drawing a line through it. This would allow me to draw a

straight line along the dowel. Each hole had to be on the same line so it would match up to its other half. After all four lengths were marked, I used a 15mm flat drill bit to create the holes. To ensure that each was the same depth I set the drill stop at 7.5mm. This meant that I could drill all the holes at once and ensure they were the same.

Sanding and sticking

As the dowel came rough from the store and not exactly 15mm in diameter, it had to be sanded. Each piece had to be done individually so I could fit the pipe fitting to the end and the cross bars to the holes. I did this by hand, but wish I'd just used the lathe as it would have saved me a lot of time and would have created an even smoother finish on the piece.

I wanted the dowel to be a snug fit so glue was optional. However, it made sense for me to glue them, as I knew they weren't coming apart. I used wood glue for all the pieces, including the pipe fittings. I tried and tested a lot of different glues, including superglue and epoxy resin, but wood glue worked just as well. It also allowed me time to move the fittings into the correct position without it drying too guickly. I cramped each of the rack sections while they were drying to ensure the joints were tight.

Professional help

While the rack sections were drying i concentrated on the copper sections and fittings. I did have some help from a coppersmith, who happened to be my grandfather. He taught me about the properties of copper and what would happen during the bending stage. You can see where the copper has been bent and put through its paces as it compresses and expands, and for me, it makes the piece. It adds character and individuality to the range, which can sometimes be lost within flat-pack pieces.

I went for a high polish on all the copper fittings and base, which were then given a coat of clear lacquer; this would help stop the copper from tamishing over time.

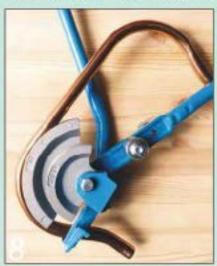
Finishing touches

After adding ash strip wood and copper strips around the various tabletops, the pieces were nearing completion. All that was left to do was to assemble them and wax the wood, using a white wax. I wanted to keep the ash as creamy as possible as it gave a good contrast to the high shine on the copper.

The simplicity of the pieces shows that flat-pack doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. All it needs is good-quality materials, simplicity and affordability.



I them cramped each rack and set it aside for the glue to harden



A pipe bending machine was essential for forming the gentle curves on the feet ...



...and to ensure that the two curved sections were perfectly symmetrical



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For five years in the late 1990s Gareth worked for one of the largest woodworking machinery suppliers in the UK as Sales Manager, and later as Export Sales Manager.

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BY PETER BISHOP

The chair doctor

If you've got an old favourite chair that's past its best or has been damaged, you've probably wondered whether to scrap it or try to repair it. This series of short pieces will help you to tackle some of the more common repairs

> hairs: I hate them! If I'm asked to make one, the enquirer looks bemused at the price quoted; they simply don't understand how many joints, thus man hours, are involved in making one. And, to pour oil on the fire, I always seem to be inundated with chair repairs whichever way I look. So I thought, how about showing what can be done to bring

back to life something that would otherwise be junked. The result is as follows; a series of short pieces telling you how I've overcome a few of the problems taced and created some solutions, it's quite challenging but, in the end, very satisfying to repair something that might otherwise have been thrown out.



1. The break had clearly been got at before. I started by drilling the hole for the secret bolt



2 Once the bolt was inserted and tightened into its nut, I could plug and fill the various holes



3 Once the glue had dried I cut away the excess, trimmed the plugs and sanded the joint smooth



4 Although the rall has obviously been repaired, the chair will have many more years of life in it.

2: A TURNED KITCHEN CHAIR LEG

I bought an old kitchen carver chair at auction knowing it had a dodgy leg riddled with woodworm. It was fairly cheap because of this, but that didn't put me off. I knew I had some beech in stock and a lathe to turn out a new leg.

Back in the workshop the worm-ridden leg. just fell off. The first job was to minimise any further damage by the woodworm. Using a proprietary woodworm killer I gave the whole chair a liberal coating and left it to dry.

Turned and drilled

A length of 50mm square beech was soon mounted between centres on my lathe for the next stage. I quickly turned it to a cylinder the same diameter as the largest section of the old leg. Before turning the blank to its final shape, it's a good idea to drill out the round mortise sockets for the stretcher. Taking an angle off the existing leg. and stretcher I used a flat bit to bore this socket.



1. This is the well-wom and worm-ridden leg that needed replacing



2 The first job was to treat the whole chair with a liberal cost of woodworm fluid



3 A beech blank is roughly turned on the lathe and compared to the original

1: A WINDSOR CHAIR BACK

This particular chair was the worst one of several I sorted out for one customer. The break, in the back curve of the top rail, had been got at several times before. The evidence could be partly seen on the outside. Odd bits of filler and some solid pleces had been inserted, and there was probably some shrapnel hidden inside. What hadn't been addressed was that the rall was broken right through and needed stitching back together.

Time for reinforcement

Barrel nuts and bolts are a great solution when trying to pull joints or breaks back. together. The round barrel-like riut is inserted into one side of the break, at right angles to a bolt that comes into it from the other side. Once tightened up this will form, along with some glue, a pretty much unbreakable joint. You can buy sets of nuts and special bolts online, or use a barrel nut and a simple bolt as I do.

Siting the bolt

The first job was to decide where this nut-and-bolt arrangement would go through the break. Fortunately I was working on a comer bend, so the bolt could be inserted from the side and the nut, at right angles, in from the back. I'd had to drill out a couple of the old repairs and remove an odd screw or two so I had free access to drill the bolt hole; it just meant a bit more plugging later on!

Expanding adhesive

I find that an expanding foaming adhesive is great for these types of jobs. The one I use mainly is Gorlia Glue, which isn't cheap but is very effective. For this repair, once I had the barrel nut and bolt lined up, I dampened the break surfaces with a fine sprayer and wiped off the excess water. Gorilla Glue works quicker when there is moisture involved: the chemicals in it react to this. You have to make sure that the surfaces are not sodden, Just damp.

Having spread a little on the breaks, I then pulled the whole lot up together with the nut and bolt. The glue can expand up to ten times its liquid form so, as it changes structure it forces itself into any nearby cavities and out of the joint, thus filling and binding at the same time.

Plugging the holes

I'd got some plugs cut ready for the various holes I'd made. These were popped in and held in place with some G-cramps, to stop them coming out as the glue expanded in the hole. The repair was then left to work its chemical magic for several hours.

Later on all the excess glue was cleaned off and the plugs cut and sanded back. I now had a good, firm joint where the break had occurred. Some stain, sealer and polish finished the job off.

Matching the original

My objective was to turn a replacement leg as close to the original profile as possible. It's fairly easy to do this using a couple of gouges and a skew chisel, it doesn't really matter too much if it's not an exact match because most of these types of legs were turned by bodgers (rustic turners working in the woods) anyway. It's good to get some crisp turning and then, if you wish, knock the sharp edges off to mimic wear.

Trimming to fit

The new leg was soon fixed in place and, because I'd made it a little longer on purpose, I then marked around the bottom and trimmed it off so that the chair sat firmly on all four legs. Some stain, wax and a polish saw the job done. Did I make a profit when I resold it? Yes and no! I more than doubled my money, but this didn't really cover the cost of my time to fix it. Never mind; it was a bit of fun anyway!



4 it's important to get the angle of the stretcher mortise hole right



5 The replacement leg is turned and checked for detail against the original leg

6 The leg is turned slightly over-long to allow for some final trimming so it will stand level





1 This uphoistered chair was in a sorry state. Even the sound arm had a loose joint which had been repailed previously... and badly



3 A brace is cramped across the cut area to give it strength at this stage. Note the shrapnel!



6 The second section has also been cut out and replaced. Both are then trimmed back to shape



2 The vertical back rall had also apparently been patched and repaired several times before. I cut half of it away first



4 The first new half block is glued in place in the cut-out and securely cramped



6 Finally the original arm is secured with a secret barrel nut and bolt reinforcement

3: A PARTLY UPHOLSTERED CHAIR

One of our local wedding venues often ends up with damaged or broken furniture after the reveilers have left. On these occasions I'm asked to give an opinion on the viability of repair or, if it's too far gone, to recommend its scrapping.

A close examination

This repro mahogany chair still had some life in it, but certainly needed a bit of thought on how to patch it up. The angles and end grain where the back of one arm enters the side rail were broken off. There were a couple more loose joints but these were not going to be much of a challenge to put right.

The break had been got at before; I could see bits of filler and old round dowels poking out. I didn't think that the rail wood was sound enough to simply re-joint the arm to it. After scratching my head for a while I decided the only thing to do was to actually replace a section of this rail with new wood. I'd then have something to work with and could use my favourite barrel nut and bolt arrangement to sort the whole thing out.

A two-part approach

Rather than simply cut a section right out and try to joint a new one in, I went for a two-part approach. Sawing halfway through the rail and then chiselling out the waste was the first part. As I had weakened the joint I provided extra strength by using a clamped section of wood to support this area. Taking the waste out exposed more old screws and nails – the bane of my life! Eventually I'd created a bridge across the break into which I could secure a new piece of wood. Using Cascamite, a powdered resin glue, I then fixed and cramped the new piece in. This type of glue gives a result that's stronger than wood and also produces a rigid joint; it won't move like PVA does.

The second half

Once this first insert was in place and the glue had cured, I could work from the other side. Another, longer section was chopped out and a further overlapped piece fitted and glued in place. Later I was able to finish these inserts off to profile with a spokeshave.

The tenon on the arm was shot so I cut it off. I then worked out the angles for a bolt to enter the rail, from the back, and go into the arm to join up with the barrel riut set at right angles to it. After a bit of trial and error I got there in the end. More Gorilla Glue was applied to help fill the gaps and the bolt was tightened up. The other loose joints had some glue worked into them and these were then cramped up. A bit of stain, a wax and polish and another job was done.

4: MAKING A NEW SPLAT

This is another of those kitchen carver chair. projects. This one needed its splat - the centre section of the chair back - replaced, so I decided to copy a pattern from an old family chair I suppose you could call it a sort of lyre shape with its cut-outs. I found a piece of elm, took a pattern off the original and cut the blank out ready for the next stage.

Copying the curves

fd taken the back of the chair apart so I could pick up the curves from some of the existing slats. To shape the new splat I'd need to steam it to correspond to this curved profile. One large chunk of neutral non-staining hardwood was selected, the flowing curves marked and, in a smooth,

continuous bandsaw cut it was chopped through to make the former. These two halves would hold the steamed, pliable splat until it had cooled and set.



Steamers can be tricky. You need to be able to build up a good head of steam and heat Inside the chamber but not create a pressure vessel that might explode! Inside the chamber, there needs to be some sort. of racking system that allows the steam to circulate entirely round the workplece.

I'd made my chamber from an old length of large diameter heavy-duty tubing that I nicked off a scrapped lawnmower, A wooden disc was fixed in one end to seel it. A little steam does come out of here, but I chuck some old towels on to help keep it in.

Next to that is a sealed connection that fits onto my wallpaper stripper. At the inlet end I had another disc of wood with a handle and a small hole at the bottom. The hole was to alleviate any pressure build-up and encourage flow from the back end, where the steam goes in, up through and around the chamber to this escape hole.



1 I used a template to prepare the new splat. The original back supports (right) show the curve I needed to copy

2 A large block of hardwood is cut on the bandsaw to make a former that will follow the contours of the curved back supports



4 A wallpaper stripper produces the steam and a sealed metal tube makes the chamber



Once everything was set up, I filled up the stripper with water, attached it and turned it on. I slipped the splat into the chamber onto a couple of strategically placed supports. It didn't take long to build up a head of steam, and it was soon streaming out of the small exhaust hole. I left it alone, resisting the temptation to take a look inside!

I guess it was about 15 or 20 minutes later that I felt I'd done enough. With gloves on to avoid being burnt by the metal handle and scalded by the steam, I whipped the splat out and set it between the two formers. I whacked the whole lot into a vice and got some G-cramps on as well. Another test of patience ensued! I knew I had to leave it until it was entirely cold, so I tried to forget about it overnight.



Hey presto! The following morning it came out of the formers and was pretty much the exact shape I wanted: what a relief! I cleaned it up and sanded it, then stained it to match the rest of the chair and fixed it in place with all the other loose bits. The result (see page 53) looked pretty smart if I may say so myself!

More chair repairs next month...



3 The flat splat is placed inside my home-made steamer, supported on two blocks



5 The hot and pliable splat is fitted between the two former blocks and securely cramped up





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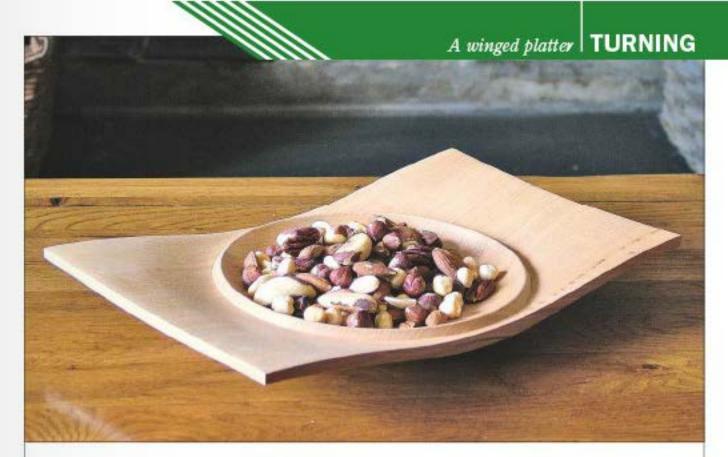




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A flatter platter

Say 'platter', and most people imagine a large circular dish. Most are round, but there's no reason why they shouldn't be square or rectangular instead. Turning one poses some new challenges, however

> ve had a 300 x 200 x 50mm beech offcut in my workshop for a couple of years. I've often looked at it, wondering whether to cut it into a 200mm bowl blank. but always decided that might be wasteful... besides which a big beech bowl could look guite bland. So I finally decided to use it to turn this rectangular platter.

Hit and miss

Many of the tool techniques used here are the same as those for a conventional bowl, but there are some differences. Firstly, as the blank rotates the tools will sometimes be cutting solid wood and then thin air. It's therefore essential not to rub the bevel hard against the wood; a gentle caressing of the bevel is all that's needed.

The other warning I must give is to keep the whole of your leading hand, including your fingers, behind the toolrest. I know that sounds obvious, but some turners like to wrap their fingers over the toolrest when holding the tool, photo 1. Don't do this! If you do, sooner or later you will get a very nasty rap on the fingers as the wood comes round and hits them.

Getting ready

It's a good idea to tidy up the edges of the blank before you start turning. I used my power planer to square it up, photo 2, before marking the centre of the top of the blank and screwing my faceplate to it, photo 3.

Mount the blank on the lathe and position the toolrest across the face. When the piece



Avoid this technique of supporting the tool If you want to keep your Ingers Intact!



True up the edges of your blank with a power or hand plane before you start turning



Mark the centre of the top of the piece and screw the faceplate on



Stick masking tape to the toolrest so you know where the rotating wings will pass it



Make an initial pull cut to flatten the blank using a fingemall grind bowl gouge



Next, mark and cut the chuck recess and the bowl foot with a parting tool...



...and undercut the recess to form a dovetall with a skew chisel held on its side



Starting near the wings, use a bowl gouge to start removing the waste wood



Work back towards the foot with a series of gentle cuts to create an ogee shape



You can see here that the shape is coming, but a little more refinement is needed



Use the bottom wing of the gouge to shear-cut the wood and remove any ridges



Alternatively, you can use a round nosed scraper, but the finish won't be as good

is rotating, it's sometimes difficult to see its extremities, so I like to mark my toolrest with masking tape where the corners of the rectangle will pass it, photo 4.

Making a start

My first cut is a pull cut made with a fingernal grind bowl gouge, photo 5, and is used to flatten off the bottom of the bowl. Next, I mark and out a recess for my chuck using a parting tool, photo 6.1 also cut a 4mm groove to the left of this recess. This will become a shallow foot for my bowl. Undercut the chucking recess to make the dovetall using a skew chisel on its side, photo 7.

Now you can start shaping the outside. I wanted a smooth ogee curve on the outside of my bowl. Start near the wings and make small cuts with the bowl gouge to remove the waste wood, photo 8. I'm using a bevel-supported cut here and cutting on the tip of the gouge. Keep taking gentle cuts and caress the bevel, working back towards the foot, photo 9.

Changing tools

The observant among you will have noticed that I've switched to a conventional ground bowl gouge at this point. Even with light pressure on the bevel, I was getting too much knocking as the wood came round and struck it twice during each revolution. The conventional grind has a smaller bevel behind the cutting edge, and this reduced the problem.

Stop the lathe frequently to assess your progress, photo 10. Here the shape is coming, but I still want to refine it a little. When you're happy with the outside shape, use the fingernall gouge to shear-cut the surface and remove any ridges, photo 11. Try to move the tool slowly and smoothly across the wood and again, don't push hard into the surface. With practice this shear cut should give you a very good surface. Alternatively, you can use a round-nosed scraper, photo 12 but I don't think this gives such a good finish.

Hand or power

Sand the piece next. I prefer power sanding, photo 13, but there is a danger of rounding over the two leading edges of the wings when doing this. To reduce this danger, try to keep the sanding disc as vertical as possible.

If power sanding isn't for you, hand-sand the solid part of the bowl, photo 14, using one hand to support your other wrist. Don't be tempted to hand-sand the wings with the plece revolving; it will hurt. Instead, stop the lathe and sand it by hand, working with the grain, photo 15.



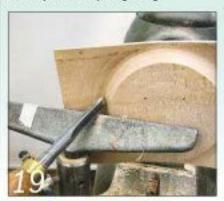
Power-sand the surface with the sanding disc held almost vertical



...and then switch off the lathe before handsanding the wings, working with the grain



I find that placing some dark card behind the work helps to show up the ghosting



Keep the gouge well over on its side to prevent a dig-in from happening



If you prefer, you can hand-sand the solid part of the bowl while it rotates...



Use a bowl gouge to shape the wings, Leave the wood in the centre for stability



This photo shows that the wall near the centre of the platter needs to be much thinner



Again use the bottom wing of the fingernal gouge (or a scraper) to shear-cut the wings

TURNING | A winged platter



This photo shows the bowl with the wings finished to a uniform thickness throughout



All that's left to do is to hollow out the centre of the bowl in the conventional way



Use double-ended callipers to measure the wall thickness at the centre of the bowl



Sand the bowl, and don't forget about the edges, but turn the lathe off first!

A cunning plan

Polish the back of the piece; then remove it from the lathe, unscrew the faceplate, turn it round and mount it back on the chuck. Bowls are normally hollowed by starting in the centre and working out towards the rim. However, I wanted the wings on this piece to be quite thin; if I hollowed in the normal way they would be liable to flex as I cut them. To avoid this, keep the centre of the bowl solid; this mass will help to support the wings as you shape them. Curning, eh?

Creating the wings

Start at the tip of the wings and make gentle cuts towards the middle, photo 16. Photo 17 shows the same cut but from a different angle, it also shows a dark piece of cardboard that I've put on the lathe bed to help me see the wings as they rotate. As with the back of the bowl, keep stopping the lathe to monitor your progress. Try to achieve an even wall thickness or a slight tapering of the walls towards the wings. Photo 18 shows that the wall becomes much thicker nearer the centre, so more wood needs to come off here.

As you cut down the wings towards the centre, you need to be careful not to let the gouge hit the wall of wood you have left for stability. Keep the gouge well over on its side to prevent this from happening, photo 19. You can see here that the bottom wing of the gouge is away from the wall of wood, but if the tool hadn't been on its side that wing would have dug in.

Final hollowing

Shear-cut the wings using the fingernall bowl gouge, photo 20, or use a scraper if you prefer. Photo 21 shows the completed wings, and all that's left to do is to hollow out the centre of the bowl in the conventional way, photo 22. Use double-ended callipers to check the wall thickness. Here, photo 23. I'm using one leg of the callipers between the chuck jaws so I can get into the chucking recess and get a more accurate reading.

When the hollowing is complete, sand the bowl, finish the edges by hand with the lathe off, photo 24, and polish it. I think you'll agree that the finished piece is far more of an eye catcher than the standard round bowl I was almost tempted to make from this beach official.

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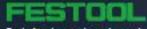




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Turned to a T

Here's a little turning project that will take no more than a few hours to execute and will use up a few of your offcuts. It will also make a lovely present for any toddlers in your family

y sister-in-law had difficulty in finding a small tea set for her toddler granddaughter. The plastic versions were not to her liking, and the child was too young for a china set which would soon get broken. I've made lots of toy wooden mugs, teapots, saucepans and casseroles over the years, so this was a good excuse to update my designs and make some more!

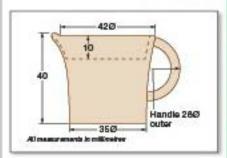
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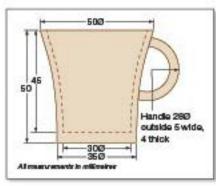
olds who love to have pretend tea parties for their dolls and teddles. You don't need any expensive equipment to make it, and everything shown in this project can be turned on a small lathe such as the Jet Midi.

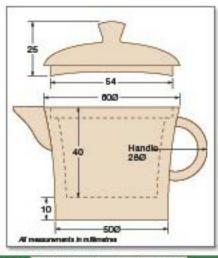
With these more unusual woodturning projects, I hope to foster an interest in what can be produced on a lathe in an Imaginative and fun way. Even quite young children can be involved in the choice of colour and decoration.

DESIGN TIPS

- Anything designed for a young child should be robust, and wooden items need to be smooth and splinter-free. I don't use any screws or nails, but rely on glue and wooden dowels. Any paints used should be labelled as safe to use for toys.
- I've chosen to turn mugs rather than cups because they're more familiar to today's children. However, it's a simple matter to reduce the height slightly to make a cup, and to turn a saucer as a smaller version of the plate if this is preferred.
- All the handles need to be strong. They could be solid, but I think that looks clumsy and I decided to turn rings for them. They're cut in half and secured with bamboo dowels and Gorilla superglue. I've tried to break this joint without success, so I'm confident that it will survive guite rough play!















TOOLS AND MATERIALS

I've used Robert Sorby's modular turning tools throughout this project, photo A. Photo B shows the carousel I made a while ago (see the December 2012 issue of The Woodworker) to hold a selection of blades with the handle stored on top; it's proved to be very useful. The blades slope inwards so there's no risk of them falling out, and the clear acrylic disc protects the fingers from the sharp tips of the tools.

I also used the new Record 2000 chuck which I tested in the August 2014 issue. It continues to perform very well, both in expansion and contraction, and it particularly suits these small projects. It's useful to make a small gauge to ensure accurate spigot sizes for a particular set of chuck laws, photo C, and to store it with the chuck to save time in the future; the gauge shown here is for the standard laws.

Choosing wood

It's best to select light-coloured woods such as sycamore or lime which are fault-free, close-grained and will sand to a smooth finish. I can't resist these £5 bags of offcuts (plus one bag free in the case of the lime) from Ockenden Timber, photo D, which are very suitable for these small projects.

You will need to prepare blanks as follows:

mugs, sugar bowl and jug 50 x 50 x 70mm teapot body 70 x 70 x 70mm ■ teapot lld 70 x 70 x 45mm plate 100 x 100 x 20mm

These sizes are only a guide and you may wish to make them bigger. However, I don't recommend that you go any smaller.

MAKING THE MUG, SUGAR BOWL & JUG

All these Items are drilled out and turned in a similar way to start with. Beginning with a mug, turn a blank to a cylinder between centres and form a spigot at one end to suit the chuck jaws you intend to use. Mount the blank in the chuck laws, tighten up and face off. The paper red dot on the chuck jaws and blank ensures rechucking will be accurate, photo 1.

With a 25mm saw-tooth Forstner bit fitted in the talistock, photo 2, dril the blank to a depth of 40mm to remove most of the wood from the inside of the mug. Remember to reduce the lathe speed for this operation or the wood will overheat and burn.

Shaping the mug

Shape the outside of the mugs with a gouge, photo 2, aiming for a top diameter of 50mm tapering down to 35mm diameter at the base. You're looking for a wall thickness of about 5mm.

Flemove more wood from the inside if necessary and widen out the rim using a beading tool, photo 4 - but don't make the edge sharp. Sand the work very thoroughly to a smooth finish. Remember to hold the abrasive under the revolving wood and keep it moving to avoid sanding marks and burning.

Partially part off to give a 50mm tall mug and then cut the final wood through with a fine-toothed saw, photo 5. The lathe must be stationary while you do this! If you're turning a set of mugs, make sure they match in size before parting each one off, photo 6. Finally, sand the bottom so that the mug stands absolutely flat, photo 7.

Making the sugar bowl

This needs to be shallower than the mug. The edge can be scalloped with a file or a small drum sander for added decoration. Don't drill the hole too deep; then the basin will appear full of sugar when it's decorated.

Making the jug

Drill the jug blank to a depth of just 10mm, leaving sufficient wood to be painted later to simulate milk. Shape the outside as before. Then turn a band 6mm wide and 4mm thick around the rim. Part off the work to give an overall height of 40mm. Take the blank off the lathe, mark out the position of the pouring lip and out away the surplus wood around it; this can be done on a powered fretsaw, as shown in photo 9.

Photo 9 shows the band cut away, leaving just the pouring lip. The next stage is to sand away the cut edges until they are smooth. Use a small file or sanding drum to shape the lip.



1 Mount the mug blank in the chuck laws, tighten them up and face it off



3 Shape the outside of the mug, tapering down to 35mm diameter at the base



5 Partially part off the mug and finish the cut with a fine-toothed saw



7 Finally sand the bottom so that the mug stands absolutely flat



8 Mark the position of the pouring lip on the jug and cut away the surplus wood...



2 Drill the blank to a depth of 40mm with a 25mm saw-tooth Forstner bit



4 Widen out the rim using a beading tool, but don't make the edge sharp



6 If you're turning a set of mugs, make sure they all match in size



9 ...to leave just the pouring lip. Shape it and sand all the cut edges smooth

MAKING THE TEAPOT

The teapot is hollowed out to produce an interior 48mm in diameter and 40mm deep. Turn the outside first to give a flared shape 60mm in diameter at the top and 50mm at the base. Then hollow out the interior and form a rebate 54mm in diameter and 5mm deep on the inside of the rim to take the teapot lid, photo 1. Part it off.

Next, mount a blank for the lid. Drill a suitable hole first for the chuck jaws in expansion. Then turn a spigot on the underside of the lid which will fit comfortably into the top of the teapot, photo 2. Make sure the spigot is deep enough to engage securely in the teapot recess, photo 3; check that it isn't too tight.

Push the teapor fully home onto the lid spigor and draw round the circumference of the pot, photo 4. Then turn the outside of the lid down to the pencil line so it matches the outer diameter of the pot, photo 5.

Now reverse the lid so it's held in the chuck jaws and turn the top into a dome shape and an integral knob, photo 6. Then part off the lid and cut through the remaining wood with a fine saw. This completes the turning for the teapot, photo 7.

Fashion a spout with a pouring channel from a small block of wood and fit it at the top edge of the pot. Supergiue this in position and insert a thin bamboo dowel at the base for extra strength. Carefully file the upper surface of the teapot to match the spout, photo 9.



1 Hollow out the interior and form a shallow rebate to take the teapot lid



2 Turn a spigot on the underside of the lid blank to fit into the top of the pot

4 Push the pot onto the lid spigot and draw

a line round the pot circumference



3 The spigot must be deep enough to fit securely in the teapot recess



7 Part off the finished lid and check its fit within the teapot recess



8 Shape a spout from scrap wood and glue it to the edge of the pot

6 Reverse the Ild

and turn the top

with a knob

Into a dome shape





FINISHING TOUCHES

To make the handles for the mugs, jug and teapot, turn a cylinder 28mm in diameter, and drill a 24mm hole through the centre, photo 1. Mark off a series of rings 4mm wide on the cylinder, photo 2. Shape aring using a beading tool. Then part it off, photo 3, and repeat the process to create as many rings as you need.

Now cut a ring in half and drill a hole in each end to take a short bamboo dowel. Orlil matching holes in the side of the mug, Insert the dowels and attach the handle with superglue, photo 4.

To make the plates, face off a 100mm diameter blank and turn a recess for the chuck jaws. Reverse the partially turned plate, tighten up the jaws and turn to shape with a slightly raised edge.

Give all the finished pieces a final sanding and decorate them as you wish with child-safe paints. Add some decorative transfers too if you wish, as shown in the photograph on page 65.

Finally, to make the tea party even more fun, you could make some wooden cakes and biscults and a stand to display them. on. To find out how they're made, see pages 55-58 in the February 2013 issue of The Woodworker.

1 To make the handles, turn a cylinder and drill out its centre



2 Mark off a series of rings 4mm wide along the cylinder



3 Shape a ring using a beading tool and part it off, Repeat as necessary.



4 Cut each ring In half to form a handle. Then drill small holes for the bamboo dowels and glue the handle on



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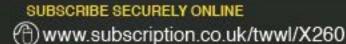
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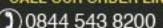
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Wood River is fast becoming a rival to the established premium brands in the UK. These American chisels look like filling the gap between mainstream and high-end tools very well

Wood River 6-piece chisel set

A set of plastic-handled chisels will always have a place in any tool kit, especially when out and about. However, a decent set of wooden-haridled ones are always a pleasure to use when you're at the bench. Wood River has backed up its plane-making expertise with a decent set at an equally decent price;

this set of six works out at around £11.60 each, and that's without accounting for the smart wooden case they come in.

At first glance

These certainly look to be polished performers, with a well-finished blade free from machine marks and with a subtle satin sheen that slightly dubs the bevels for a soft.

> feel, matched with a tapered ferrule on the neck of the bublinga handle. Scoops in the handles give them a good feel in the hand and remove any sign of chunkiness, so they're comfortable for paring or knocking with a mailet.

Top steel

With a blade composition of chrome vanadium steel hardened to Rockwell Rc59-63, these chisels take a keen edge as well as feeling hard on the stone. The durability of the edge is decent as well, while the chrome

content will help to keep them free of rust. They aren't as hard as the A2 steels that

were so popular a while back; these slightly softer high carbon steels are quicker to hone and to retouch in a few seconds when you need to get back to work quickly.

Testing the tool

Using the 25mm as the test tool, the back needed a bit of work to get it flat enough to turn a wire edge. It showed a marginal hollow along the length that needed to be honed back to get the edge fully flat all the way across. Using a diamond stone it took just a few minutes to get it flat enough to form a full wire edge and hone it off. A further sweetening-up on a block of maple charged with Veritas green honing soap then gave a very keen edge.

Using maple as the test timber, a bit of end-grain paring to test the edge left a creamy polished finish as well as forming a full, crisp shaving. Striking the handle with a mailet is recommended for wooden-handled chisels, and the fine lands on these blades will serve well on joint fitting, so cutting and cleaning out dovetall waste is certainly an area where they will find their niche. AK

SPECIFICATION

CHISEL SIZES 44, %, 46, %, 44, % and 1 in HANDLES BLADES CRV (chrome vanadium) steel HARDNESS Rockwell Rc59-63

VERDICT

These are good-looking tools that perform well and come at a budget price.

PROS Excellent quality

- Fine lands (blade edges)
- Good edge retention
- Sturdy storage box

CONS Backs need a little work

PERFORMANCE



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The lands (the blade edges) taper finely ideal for cleaning into tight comers



The handle is big enough to be struck either with the palm or a mailet



Paring waste from housings is an area where these chisels work well



You can get very keen edges, which are essential for end-grain paring

If you want a general-purpose sprayer that's capable of applying a wide range of finishes from one unit, this looks an ideal option

Bosch PFS 3000-2 spraying system

Bosch describe this as their 'ALLpaint' system, capable of applying thinner finishes such as lacquers and wood stains as well both solvent- and water-based paints, it's aimed at the DIY end of the spectrum, but don't be fooled into thinking that Bosch have cut corners to achieve this; it's built to high standards, and is very easy to get to grips with, using the usual Bosch tool-free set-up.

This includes the hose that connects with a twist-lock bayonet fitting to both the air supply unit and the spray gun, as well as the finish container that locks in a similar fashion, so setting up, refilling and breaking down after the job is done is very quick and user-friendly.



The unit operates as an HVLP (high-volume low-pressure) sprayer. This allows the finish: to be applied with less bounce-back and keeps overspray down, so you use less material to get the finish you need.

Of course, you have to set the gun up correctly for the type of finish you're spraying, and while it doesn't have the adjustments found on professional setups, it still has the basics to alter the settings. All these user-operable controls are picked out in red so you can easily determine what parts are relevant to the tool operation.

Simple controls

On the gun itself a large rotating dial alters the airflow through the nozzle, with five stage indicators - 1 to 3 for 'wood' applications;

(lacquers, vamishes and stains), and 3 to 5 for 'wall' applications (thicker paint finishes and the like). In fact there are 16 clickable positions in all on the dial, so you can fine-tune the air supply through the nozzie quite precisely.

£100



The airflow can be altered by rotating the twist ring on the gun



The kit comes with interchangeable seals for the paint container



The air hom fits over the nozzle and is retained with a collar



Thinner fluids like this wood preserver go straight into the container



Thicker finishes have to be filtered first through the supplied sieve

On the air supply unit there's a slider that corresponds with the 'wood' and 'walf gun settings, so you can easily marry up the air unit to the gun once you've selected the finish you want to apply.

The gun also has a rotating front horn for horizontal, vertical and spot-pattern sprays, clicking into each position as you rotate it.

Using the unit

We sprayed some Cuprinol wood preserver first, and even on its lowest air setting it fired it on very quickly. Once it was dry we then oversprayed the treated timber with a Cuprinol Garden Shades finish. Coverage was excellent, giving a solid coat of colour, and once we had adjusted the airflow on the gun it produced a smooth finish without runs.

The gun is capable of coating up to two square metres per minute, so coverage is very quick indeed if you need it to be, but the trigger also allows additional control to apply mist coats - useful for feathering in close to another surface.

The shoulder strap on the air unit is brilliant for spraying larger areas, as it allows you to work at arm's length without the hose catching or stretching. On the downside, the power cable is pretty short so you're likely to need an extension cable in most instances. AK

SPECIFICATION

MOTOR	650W
CAPACITY	1 litre
DELIVERY	300ml/min
APPLICATION RATE	2sq m/mln
HOSE LENGTH	2m
WEIGHT	3.7kg
ACCESSORIES 2 nozzles, paint fiter, cleaning	brush, carrying strap

VERDICT

This is a cracking little unit for general-purpose spraying around the home and garden.

- PROS All-in-one system for most finishes
 - Easy to set up
 - Fast to clean
- CONS Not a gun for high-end work
 - Short power cable

VALUE FOR MONEY PERFORMANCE

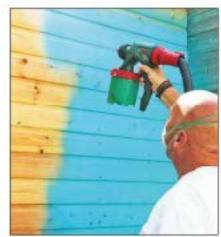
- Bosch 01895 838743
- www.boschpowertools.co.uk



The horn rotates for vertical, spot and horizontal spray patiems



A simple slider sets the air power flow rate through the gun



Coverage with a paint finish is quick and the coverage is excellent

This new saw is the successor to the original Makita LSO714 model, which featured a 190mm diameter blade. The new model has a larger blade, but does it do better in other departments apart from just cutting wood?



The original Makita LS0714 mitre saw suffered from limited depth of cut due to its 190mm diameter blade, so an upgrade to a 216mm diameter blade sounds very beneficial. Sadly though, while this saw cuts fauttlessly, its design is a stride in the wrong direction. For a start, it's made in China and looks a little rough around the edges. For a trade-rated machine it would have been better to look at the original LS0714 and build from that, opting for quality first.

Two steps back

There are two main areas where Makita has taken its eye off of the ball with this redesigned model. Firstly, the 'bar over bar' system to keep the saw compact and gain a smaller footprint has been ditched in favour of a pair of full-length bars that increase the back projection, requiring about 700mm of bench depth to allow the saw

The bearings are good though; the saw head runs freely and without slop, so the resulting cuts made during testing proved accurate in all three modes – 90° cuts, mitres and compound work. The increase in blade diameter also allows the saw to cut common 50mm thick carcassing timbers on a 45° tilt, so it becomes a saw capable of first- and second-fix work on site.

A disappointing laser

Other Makita tools have an excellent laser that fires across the face and down the front edge of the work and is also very easy to adjust to either side of the kerf line. Not here, though: this one is tucked at



You need about 700mm of space to allow the full-length bars to run their arc



This large wingnut handle is easy to operate for setting bevel cuts



The saw tilts to the left and the fence slides away to accommodate it



The ability to chop 50mm stock when tited at 45° is a big plus point

the back of the blade and, although it's adjustable, it's awkward to get at. On the test model it was in need of adjusting too, as the blade struck a couple of millimetres away from the laser line when the head descended.

What's more, this laser fires only across the face of the work. Makita is falling to realise just how good the original laser was, as you could pick up a mark on the front edge - exceptionally useful on mitre work, and a feature which this one won't achieve. This is a single-tilt machine, which is where the original laser design proved invaluable for picking up marks on the opposing face.

The laser is switchable, but most people tend to keep a laser on if it's accurate. Alongside is a further switch for the useful work light. However, the area around the switch box for both functions did seem to get a little hot if they were in use.

Now for the good news...

There are positives, though. The saw has the same simple but effective filostop trenching function for fast switching between full plunge cuts and trench cuts. Alongside this there's a good range of mitre angles, 50° to the left and 60° to the right, indented at the usual common angles.

For compound cuts you have to slide the fence away to gain room for the saw to swing through. There's an over-ride function on the compound tilt that gains an extra couple of degrees. You can go to 47° or alternatively you can tilt the head slightly to the right for a -2º undercut – useful for achieving very crisp butts on top edges.

Lastly, there's a soft-start motor so you don't get a crashing, jerking start-up.

Summing up

Although the ability of this saw to cut cleanly and accurately can't be disputed, the two design changes - the double bar and the different laser set-up - have altered our view of Makita as the manufacturer of the best small mitre saw on the market.

it would have made sense just to upgrade the old model to a bigger blade rather than going back to the drawing board and coming up with what is sadly an inferior machine. AK

SPECIFICATION

MOTOR		1400W
BLADE DIAMETER		216mm
NO-LOAD SPEED		5000rpm
MAX MITRE RANGE		50° left to 60° right
MAX BEVEL RANGE		
MAX CUTTING CAPACITY	at 90°	305 x 65mm
	at 45° x 90°	215 x 65mm
	at 45° x 45°	215 x 50mm
WEIGHT		14kg

VERDICT

This saw can't be faulted for its cutting performance, but the design is a step in the wrong direction.

- PROS Good capacities
 - Accurate cuts
 - Soft-start motor
- cows Laser not aligned to the blade
 - Long bars need additional work surface
 - Looks a little rough in some areas

VALUE FOR MONEY PERFORMANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Makita
- 01908 211678
- www.makitauk.com

Checking the cut on wider stock off the saw shows its accuracy





Mitre angles are set and locked with the large front handle



When the head descends you can see how far the laser is out of line



A couple of hooks for the storing the power cable on-board is a neat touch

One of the great advantages of a mortising machine such as this is that it will make repeat cuts with unfailing accuracy, and it also does so with considerable speed

Axminster AW16BMST2 bench mortiser

The column, base, and table assembly on this mortiser are all of cast Iron, which provides the total rigidity required even in a smallish machine. The base can be boited down if required. The table holds the adjustable work cramp, which can also be set at an angle so tapered components can be gripped.

Smooth operation

The movement of the head and the dual movements of the table all operate in dovetalled ways, and these can be adjusted for any possible slack that might develop over a period of long usage.

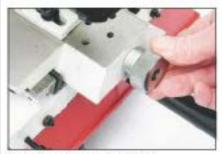
The forwards/backwards movement of the table is controlled by a good-sized knob, while the lateral movement is governed by the handwheel at the front. This wheel projects below the underside surface of the base, this means that when the machine is mounted: on a bench, packing must be introduced to raise it sufficiently for the fingers to operate the wheel freely. Alternatively, it must be positioned so that the wheel overhangs the front of the bench. Once the forward/backward position of the table has been established, it is secured in place with a small locking lever.

Stop and go

The lateral movement of the table can be limited by the stops at either side. These are useful for repetition work, and allow for a maximum mortise length of 170mm. The length of the table is a little on the small side at 180mm - adequate for short material as used by the furniture maker, but not for joinery work when work supports are really needed. The optional riser block kit might also be considered for larger work; this raises the column by 50mm and thus gives a greater height capacity.

The depth of the mortise can be controlled by the stops on the right-hand side of the column. This is essential when forming a





This knob controls the fore-and-aft movement of the table



The adjustable work cramp can be set for tapered workpleces



The depth of cut is controlled by stops on the side of the column



This mortiser can also be used as a pillar drill with an adapter fitted

stopped cut in thinnish wood, and when cutting haunches. This facility can be brought in and out of use in an instant.

Using the mortiser

We used the three sizes of chisels in the TIN set Axminster supplied (it's priced at £28.94) with the test machine to cut mortises to various depths in a variety of both softwoods and hardwoods. While cutting was easier in softwood, the machine coped adequately with hardwood too.

Using the quite advanced depth control system is simple enough. Not all mortises are formed as through joints, and it's essential that stopped mortises can be formed to the depth Intended.

This mortiser can also be used as a pillar drill, but long-shanked bits must be used, or the optional drill chuck and adapter obtained (It costs £21.95). It performed very well in this alternative mode of use, but the adaptor is essential when using engineers' pattern twist drills. Whatever this machine is being used for, a gas strut on the left-hand side of the column ensures the head is raised to its upper position after use.

Summing up

We found this machine to be very adequate in all the uses to which It was put. To have such a compact machine with a dual-movement. sliding table makes cutting mortises quick and simple. The power is more than enough, and mortises are created with a high level of accuracy. It makes hand cutting of mortises quite outdated, and mortise chisels almost museum pieces! GW

SPECIFICATION		
MOTOR		375W
MAX CHISEL CAPACITY		16mm
CHISEL STROKE		100mm
MAX WORKPIECE HEIGHT		110mm
	with riser block kit	160mm
MAX DISTANCE CHISEL TO FENCE		70mm
WEIGHT	100.000.00000	42kg
ACCESSORIES riser block ki	t (£9.44)	

VERDICT

This mortiser represents very good value for money, and will last not just a lifetime but several.

PROS Excellent quality

Smooth dovetall slides

Can hold tapered work

CONS Accepts chisels with 44in shanks only

Relatively short table

VALUE FOR MONEY PERFORMANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION Auminster 03332 406406 www.axminster.co.uk

The tests were carried out using Axminster's TIN-coated bits and chisels. These are avallable separately as well as in sets





The optional riser block kit adds 50mm to the column height



The lateral movement handwheel must overhang the front of the bench



The machine coped well with a range of typical mortising tasks





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The Snappy chuck is at the centre of this tool set, it fits into any power drill, and can also be mounted in the chuck of a bench drill. All the tools are housed in a fabric holder, with a dedicated storage spot for each one

Trend Snappy 60-piece tool set

The Snappy chuck allows for the almost instant changing of drilling and screwing tools covering a wide range of applications. It has an hexagonal shank that ensures a positive hold in the drill chuck. The spring-loaded sleeve of the chuck is simply pushed backwards, the tool required Inserted and the sleeve released to give a positive hold. The system allows for a quick Multiple drivers changeover from one drill diameter to another, or to the countersink, or to one of the many screwdriver bits when a variety of

A comprehensive selection

these are needed as the job demands.

There are four masonry bits, two auger bits and a range of five flat bits from 16 mm to 30 mm diameter. The seven twist drill bits are fitted with their own collet chuck which is mounted on a hexagonal shank to allow for mounting in the Snappy chuck.

Clever drill guides

Two drill guides are also included. These devices are designed to drill pilot holes when fitting hardware using countersunk screws. They incorporate a spring-loaded retractable sleeve with the end chamfered. This end is located in the hole in the fittings, then gentle pressure from the power drill causes the sleeve to retract and the bit to drill the required hole. The result is a pilot hole for the screw that's exactly centred. inside the screw holes on the fitting.

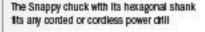
There is a massive assortment of driver bits to cover slotted, Pozidriv, Phillips, hexheaded and Torx flyings. These are designed to be used in the bit holder. another clever device. It's magnetic, and it also features a retractable sleeve. In use this sleeve can be withdrawn, and thus ensure that the bit remains fully located on the head of the screw. This is especially useful on screws with slotted heads.

The set also includes four nut drivers for nuts measuring 6, 8, 10 and 12mm across flats, and three square drive adapters.

All or nothing

It could be argued that there will be items included which might never be used. However, you often need a tool you can't







The set includes two drill guides, which are excellent when fitting hardware



The drill guide centres the screw hole when fitting a butt hinge



find, even in a well-equipped workshop. Having such a set can solve a problem and justify its existence even if it's only used occasionally. What's more, buying such a comprehensive range of tools is very economical compared with buying them separately. You get sixty items contained in a stout fabric holder for less than £2 each, and there's even a pencill GW

WHAT'S IN THE KIT

- Trend Snappy standard chuck
- Twist drill bits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6 and 7mm
- Drill countersinks: 2.5, 3.25 and 3.5mm
- Drill bit guides: Nos 6 and 8
- Flat wood bits: 16, 19, 22, 25 and 30mm
- Auger bits: 10 and 13mm
- Masonry drill bits: 5, 6, 7 and 8mm
- A huge range of nut and screwdriver bits
- A Trend Snappy pencil and belt strap

VERDICT

This set contains a tool for almost every purpose, at under £2 a throw!

PROS Comprehensive range

Tool holder keeps tools safe

cows You probably won't use everything

PERFORMANCE



- Trend
- 01923 249911
- www.trend-uk.com

Marking work out accurately is vital, and for smaller-scale tasks such as marking shoulder lines for dovetails and the like, a cutting gauge is the ideal choice

David Barron cutting gauge

This elegant cutting gauge forms part of a range of hand-made tools from David Barron that includes planes, mallets and dovetall templates. This particular one is made from macassar (Indian) ebony that has been soaked in linseed oil, gMing it a subtle satin sheen. Brass Inserts ensure secure connections and a long life for the tool



Classy engineering

Despite being quite a small tool – It's just 95mm long – It can cope with some quite big work if needed thanks to its generous backset. It's adjusted with the large knurled brass knob; a brass

bushing let in the stock ensures that the setting locks solidly, with a fibre washer allowing the gauge to be fine-tuned before locking it off tightly.

You can sometimes get away with a thread directly into certain timbers, but over time the threads can strip under constant adjustment. Therefore the bushing is certainly a sign of attention to detail. An identical bushing is fitted to the end of the stem to retain the cutting blade within its small housing, and this can be adjusted for depth of cut as required.

Comfort factor

The stem and stock are linked with another housing to keep them square to each other. The gauge is very comfortable to hold and use, with small indents in the back of the stock for the middle finger when you're gripping the stem with the index finger and thumb. Newer models now have additional sculpting indents to the stem for increased comfort.

Using the gauge

After gauging a few lines with the tool, one thing that immediately stands out is how easy it is to control, simply gliding across the work. A wheel gauge feels almost sticky by comparison because of the way it works.

If you are by habit a 'wrist roller' gauger, the flat profile needs to be held pretty flat as you drive it, but it's surprisingly easy to get to grips with. AK

VERDICT

This is a beautifully crafted little tool that's very accurate to set and a pleasure to use.

PROS Light and easy to control

- Made from quality materials
- Backset up to 74mm

CONS Rather expensive!

VALUE FOR MONEY | PERFORMANCE



- David Barron Furniture
- 02380 769644
- www.davidbarronfurniture.co.uk



The blade can be adjusted for depth or reversed using a screwdriver



...while the stock is gripped between finger and thumb for making the marks



Small scallops behind the stock are natural resting points for fingers...



it's a very controllable little gauge, running freely across the work

£360

Cordless circular saws are now powerful enough to perform just as well as their corded cousins, with ever more powerful batteries guaranteeing good run times too

DeWalt DCS391M2 circular saw

Although lacking any frills such as an LED light, this is a solidly built machine with a cast magnesium base, alloy upper guards and rubberised grips. The lower retractable guard is plastic so may be prone to damage, but it looks to be pretty durable.

The base has a 50° maximum tilt to compensate for any discrepancies on mitre work, locking at the front through a solidly constructed protractor scale. Depth of cut is set using the rear lever that allows the base to plvot and set the blade projection.

Unusual orientation

With its central switch the saw is easy to operate for both left- and right-handers. However, it's orientated differently to the majority, with the motor on the outboard side if you're a right-handed user.

In its favour there's no restriction in seeing the blade. However, for edgetrimming work many people kneel on the work to restrict its movement, which means the saw only has the narrow part of the base to hold it. Therefore, as a right-handed operative, to work with the base sitting with its widest area on the work you need to progress from left to right. The machine's compact size makes single-handed

operation easy, but there is a front handle for additional safety. With no rMng knile, the front grip should be used in situations where the chances of kickback are increased.

Using the saw

We put the saw to work on 19mm Sterling board as well as ripping cuts on 45mm thick pine. While it isn't as powerful as a mains model of similar specification, it still put in a superb performance.

Even so, there are times when you can work any tool too hard, and DeWalt has accounted for overheating of the battery pack or overloading the saw tiself with some excellent protection circuitry. This certainly works; we pushed the saw hard a couple of times and it kicked in, stopping the saw immediately; it reset Itself a few seconds later so work could resume

Battery runtime

There's certainly enough power in the tank on these 4.0Ah batteries to put this saw high on anyone's agenda and to consign another mains power tool to the back burner. A 5.0Ah battery is on the way. AK



ACCESSORIES two batteries, charger, carry case



The solidly cast base includes a protractor scale for locking cutting angles



The lower retractable guard is plastic but appears to be durable



Cutting depths are selected and locked in position with this lear lever



Cutting notches in 45mm stock was well within the saw's capabilities

VERDICT

WEIGHT

This is a basic but well-constructed and powerful saw that's particularly sultable for converting sheet materials.

PROS Solidly built

Powerful

Overload protection circuitry

at 45°

42mm 3.8kg

cows Basic specification

 Blade orientation may not suit some users

PERFORMANCE



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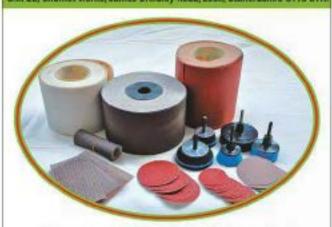
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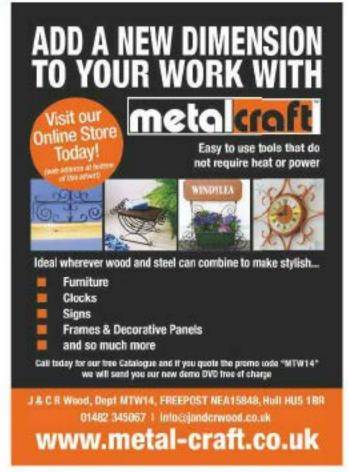
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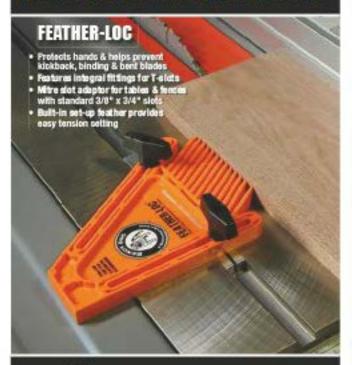






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Record Power bandsaw, model BS12, 12in throat, 6in cutting height, with rip and mitte fences, one new blade and instruction manual; £200. Buyer collects. 02393 781045 (Hampshire)

Stanley Bailey No 4 smoothing plane in excellent condition; £20. 01189 712472 (West Berkshire)

Signature



Charnwood mortiser, model W310, three chisel sizes, optional drilling conversion kit, with chisel sharpening kit and instruction manual; £150. Buyer collects. 02393 781045 (Hampshire)

Patternmakers' tools in purposemade box; £200. Woodrat; £150. 01206 826615 (Essex)

Triton 2000W router and router table, both unused; £200. Buyer collects. 01233 638039 (Kent)

Tyme Avon lathe, %in x16 tpi, 11 in over bed, 36 in between centres, sevolving tailstock, Patriot chuck, disc sanding/bowl turning attachments, in good working order; £175 ono. Buyer collects. 01362 820823 (Norfolk) Stanley ratchet brace, 8in swing two-jaw model in excellent condition, with selection of auger and flat bits; £35.

01189 712472 (West Berkshire)

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01189 712472 (West Berkshire)

Myford ML8 lathe on steel stand, with two faceplates and 11 chisels, also circular saw bench unit; £200. 01604 862203 (Northamptonshire)

Elektra Beckum planer thicknesser, model HC260, with new spare blades and belts; £220 ono. 01395 516514 (South Devon)



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Charnwood planer thicknesser, model W583, in very good condition due to very little use (about three years old); £450. 07747 026075 (call for location)

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

In your own write

Here are just a few of the latest letters we've received since the last issue. Drop us a line on paper or via screen and keyboard to add your voice to the woodworking crowd; you might be one of the lucky few who will manage to get their hands on a coveted Woodworker badge!

SNAIL MAIL OR EMAIL?

You can write to us at The Woodworker, MyTime Media Ltd, Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6HF or send an email to mark.cass@mytimemedia.com



A BRIBE TO SUBSCRIBE?

Hi Mark

As a previous subscriber to your magazine and its sister title Good Woodworking for many a year, I was thinking of renewing my subscription to The Woodworker & Woodturner as I now have a lathe to play with, I'm a total novice, by the way, I'm finding Peter Child to be a very influential type of guy in this field, and really do enjoy it.

Anyway, my point of writing is on the subject of your enticements to subscribe. As a joiner of some 40+ years and fast approaching retirement, I seem to have collected most of the dinky little shiny oddities and accessories over the years... but not all. That, sit, is my point: give people a larger choice of different types of things to entice different types of people. That means things for the tumers, the part-time woodworkers, the hobby carpenters and even the professionals.

I'm a patient guy and so I'll hold fast until something comes along that's shiny enough - or even useful enough - to tempt me. In the meantime I'll just keep looking forward to each month's new issue amking on the shelf at my local newsagent.

With best regards Alister Liddell

Well Allster, I'm plad to hear you're still keen after all this time! I'd like to think that the vast majority of us woodworkers out there also maintain your levels of enthuslasm. As to subscription enticements, we do our best to source a wide variety of useful kit, so hopefully there'll be something along soon which fits the bill entirely! All the best

BENCHMARKS

I'm just devouring the latest copy of The Woodworker, and was interested in the article from Duncan Rose about building a garden bench using recycled cast iron ends.

I've done four of these in the past year. A boatyard I'm involved with had a number of them lying around, all in a sorry state and in need of some TLC. I had some European oak in my stash from many moons ago and did a similar number on them. However, I did have the benefit of the old bits to work with, including the metal braces.

One thing I'd like to point out is that the slats are often of two different sizes. The top and bottom slats are nearly half the width of the rest, enabling them to sit around the sharp curve of the frame. Duncan had to do some work on the outer slats to get them to fit in.

If the frames are in fair condition, a wire brush job is fine, but two of mine were really guite bad, so I had them shot-blasted and powder-coated. This does add guite a bit to the overall cost, but I'm confident these will see me out, as it were. Don't look on the Internet and see how cheap these benches are to buy new; just be content that you've prevented some decent material being broken up for scrap!

Duncan Edwards, Stratford-upon-Avon

It's great to hear of all of this bench restoration, Duncan, and cheers for the tip. I'm a big fan of a bench, and rarely miss an opportunity for five minutes in the sun on a comity-looking. one. I think the curve of this type of design takes some beating, and the more of them out there the better. If arryone has a photo of a particularly interesting bench I'd love to see it.

EARLY START

Hello Mark.

I'm 14 years old, and started woodworking with a tool set for Christmas (and not a plastic set either) when I was about three as I showed an early love for tools. My parents recently bought me a three month's trial of The Woodworker & Woodturner, I look forward to receiving the magazine through my letterbox and thoroughly enjoy reading it.

My grandad was a carpenter/joiner, my two uncles are joiners and my older brother did a three-year carpentry course, so I guess it's in my genes too. I'm fortunate to know an elderly gentleman whose hobby is

turning wood on a lathe, so I'm also learning about woodturning and have made some very nice pieces (see the attached photo). I love looking through the Axminster and other tool catalogues, writing a list of things I'd like to buy. I already have my own lathe and lots of hand and power tools.

I hope my experiences will give other young people inspiration. You can get so much enjoyment out of creating individual things from a piece of wood. I'm very lucky to have so many people around me who give up their time to teach and guide me.

Charles Taylor

I'm very pleased to learn of your woodworking exploits, Charles, and I have to say I'm Impressed with your turning. So many young people have missed out on woodwork and metalwork at school of late; I think this partly explains the increased popularity of craftrelated activities today. I'd love to see some more of your work as your career progresses!

Cupboard doors need closing

Having Just been disappointed - again - at my local ironmonger, I think it's time for me to investigate hardware and door fittings from a different age and see how things compare with what's available today

It's a familiar scenario. More in hope than expectation, you stand at the counter of your favourite hardware store and present your modest requirements, ready money waiting in your eager pocket. Barely a minute or two later you're back out in the street emptyhanded, slightly dazed and wondering how you're going to finish the job as planned.

In the good old days...

Judging by this fine selection of bolts and catches from The Woodworker of December 1940, the average cabinetmaker was well catered for when it came to devices to keep cupboard doors closed seventy-odd years ago. This is a very pleasing sight and, after the initial gratification of seeing a page full of cupboard fittings, I started to look at the marketplace more closely to see which ones were still available.

Things are looking up

Despite economical changes and differing tastes in furniture fashions, I have to grudgingly acknowledge that, when it comes to bolts and catches, things aren't guite as black as I've painted them. Experienced readers will no doubt put me right if I'm mistaken, but as far as I know, all of the items pictured here are still available with the exception of the spring catch, the thumb push catch and the gravity catch.

Over recent years I've purchased all the others, and I regularly see them in shops and catalogues. This is very good news, but I'd love to be able to try out the missing three, especially the thumb push. A friend of mine has these on some of her original fitted cupboards, and it's a treat to use them.

Magnetic variation

Now at this point I expect there are some readers out there saying 'but what about



magnets?' and I have to agree. A far cry from the cheap plastic ones, today's rare-earth magnets present a whole new field of door closures to today's craftsmen and women. Discreet and effective, this new generation of magnetic catches really suits the sort of handmade high-end furniture that many of us would like to own - or make.

Despite my fondness for wearing the

rose-tinted glasses of yesteryear, it's starting to look as if we might just be better off today after all when it comes to fitting out our furniture. Not exactly a bolt from the blue; it's the truth, no catch.

More from The Woodworker archive next month.



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The PT260 Planer Thicknesser. Same Great Machine, New Lower Price.

The PT260 needs little introduction, having found its way into countless workshops over the past decade. Its capacities, build quality and reliability make it the obvious choice for the discerning woodworker.

What They Say...



The Woodworker

"I fed some 180 mm wide pine through the thicknesser at a 2 mm depth of cut, getting excellent results without straining the motor...it's useful to know the Record will cope. For it's price the Record is excellent value."

Good Woodworking

"In use the Record performs well.

It feels solid and secure and the
finish is good. The wheel kit is a
real boon, making it easy to push
the machine around the workshop.

Overall this is a good all rounder
and with that 5 year guarantee,
it certainly looks enticing."

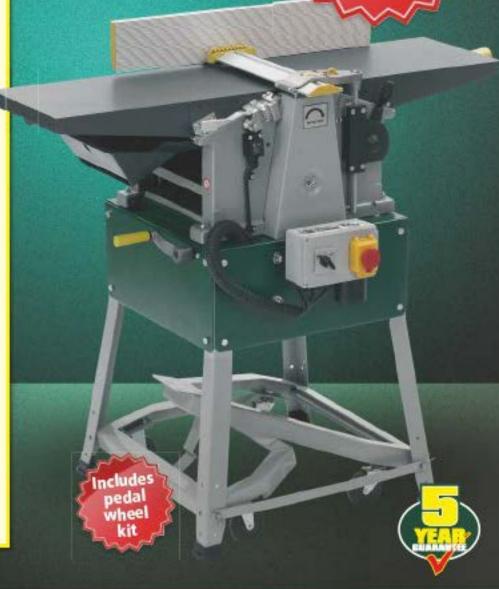
The Woodworker

"At an overall length of one metre the tables are ideal and they are remarkably accurate as well. My straight edge showed no significant discrepancy over the whole length - something other major manufacturers should learn from... a very capable machine."

Practical Woodworking



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