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ISSUE 63 JANUARY 2012
A GMC PUBLICATIONS MAGAZINE

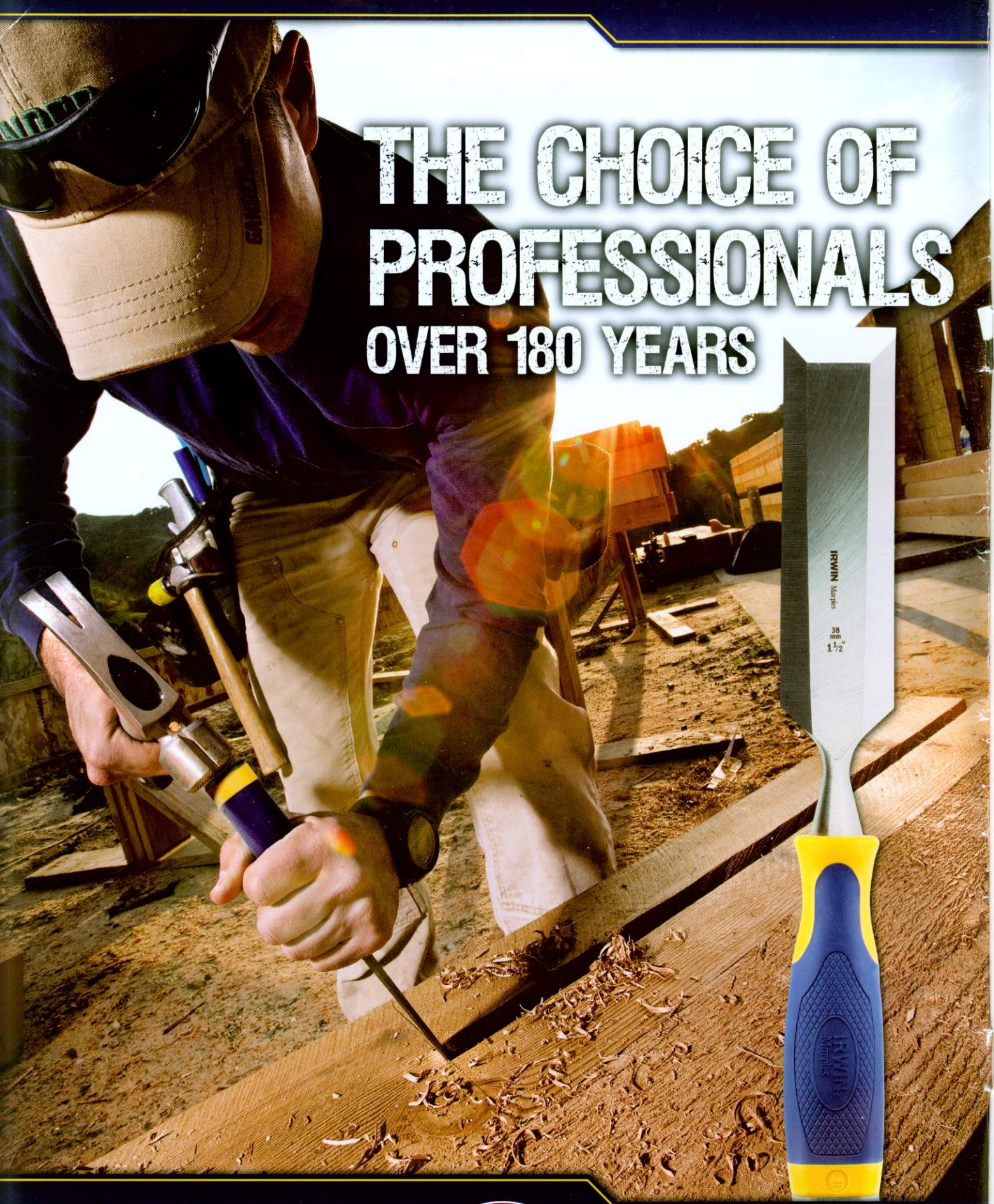
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PRINTED IN THE UK BY

Stephens and George Print Group

DISTRIBUTED BY

Seymour Distribution Ltd

Tel: 020 7429 4000

WOODWORKING PLANS & PROJECTS

(ISSN 1753-254X) is published every four weeks by GMC Publications Ltd,

86 High Street,

Lewes,

East Sussex,

BN7 1XN

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (includes postage & packing)

	UK	Europe	Rest of World
12 issues	£45.00	£56.25	£63.00
24 issues:	£90.00	£112.50	£126.00

US customers should call the Subscription Department for subscription rates in USD (\$).

Cheques made payable to: GMC Publications Ltd.

Current subscribers will automatically receive a renewal notice. Post your order to: the Subscription Department, GMC Publications Ltd, 166 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1XU, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1273 488005 Fax: +44 (0) 1273 402866 Email: pubs@thegmcgroup.com

Web: www.thegmcgroup.com

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WOODWORKING Plans & Projects



Well, it's the first issue of 2012, so I hope your Christmas and New Year festivities were fun... and Santa brought you all the woodworking kit you wanted!

So what projects have we got for you to build in this issue – well, there's 12 of them to have a go at!

Our Anthony builds a lovely little box in his Routerclass, and then inlays it with a neat ellipse... tackling that little project is a great way to start off the year.

And you'd be bats not to try our One Plank Project... er, at least it's a One Plank Project for bats to live in. And Andy Standing has turned his hand to a bit of pyrography to decorate his bat box.

Turning by Numbers this issue shows you how to turn a platter. It's a great little project, as you can see below, and has produced a brilliant result.

In the Pocket Workshop Project this issue I've designed and built a router table specifically to fit on the Sjöbergs bench I've got in the shed. It's got a fair few design touches that make it perfect for the smaller workshop.

Fred and Julie Byrne have excelled themselves in this issue and produced a couple of bowls. Bowls? Yep, you heard it right, bowls on the scrollsaw.

You don't need a lathe to produce nice looking bowls.

Take a look at the project, I think you'll be a little amazed at how great the results are. The mini projects this issue are all simple desk tidying aids – very useful

incorporating **ROUTER & POWER
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projects that can be made in a few hours.

We've got some big name kit on test too. We've got an angled impact driver from Hitachi, a small router plane and gent's saws from Veritas, a Bosch board saw with guide rail, a Metabo cordless jigsaw and even some routing kit from Milescraft.

There's the usual favourites as well: three pages of new kit and industry news, and a couple of pages of projects and questions from the forum at woodworkersinstitute.com.

All in all, I think it's a great issue to kick off the new year with... I hope you agree!

Matt Long, Editor

Email: mattl@thegmcgroup.com



**Make this great platter in
Turning by Numbers, on page 23**

LOOK OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL SYMBOLS



Our highest accolade for kit tests – one star is just not good enough



Don't miss out on these vital hints for better woodworking

SAFETY MATTERS

Woodworking is an inherently dangerous pursuit. Readers should not attempt the procedures described herein without seeking training and information on the safe use of tools and machines, and all readers should observe current safety legislation.

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Bullar builds: Face & edge work

John Bullar takes a look at face and edge work, as he builds his hallway settle

In the first part of this series we went timber hunting – looking at how to find the right material to make an heirloom-quality piece of solid wood furniture. Some of the best wood is bought rough sawn, but even wood that has been planed, ready for sale, is unlikely to be truly flat or have accurate square edges.

Now, in this second part of the series, we will look at how to prepare wood for furniture making by giving it flat, parallel faces and straight edges.

Because I don't know what tools and equipment you have, I'm going to assume that you will work mostly with hand tools. There is another good reason for demonstrating this sort of work with hand tools – they provide

much better control and smoother finishes than most machines. And, if the extra exertion burns off some calories in the process, then that is no bad thing either!

However, if you do have access to a workshop equipped with good woodworking machines, then you can just apply this sequence of processes to them.

Wide or narrow boards

One thing that particularly attracts people to fine, solid-wood furniture is the wide uninterrupted pattern or figuring you see on its flat panels. Even so, furniture makers often use a series of narrow pieces with lots of joints, and miss out on this quality.

These are both 400mm wide oak boards; the one on the left has two straight sawn edges while the right one has wane edges following the profile of the tree. This will be sawn off straight unless we want a rustic effect. Normally, the pale sapwood would also be removed from oak to make it long-lasting and even-coloured



The piece of furniture you will see developing in this series is a settle – a combined seat and storage cabinet, made to stand in a hallway. This series is intended to guide you through the processes of making individual furniture and the settle is just an example. You may want to modify the design or adapt the stages to your own project.

CROSS CUTTING



1 The boards were bought air-dried, and have since been stored in a heated loft for more than a year, so they are thoroughly dry. The cupping across the width is a result of the different degrees of shrinkage of fibres across the tree trunk. I will show you how to remove the cupping, but first the boards must be sawn into manageable sections



2 The board is marked across its width with a felt pen so the line is easy to see. At this stage we are roughly cutting the board into an over-length section so accuracy is not critical. I use a thumb nail to position the sawblade at the start of a cut while making some gentle strokes to start the slot, or kerf



3 Once the kerf is started, I increase the power of each stroke, still being careful to angle the blade to align with the mark. It takes constant attention to ensure that every stroke stays on the line, but this means there is never any need to try and pull the blade back into line – which can prove a near-impossible task!



5 An electric jigsaw produces a poor edge but, despite this, I find it is a very convenient tool for rough cutting large boards to length. The roughness is easily planed off. A hand-held circular saw may be quicker but it is harder to control and once started it follows a path of its own. While a fixed sawbench machine with a sliding fence is ideal for cross cutting smaller pieces, it's not suitable to balance very large boards on



4 As the cut progresses, I clamp the two sawn ends together to prevent them wobbling and to ensure that the board will not split off as the saw approaches the other side

CUT OUT CUPPING



Looking at the end grain of a wide cross-cut board the curvature across its width is easily visible, with a hump where the pencil is pointing corresponding to the centre-line of the tree rings. If this cupped board were to be planed flat on both sides there would be very little thickness left. Instead it is better to rip-saw the board along its length



The same cupped board has been ripped into two narrower pieces, each with little curvature. While each side of this board is relatively flat, in some cases it might be necessary to rip a cupped board into three or four narrower pieces just to remove the curvature

PREPARING TO PLANE

Using a hand plane on hardwood like oak or knotty softwood can be a frustrating process for the uninitiated if the plane is not well prepared. Ninety percent of the problems disappear once the blade is correctly sharpened and finely adjusted, making hand-planing simple and satisfying.



I recommend using a basic honing guide to grind the edge to 30° on an oilstone or water lubricated diamond stone. Water stones can be very effective but take a lot more care to use correctly because they quickly wear hollow.

Once the plane blade has been sharpened, the fragile wire edge is honed off on a fine stone or piece of leather, then the blade is fitted back into the plane



Bench planes vary in design but most commonly follow the Bailey pattern. This has a fine depth adjuster between the angled wedge or frog and the rear handle or tote. There is always some backlash in the adjuster so withdraw the blade then advance it again so it projects a hair's width below the sole



Use the lever from side to side to level the projecting blade. Aim to use an even projection on both sides. If you need to remove more wood from one side I recommend moving the whole plane towards that side rather than tilting the blade

PLANING A FACE

Start by planing one face of the board flat, this will provide a reference for the other surfaces. Look carefully at the edges to check that you are planing with the grain, not against it – pressing the fibres down not tearing them up.

If possible, work in full length passes from end to end. Make a series of overlapping passes working from one side of the board to the other. Each pass starts with the rear of the plane overhanging and pressure only on the front handle. For most of the stroke, light pressure is applied with both hands. The stroke ends with the front overhanging and pressure only applied to the tote





12

When the wood surface is rough, scrappy shavings come out short and narrow. With patience, as the surface smooths, lacy-thin shavings should start to emerge wide and curly. If not the blade may need to be set finer or the edge re-ground and honed sharper and straighter

PLANING AN EDGE



13

With a single flat surface on one face the edges of the board can now be planed at right angles to this.

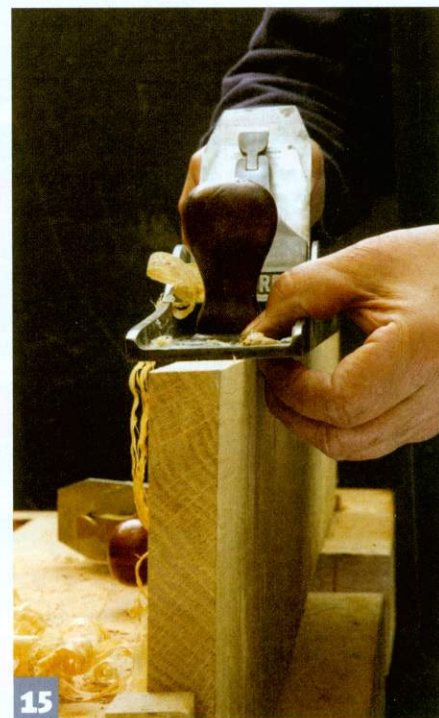
The edge of a board needs to be planed at right angles to the smooth face. When the board has been rip sawn from a wider cupped board the edge is a long way off being square as a tri-square held against face and edge shows



14

Planing an edge is similar to planing a face except that the plane is moved in a series of passes along the centre of the board, holding the plane level to remove high spots

Instead of grasping the front handle while edge planing, the front of the plane is gripped between thumb and fingertips so the fingernails act as a guide to keep it central



15

THICKNESSING



16

Once a board has a good reference face and edges at right-angles to this, the opposite surface needs to be planed to provide an even thickness along its length and across its width.

A marking gauge or preferably a cutting gauge – with a knife-like edge – is used to mark the required thickness evenly around both edges and both ends of the board

The board is laid face down and planed on the reverse surface to reduce its thickness down as far as the gauged line in a series of passes, as before



17

I hope this article provides a reminder to the more experienced woodworker, and an introduction for the beginner, to the processes of planing the face and edge of a board and thicknessing it ready to make furniture.

We have looked at how to produce a board that is flat on both faces and has straight flat edges at right angles to its faces. In broad sections, boards like this will form the panels of the settle while, in narrow sections, they will be frame components.

Next time, we will be putting these techniques into practice preparing the components for an oak storage bench or settle.

We will start by working out the design details and looking at how to produce your own cutting list. ■

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Clarke CIRCULAR SAWS

GREAT RANGE IN-STORE

FROM ONLY **£64.99** EX VAT **£77.99** INC VAT

CCS-2

MODEL	MOTOR	MAX CUT	BLADE	EX VAT	INC VAT
FURY	1200w	54/35mm	185/20	£49.98	£59.98
Clarke	1300w	60/45mm	185/20	£64.99	£77.99
CCS-2	1200w	66/46mm	190/30	£94.99	£113.99
5704RK					
Rage	1050w	54/35mm	185/20	£89.98	£107.98

Clarke SHEET SANDERS

CON300

FROM ONLY **£14.99** EX VAT **£17.99** INC VAT

MODEL	SHEET SIZE	MOTOR	EX VAT	INC VAT
COS200	190X90mm	150w	£14.99	£17.99
CON300	230X115mm	330w	£29.98	£35.98
Makita	112X102mm	200w	£49.98	£59.98
B04555				

Clarke RANDOM ORBITAL SANDERS

CROS1

FROM ONLY **£24.99** EX VAT **£29.99** INC VAT

- For sanding & polishing
- 125mm diameter sanding discs
- 4000-11000 opm

INC 5 DISCS

Clarke STATIC PHASE CONVERTERS

PC60

FROM ONLY **£229.00** EX VAT **£274.80** INC VAT

CONVERT 230V 1PH TO 400V 3PH

MODEL	MAX. MOTOR HP	FUSE	EX VAT	INC VAT
PC20	2Hp	10amps	£229.00	£274.80
PC40	3.5Hp	13amps	£269.00	£322.80
PC60	5.5Hp	20amps	£319.00	£382.80

Clarke TWIN BLADE SAW

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BOSCH 'ALL ROUNDER' SANDER & SAW

- Quick cuts in wood, plastic & metal • Variable speed 15,000-21,000rpm • Ideal for detailed work & fine cuts close to edges

Clarke RECIPROCATING SAWS

CONTRACTOR

CON100

FROM ONLY **£39.98** EX VAT **£47.98** INC VAT

MODEL	MOTOR	STROKE (W)	LENGTH	EX VAT	INC VAT
Clarke CON100	600	26mm		£39.98	£47.98
Makita JR3050T	1010	28mm		£114.99	£137.99

Clarke DOVETAIL JIGS

CDTJ24

FROM ONLY **£49.98** EX VAT **£59.98** INC VAT

NEW

MODEL	SIZE	EX VAT	INC VAT
CDTJ12	300mm	£49.98	£59.98
CDTJ24	600mm	£89.98	£107.98

Clarke 13" MINI WOOD LATHE

CWL325V

FROM ONLY **£129.98** EX VAT **£155.98** INC VAT

- Ideal for enthusiasts/hobbyists with small workshops • 325mm distance between centres • 200mm max. turning capacity (dia) • 0.2Hp motor

Clarke BISCUIT JOINTERS

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- 600w motor
- 16mm max cutting depth
- 100mm cutting dia.

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MODEL	SIZE	EX VAT	INC VAT
CHT374	600mm	£6.99	£8.99
CHT375	900mm	£7.99	£9.99
CHT376	1200mm	£9.99	£11.63

Clarke ROUTER TABLE

CRT-1

Router not included

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- Converts your router into a stationary router table • Suitable for most routers (up to 155mm dia. Base plate)

RECORD POWER LATHES

CL3-CAM

LEG STAND AVAILABLE

FROM ONLY **£229.98** EX VAT **£275.98** INC VAT

5 YEAR WARRANTY

MODEL	MOTOR	NO. TURNING CAP. (HP)	SPEDS OVER BED (OUT/BOUND)	EX VAT	INC VAT
DML36SH	1/3	4	9"/12"	£229.98	£275.98
CL3-CAM	3/4	5	12"/30"	£369.00	£442.80

Clarke FOLDING SAW HORSES

CSB1

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- Max. loading 50kg per trestle • Pressed steel construction
- Anti-slip top surfaces

SOLD IN PAIRS

MODEL	MAX LOAD	TYPE	EX VAT	INC VAT
Stanley Junior	350kg	Pair	£24.99	£29.99
CSB1	100kg	Pair	£27.99	£33.59

Clarke POWER PLANERS

CON1020

FROM ONLY **£22.99** EX VAT **£27.99** INC VAT

82mm cutting width

MODEL	INPUT POWER	DEPTH OF CUT	EX VAT	INC VAT
Clarke CEP1	650w	2mm	£22.99	£27.99
Clarke CON1020	1020w	3mm	£36.99	£44.39
Bosch PH020-82	680w	2mm	£59.98	£71.98
Bosch GH026-82	710w	2.6mm	£97.99	£117.59

Clarke ROUTERS

RYOBI freud

FROM ONLY **£39.98** EX VAT **£47.98** INC VAT

DIY # PRO

MODEL	MOTOR	PLUNGE (W)	EX VAT	INC VAT
CR1C*	1200	0-50	£39.98	£47.98
Ryobi	1400	0-55	£87.99	£105.59
ERT1400RV				
Trend T5	1000	0-50	£169.98	£203.98
DeWalt	1400	0-55	£229.98	£275.98
DW622K-GB				

RYOBI ROUTER & TABLE KIT

ERT1400G Router

- 1400w power input
- 14,000-13,500rpm
- 1/4" & 3/8" collet capacity

INCLUDES ROUTER

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NEW

Clarke WORKBENCH

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FROM ONLY **£89.98** EX VAT **£107.98** INC VAT

- Robust steel workbench
- Extra thick, reversible plywood faced worktop • Large lockable cabinet with storage shelves • Tough steel drawer

Clarke HARDWOOD WORKBENCH

CHB1500

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- Includes guide holes and bench dogs • 2 heavy duty vices • Large drawer for tool storage
- Dims: LxWxH 1520x620x855mm

TACWISE NAIL GUNS

500EL

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A range of professional Nailers from Tac-Wise

MODEL	INPUT POWER	NAIL SIZE	EX VAT	INC VAT
Tacwise 181EL	1560w	10-35	£39.98	£47.98
Tacwise 400EL	1500w	20-40	£69.98	£83.98
Tacwise 500EL	1200w	20-50	£79.98	£95.98

Clarke CORDLESS DRILL/DRIVERS

BOSCH PSR18

FROM ONLY **£34.99** EX VAT **£41.99** INC VAT

MODEL	VOLTS	BATTS	EX VAT	INC VAT
CCD180	18v	1	£34.99	£41.99
CCD240	24v	1	£44.99	£53.99
Bosch PSR18	18v	1	£66.99	£80.39

Makita JIGSAWS

GST135BCE

DIY #Professional

FROM ONLY **£39.98** EX VAT **£47.98** INC VAT

MODEL	POWER (W)	DEPTH OF CUT (WOOD/STEEL)	EX VAT	INC VAT
B & D KS600*	450w	60/5mm	£32.99	£39.59
Bosch PST700*	500w	70/4mm	£44.99	£53.99
Makita 4329*	450w	65/6mm	£59.98	£71.98
Bosch	720w	135/10mm	£144.99	£173.99
GST135BCE #				

NEW ROLLED EDGE UPRIGHTS GIVE:

- EXTRA STRENGTH
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150 (evenly distributed) Strong 9mm fibreboard shelves PER SHELF

350 (evenly distributed) Strong 12mm fibreboard shelves PER SHELF

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Simple fast assembly in minutes using only a hammer

CHOICE OF 5 COLOURS

RED, BLUE, BLACK, SILVER & GALVANISED STEEL

MODEL	SHELF DIMS WxDxH(mm)	EX VAT	INC VAT
150kg	800x300x1500	£29.98	£35.98
350kg	900x400x1800	£49.98	£59.98

Clarke PLANERS & THICKENERS

CWL100

FROM ONLY **£119.98** EX VAT **£143.98** INC VAT

- Ideal for DIY & Hobby use • Dual purpose, for both finishing & sizing of timber
- *Max planing width 152mm

MODEL	MOTOR	MAX THICK. CAPACITY	EX VAT	INC VAT
CP-6	1100w		£119.98	£143.98
CPT600	1250w	120mm	£159.98	£191.98
CPT800	1250w	120mm	£189.98	£227.98

Clarke WOODWORKING LATHES

CWL1000

FROM ONLY **£119.98** EX VAT **£143.98** INC VAT

SEE CATALOGUE FOR ACCESSORIES

MODEL	CENTRE TO TURNING CENTRE (mm)	TURNING CAP.	SPEEDS	EX VAT	INC VAT
CWL1000	1016	350mm	4	£99.98	£119.98
CWL120	940	305mm	5	£189.98	£227.98

3 PCE CHISEL SET INCLUDED WITH CWL1000

Clarke MORTISING MACHINE

£129.98 EX VAT
£155.98 INC VAT

- Accurately creates deep square recesses
- Table size 150 x 340mm
- Maximum chisel cap 76mm

CHISELS AVAILABLE FROM
£6.99 EX VAT £8.39 INC VAT

MODEL	DEPTH OF CUT	EX VAT	INC VAT
Clarke CBM1B	95mm	£129.98	£155.98
Record RPM75176mm		£179.98	£215.98
Record BM16	120mm	£209.00	£250.80

† was £221.99 inc VAT



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Clarke DRILL PRESSES

- Tables tilt 0-45° left & right
- Depth gauge
- Chuck guards
- B=bench mounted
- F=Floor standing

MODEL	WATTS/ SPEEDS	EX VAT	INC VAT
CDP50D	250/5	£59.98	£71.98
CDP101B	245/5	£74.99	£89.99
CDP151B	300/5	£99.98	£119.98
CDP-10B	370/12	£129.98	£155.98
CDP301B	510/12	£184.98	£221.98
CDP451F	510/16	£224.98	£269.98
CDP501F	980/12	£399.98	£479.98



Clarke SCROLL SAWS

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INC VAT

- 120v, 230v motor
- 50mm max cut thickness
- 400-1,700rpm variable speed
- Air-blower removes dust from cutting area

MODEL	MOTOR	SPEED RPM	EX VAT	INC VAT
CSA400B	85w	1450	£59.98	£71.98
CSA16V	120w	400-1700	£79.98	£95.98



Clarke CAST IRON STOVES

17 STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM
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MODEL	MAX BTU	EX VAT	INC VAT
Pot Belly	23,556	£79.98	£95.98
Pot Belly L	30,726	£119.98	£143.98
Pot Belly XL	31,408	£199.98	£239.98
Thames	20,484	£179.98	£215.98
Barrel	40,285	£199.00	£238.80
Boxwood	24,444	£199.98	£239.98
Boxwood Deluxe	48,820	£299.98	£359.98
Buckingham	20,484	£279.98	£335.98
Parlour	38,407	£299.98	£359.98
Regal	34,140	£339.98	£407.98
Cottage II	30,726	£349.98	£419.98
Junior Victoria II	33,457	£369.98	£443.98
Pembroke†	22,191	£429.98	£515.98
Victoria‡	44,040	£449.00	£538.80
Mayfair*	22,191	£479.00	£574.80
Majestic	47,796	£499.98	£599.98
Richmond	61,452	£579.00	£694.80

† was £539.98 inc VAT ‡ was £551.98 inc VAT * was £598.80 inc VAT



Clarke DUST EXTRACTOR

CDE1000
• 50 litre tank capacity
• 183 m³/h flow rate
• 1100W input wattage

OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE



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EX VAT
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Clarke DUST EXTRACTOR/CHIP COLLECTORS

FROM ONLY
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MODEL	MOTOR	FLOW RATE	BAG CAP	EX VAT	INC VAT
CDE35B	750w	850 M3/h	56Ltrs	£129.98	£155.98
CDE7B	750w	850 M3/h	114Ltrs	£139.98	£167.98

• Powerful 750w motor
• 57 litre bag capacity
• Flow rate of 850M3/h



Clarke CR2 ROUTER

CONTRACTOR
INCLUDES 15 PIECE ROUTER BIT SET WORTH OVER £20 INC VAT



• Powerful heavy duty machine ideal for trade use
• Variable speed control from 7,400-21,600 rpm
• 2100w motor
• 0-60mm plunge depth

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Clarke MITRE SAW STAND - CUTS!



• Suitable for most sizes/makes of saw
• Inc. outriggers & rollers

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EX VAT
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Clarke 12" CONTRACTORS SAW



• 1600w motor
• 315/30mm blade / bore diameter
• 90mm max cut depth at 90°

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EVOLUTION MITRE SAWS



MODEL	BLADE DIA. BORE	MAX CUT DEPTH/CROSS	EX VAT	INC VAT
Fury 3	210/25.4mm	60/200mm	£114.99	£137.99
Evolution 255/30mm		75/300mm	£169.98	£203.98
Page 3				
Makita	260/30mm	90.5/95	£189.98	£227.98
LS1040				
Ryobi	254/30mm	90/305mm	£214.99	£257.99
EM2062SL				

Clarke ROTARY TOOL KIT



Kit includes:
• Height adjustable stand with clamp
• Rotary tool
• 1m flexible drive
• 40x accessories/consumables

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Clarke CARVING CHISEL SET



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

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Clarke WOODWORKING VICES



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Clarke WHETSTONE SHARPENER

MODEL	MOUNTING	JAW (WIDTH/OPENING) / DEPTH (mm)	EX VAT	INC VAT
Clarke CHT152	Bolted	150/152/61	£12.49	£14.99
Stanley Multi Angle	Clamped	72/60/40	£15.99	£19.19
Record W75B	Clamped	75/50/32	£18.98	£22.79
Clarke W77	Bolted	180/205/78	£24.98	£29.99
Clarke W77OR	Bolted	180/205/80	£39.98	£47.98

• Produces accurate razor sharp cutting edges on chisels, scissors, tools etc

• 120w motor

• Grinding disc dims: 200mm dia x 40mm x 12mm bore

• Wet bath

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CWS200

Clarke PORTABLE THICKNESSER



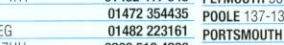
• Max thickness capacity 130mm

• Planing depths adjustable from 0-2.5mm

• Powerful 1250w motor

• 8000rpm no-load speed

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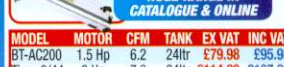
CPT250

Clarke TURBO AIR COMPRESSORS

• Superb range ideal for DIY, hobby & semi-professional use

BIG 2HP 7.8CFM

CLARKE 8MM AIR HOSE FROM ONLY £5.99 EX VAT £7.19 INC VAT



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• A range of compact, high performance wet & dry vacuum cleaners for use around the home, workshop, garage etc.

MODEL	MOTOR	CFM	TANK	EX VAT	INC VAT
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Tiger 8/44	2 Hp	7.8	24ltr	£114.99	£137.99
Tiger 8/64	2 Hp	7.8	50ltr	£164.99	£197.99
Tiger 9/24	2.5 Hp	8.7	24ltr	£149.98	£179.98
Tiger 9/60	2.5 Hp	8.7	50ltr	£189.98	£227.98

Clarke BANDSAWS

HUGE RANGE IN CATALOGUE & ONLINE

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INCLUDES STAND

MODEL	MOUNT	MOTOR	THROAT	EX VAT	INC VAT
Clarke Bench		350w	190mm	£99.98	£119.98
CSB190					
Clarke Floor		370w	245mm	£169.98	£203.98
CSB250					
DeWalt Bench		749w	155mm	£289.00	£346.80
DW738					



NEW

Clarke MULTIPURPOSE CIRCULAR SAW

• For cutting ferrous/non-ferrous metals

• 500w motor

• 4500rpm no load speed

• 35mm max. Cut

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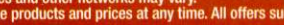
Clarke PALM SANDER

• 105w input power

• 12,000rpm

• Sanding plate size 140x99mm

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BAILEY'S ROUTER CLASS

Trinket box



Anthony Bailey

builds and decorates
this nice box

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY



THE PROJECT

There are times when a wooden object can look a little dull – take this perfectly functional, useful trinket box. One way to enliven the design is to inlay a shape in the top, for added detail. This is easier than you might think if you have the appropriate cutter kit available. This project has several other interesting router techniques, two of which I last used in issue 46 for my Tea Caddy project.



The inlaid ellipse on the box's lid adds that nice finishing touch

The router is still the most versatile power tool there is. Along with a vast range of cutters, jigs and gadgets – many of which you can make for yourself – it can help produce high-quality woodwork.

This series is intended to show you what the router can do, while assuming the reader has a general level of woodworking knowledge. We hope to show you the aspects of each project that specifically involve the router and how this great bit of kit can expand your woodworking skills.

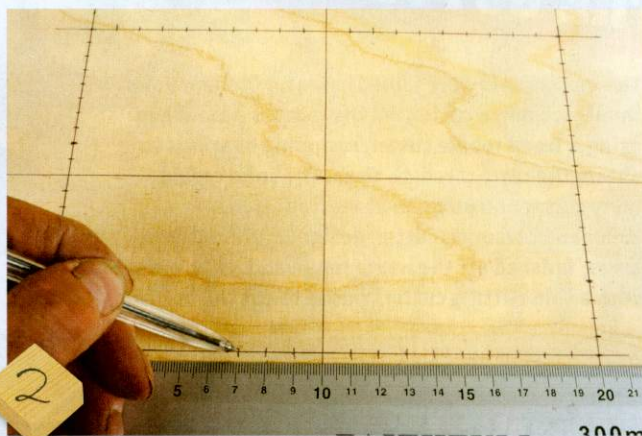
Each month we will highlight the jigs, cutters and gadgets you need to help you get more from this incredible machine. Feel free to send pictures of your routing endeavours, or post them on the WPP forum at:

www.woodworkersinstitute.com

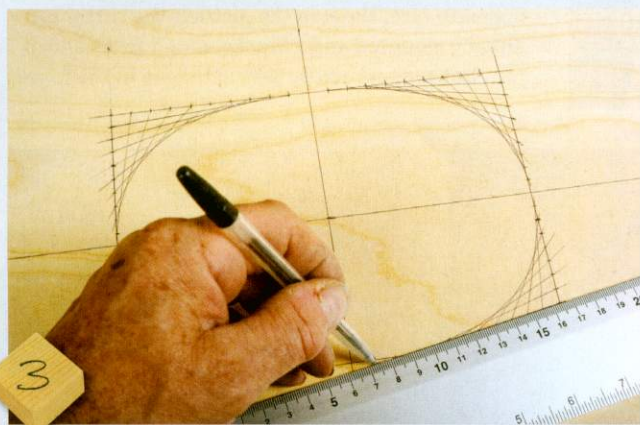
THE JIG



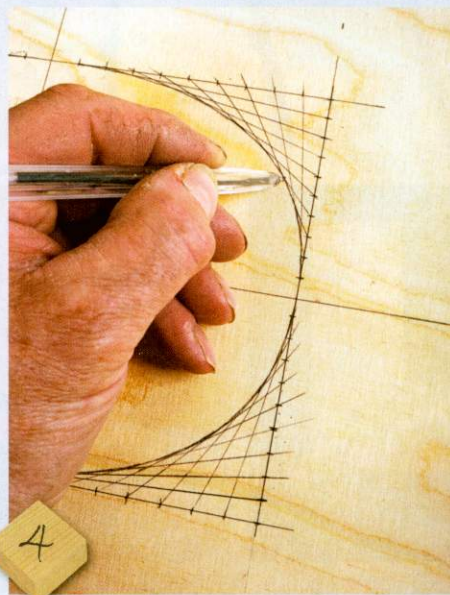
The template could be any shape, such as a swan or a star, but I chose an ellipse because I like the shape. Here is my schoolboy method for setting it out, just as I did in the very first Routerclass back in issue 40. Draw a rectangle the same width and height as your ellipse



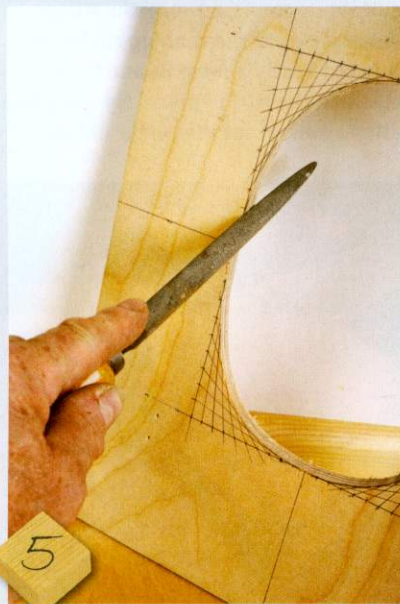
Divide each side of the rectangle into an equal number of divisions. I tend to use centimetre spacing for the long sides and reduce the width of each division on the short sides, keeping the number of divisions equal on both sides



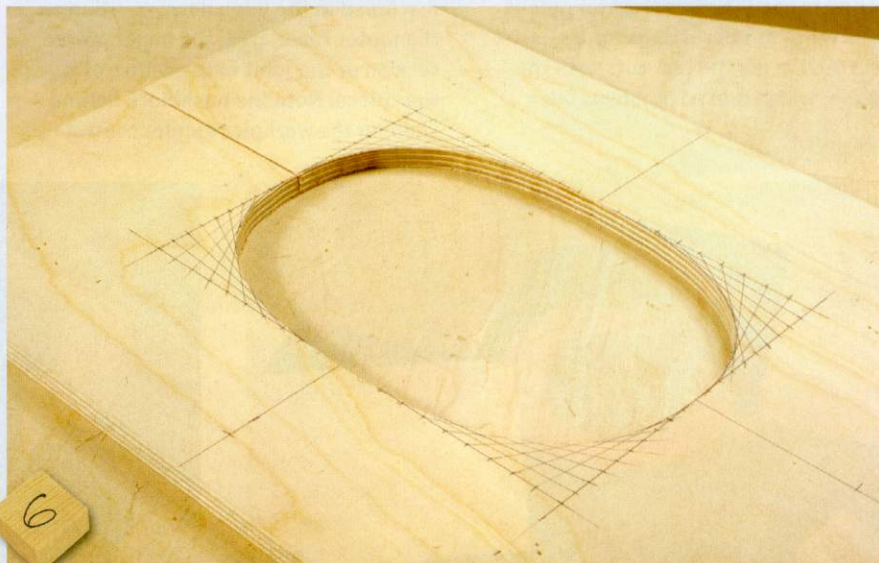
Use a ruler to draw lines from the first mark after the middle division across to the first mark on the adjoining space, and so on. Carry on round and you end up with something remarkably like an ellipse!



Smooth the line with your pen or pencil until it appears as a proper curve. Once this is done, bandsaw or scrollsaw very close to the line, doing so carefully to preserve the curve



Use a fine rasp or woodfile to give an even, sweeping curve the router can follow



The finished template: note the bandsaw blade escape kerf. With large guidebushes this kerf isn't a problem, however the tiny inlaying guidebush we are going to use will require the kerf to be filled with a slip of wood so the guidebush cannot drop into the kerf opening and create a bump in the ellipse

THE CUTTERS



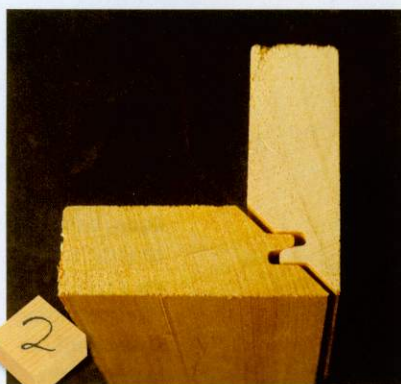
The box corners were joined using an Oldham Viper small lock mitre cutter. All the rebates were made using a Trend rebate cutter, swapping bearings to obtain the correct rebate sizes. The solid carbide inlay cutter and guidebush are from Trend. A Wealden bottoming cutter, designed to clear large areas, finished off the waste removal. Lastly, a Wealden arbor with a thin slitting cutter is used to cut the box from the lid



MAKING IT



Decide on the size of box you wish to make. In my case I found a part board of parana pine so the dimensions of the board governed the box size for me. Thickness all stock and finish the sides and ends to size, but leave the top and bottom oversize at this stage. Mark the outside faces at each end so you know that the joints will be cut on the opposite face. Note: in the picture, the cutter is already mounted and a breakthrough fence added for vital support across the cutter gap in the fence



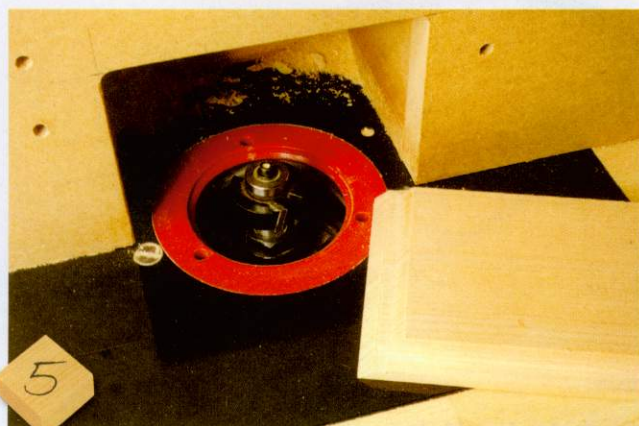
You must make test cuts on waste wood to get the correct cutter height and fence depth settings for the mitre cutter. I make the test cuts with the grain, which caused problems later



The front and back components are machined in the lying down position on the router table, with the finger profile section of the joint in the centre of the workpiece. Note the pushblock behind keeping the workpiece under control



I realised that the box ends, which are machined in the vertical position, would drop into the cutter opening in the table. So, as in issue 60, I resorted to a sub bed – a piece of 6mm MDF. After I had raised up the cutter by a suitable amount, I swung the MDF sideways on to the running cutter so it fitted neatly around it, and then clamped the MDF in place. My test piece allowed me to set the cutter height



Before assembly, a rebate for the top and bottom is run along all the long component edges



The sides of the box are glued and assembled and clamped square with a board on top to ensure it is completely level. Once dry, clean any glue residue away



7
The box top and bottom are rebated so they will sit flush in the sides. Readers will note I had a sudden change of heart and opted for a darker wood on the top so I could do a light inlay



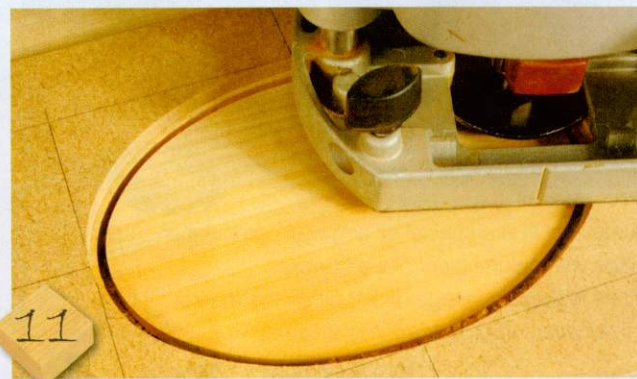
8
Glue and clamp the top and bottom in place and then fix the template in place with double-sided tape



9
This tiny guidebush and cutter are for inlaying. The internal, or first cut, is done with a special collar in place which is just visible here. It is removed for shaping the inlay itself



10
The inlay cutter has cut the ellipse, with the guidebush following the template. Then the waste is removed with the Wealden bottoming cutter



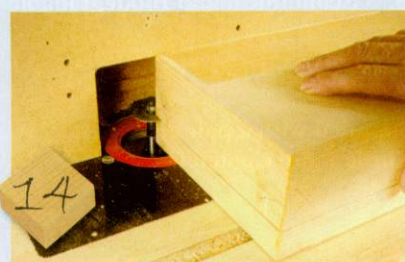
11
The inlay timber is planed to fit flush in the recess. The guidebush collar is removed and the router run around the template on the inlay timber – don't let the cutter wander



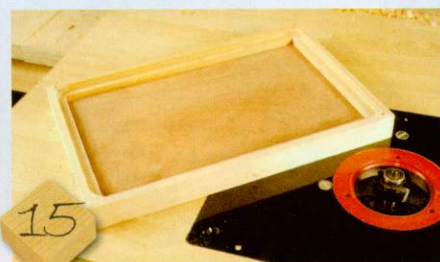
12
A test fit revealed I needed to trim the inlay fractionally. A spokeshave proved equal to the task



13
Once the inlay is a neat fit, apply an even layer of glue, press it home and clamp it in place with a board and paper insert



14
A slitting cutter is used to separate the top from bottom neatly. In this case it didn't quite go through, which is safer as the box won't separate unexpectedly. A fine tooth handsaw completes the cut



15
The box lid is rebated by sitting it over the cutter, taking care the bearing and machine screw holding it do not contact the underside of the lid. Place it centrally over the cutter before switching on and only feed into the cutter rotation



16
Rebate the top edge of the box bottom so the lid slips on nicely. The corners of the upstand edge must be rounded with a chisel so it fits the rounded rebate in the lid. Sand the box exterior and apply a suitable finish! ■



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Bat box



Andy Standing creates a belfry-inspired bat box

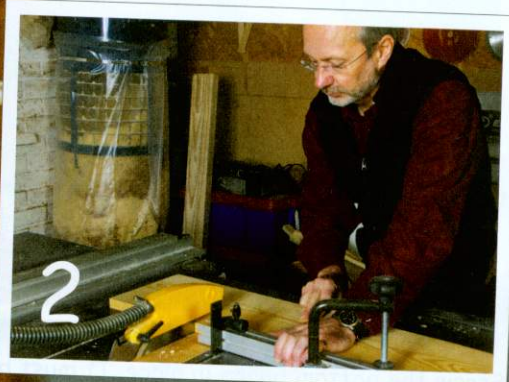
Making boxes for birds or bats can be a pretty simple process. You can just nail together several crudely sawn boards and the birds or bats will be happy. But perhaps you want to take a little more trouble and make something more decorative and with a theme. While designing this bat box, I tried to imagine a theme the bats could identify with. Dracula perhaps? Halloween? No. Where do you find bats? In the belfry, of course. So here is my bat box design with a bit of a belfry feel to it.

YOU WILL NEED

- Dremel Versatip • tenon saw
- blowlamp • tablesaw
- mitre guide • pillar drill
- drum sander • jigsaw
- coping saw • cutter
- router • side fence
- pocket hole jig



Begin by marking out your plank



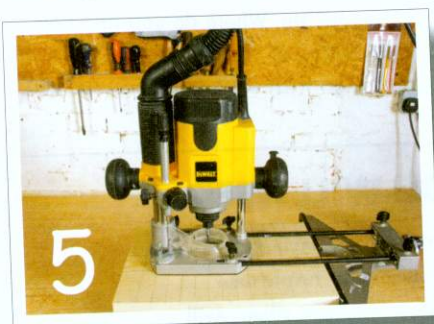
Crosscut the components to length



And rip them to width



The backboard needs to have grooves cut into it so that the bats will have something to grip on to. Mark out a series of lines with a try square, about 20mm apart



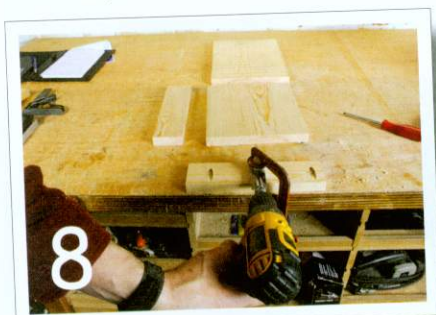
The grooves can be cut with a router and side fence. Use a 4mm diameter straight cutter and set the depth to 4mm, as well



When routing the grooves, be sure to hold the side fence tight against the edge of the board to keep the grooves straight. The board is supported here on a vacuum clamp



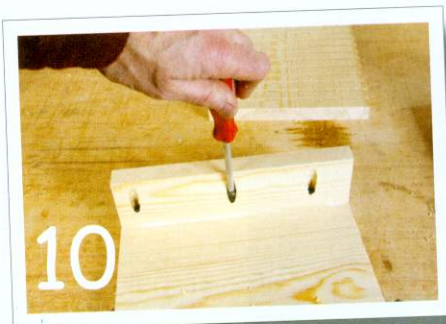
The finished backboard



Now fix the side panels to the front board. Use a pocket hole jig to drill the sides



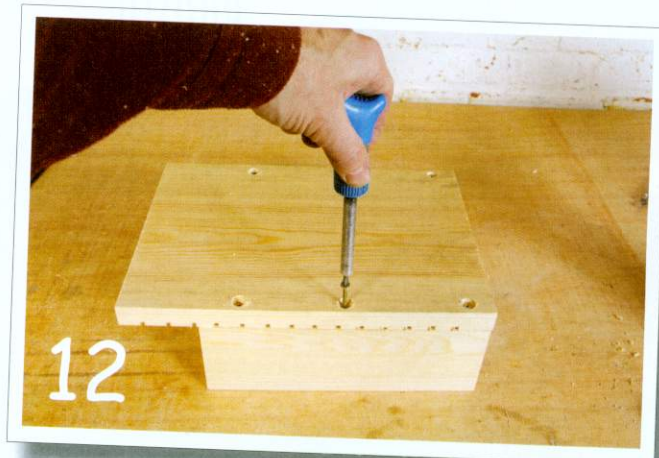
Use exterior grade waterproof glue to fix the sides



Then screw into place



Screw the bottom board in place. It must be 20mm narrower than the sides to allow a small space for the bats to squeeze through



Glue and screw the backboard in position



The crenulations around the top of the belfry are made on separate boards that are then fixed to the edge of the top panel. The cut-outs between the uprights are 18mm wide and 20mm deep and the uprights are 20mm wide. The semi-circles below are marked out using a 10p coin. Marking this out can be quite a fiddly process. Make sure you do it accurately otherwise the corner joints won't work properly



Use a jigsaw or coping saw to remove the waste



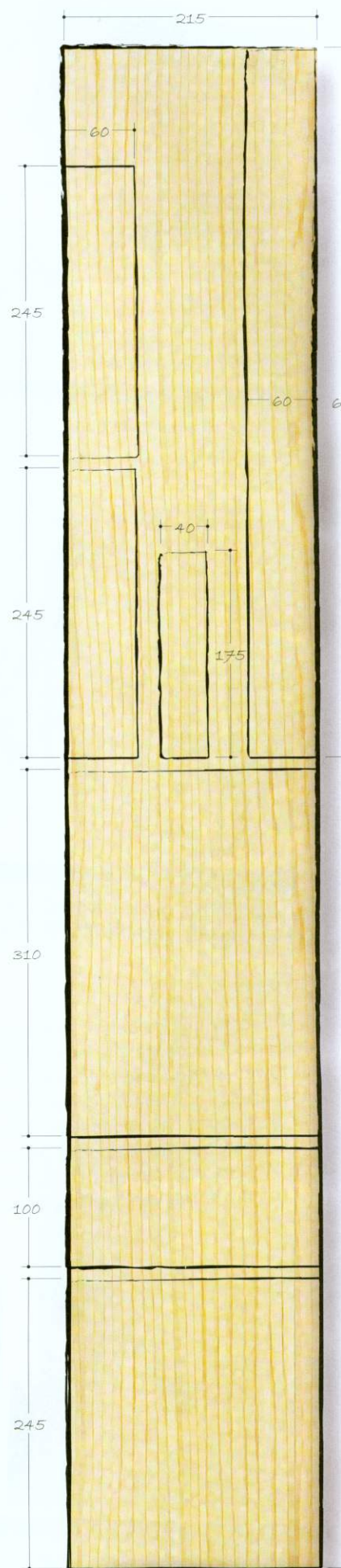
A small drum sander mounted in a pillar drill can be used to clean up the semi-circles



It should end up looking like this



Carefully work out the position of the corner joints and cut the mitres using a tenon saw and a mitre box, or a tablesaw with a mitre guide





18 Arrange the parts around the top panel and mark the length



19 Cut to length



20 Glue and pin the pieces around the top panel. Set the base of the cut-outs flush with the top of the panel



21 The completed top

To carry on the belfry theme, I decided to decorate the box with a bell tower window and a door at the base. I used a Dremel Versatip gas torch to burn the images onto the box. Draw out the design in pencil first. We are approaching the limits of my artistic expertise here!



22



23 Filling in the windows with a pattern



24

To give the box a more aged and interesting look, I singed parts of it with the blowlamp



The finished belfry. Now where are those bats? ■

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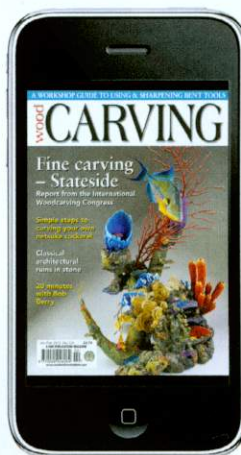
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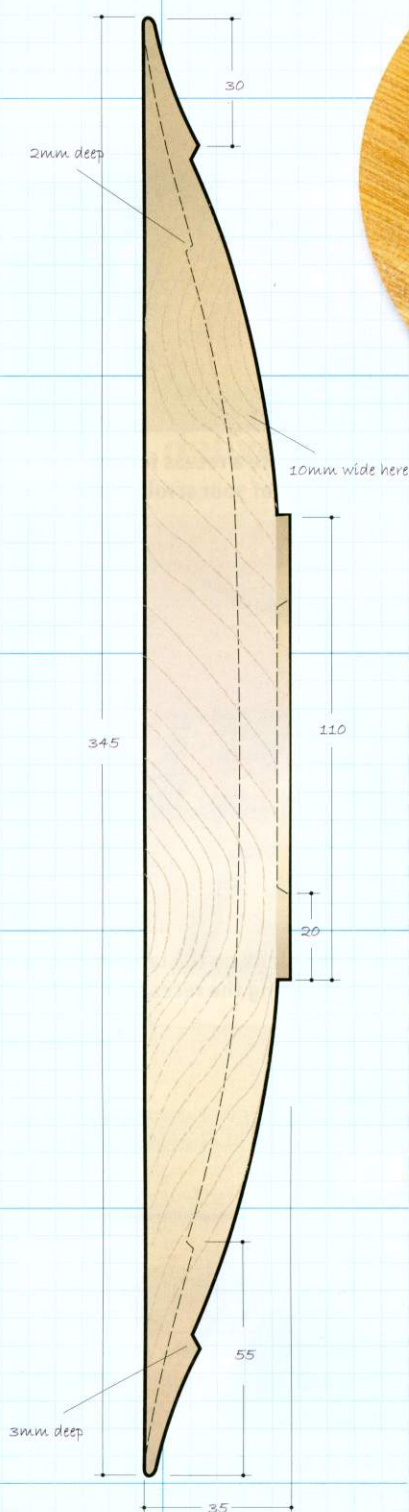
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Turning by numbers... Platter

WPP takes you through the steps to make this beauty



Platters must be ranked just after bowls in the list of projects for new woodturners.

In fact, the techniques used to turn platters are more or less the same used for bowls, as are the tools you will need.

In this article, we use two platter blanks. The reasoning for this is quite simple – moisture content and timber movement.

Because a platter is so flat and thin, any movement in the timber is exaggerated, so it makes sense to rough turn a blank – even a blank prepared by a timber merchant – then leave it to dry... often as long as a year in a warmish workshop.

This will prevent the worst of timber movement after the platter is turned. You can see the effect very clearly in step eight, as the rough turned blank has moved an awful lot.

Of course, you may be happy for your platter to warp after turning, and why not!



The rule of thumb for letting a rough-turned blank dry is that you leave an inch of thickness for every 12 inches of platter diameter.

Turning tools needed

10mm bowl gouge

3mm parting tool

10mm beading/parting tool

19mm French-curve scraper



1 The first job is to mount your platter blank – here we've used ash – on the lathe to rough turn it, before it is left to dry. For this, use a faceplate with screws that will not penetrate beyond waste depth. Make sure you centre the faceplate properly. Once the faceplate is mounted, bring up the tailstock, with a live ring centre – this penetrates the wood less than a conical live centre – to secure the blank.

2 After you've mounted the platter blank, bring up the tool rest so it's parallel with the face of the blank. Turn the blank by hand to ensure there are no catches on the tool rest. Adjust the speed of your lathe using our guide in issue 54. Then start removing the corner of the blank with your bowl gouge – this will be the platter underside.

3 Once you've rough shaped the form of the bowl underside, then rough shape the platters stand. Use your beading/parting tool to define the outside, then use a pull cut to flatten the bottom of the stand.

4 And then use the beading/parting tool to define the stand's recess, before cleaning up the recess with the bowl gouge, using a push cut and leaving just a small spigot around the ring centre. This recess will become the socket into which your scroll chuck will later expand.

5 Once the stand is cut and defined, finish shaping the underside of the platter, this time using a push cut which will rip out less grain.

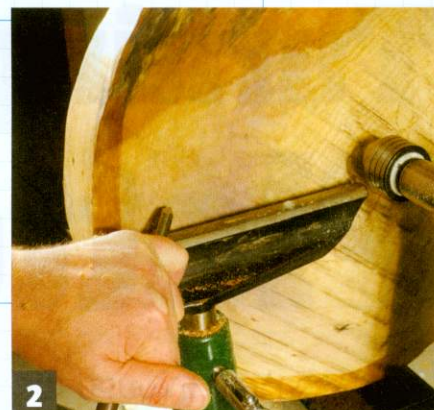
6 Now dismount the blank, and remount it on the scroll chuck, expanding the jaws into the recess. Then bring up the live ring centre, and position your tool rest.

7 Clean up the platter edge with a pull cut, before cutting the inside face of the platter, as when turning a bowl. Leave the live centre in place for as long as possible, before removing it and turning off the spigot.

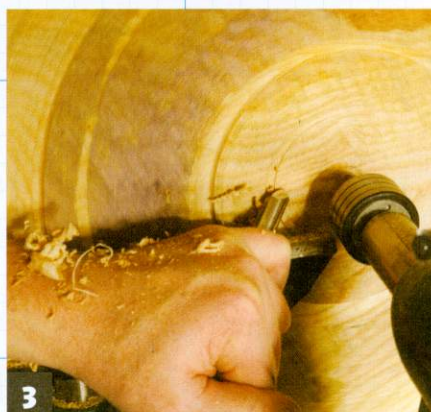
8 Your blank is now ready for storage and drying. To continue, we are using a roughed-out blank produced a few years back. You can clearly see how over the year or two it has spent drying, the blank has warped out of shape!



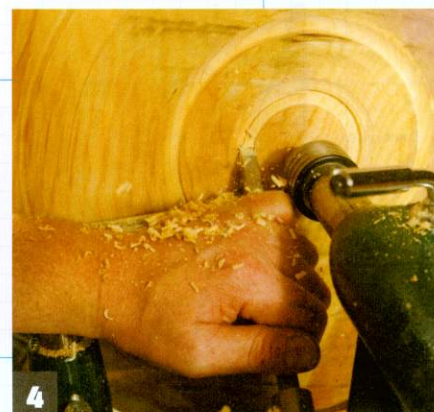
1 Screw your faceplate to what will become the inside of your platter



2 Cut the underside of the rough blank with the bowl gouge. A pull cut's fine here



3 Even though it's a rough blank, it's worth cutting a stand for it



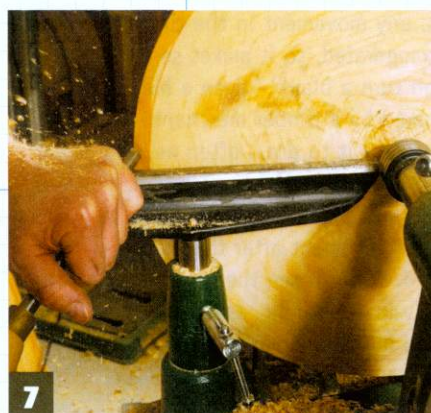
4 You need to create a recess for the expanding jaws of your scroll chuck



5 Then using a bevel-rubbing push cut, shape the underside of the platter



6 Remount the blank on the lathe with the scroll chuck, using the recess cut earlier



7 With the bowl remounted, round up the blank edge, and hollow out the platter



8 A blank left to dry for a year or two has warped an incredible amount

9 Now it's time to mount your old blank. You need to use a friction drive to hold the blank in place and turn it – see issue 62 for how to make one. Centre your blank as closely as possible, before bringing up your tailstock. The blank can be hard to centre exactly, as it will have warped, but get it turning as smoothly as possible.

10 Next, using your parting tool, define a spigot on the bowl underside, which will be grabbed later by the scroll chuck. Then, around this, shape what will be the platter stand. A pull cut on the bowl gouge is fine.

11 Then, reverting to a push cut, turn the underside to an ogee shape until the final sweep of the bowl is finished, apart from the quirk.

12 Use your beading/parting tool to define the stand and the quirk, and then scrape the surface between the stand and quirk, to remove ridges and smooth off the surface. You could use a straight-edge scraper, or the tip of the beading/parting tool, as here. The shape between the stand and quirk is convex – so a straight scraper is fine – but from the quirk to the rim it is concave, so you need a curved scraper. Don't forget, always keep the scraper handle higher than the tool rest!

13 Once you are happy with the stand edge, your quirk, and the surface between, change to your round-nosed scraper to refine the concave surface between curve and rim.

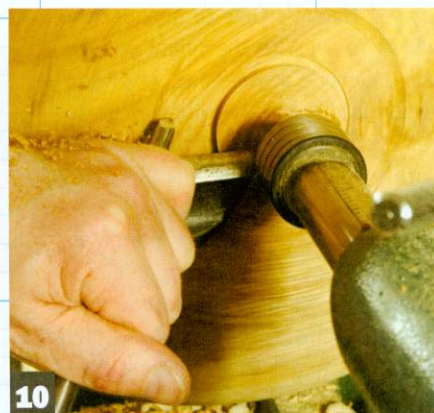
14 Once you are happy with your shape, it's time to sand through the grits. When working near the quirk and stand, it's best to work by hand. Start from around 120grit, and work through to 320. Sand in the lower left quadrant, and keep the abrasive moving.

15 And for the flat expanses of the underside, change up to power sanding, for a better and quicker result.

16 Now it's time for finishing the underside. We've used a few coats of finishing oil. Apply a coat, then let it dry, denibbing and reapplying. Let the final coat almost go off, before burnishing with a folded piece of kitchen towel, for a lovely deep lustre.



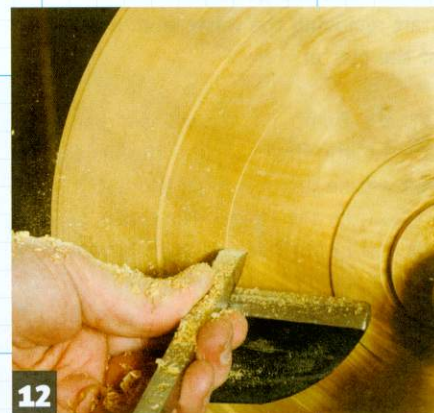
9 Mount the blank between centres with a friction drive in the scroll chuck



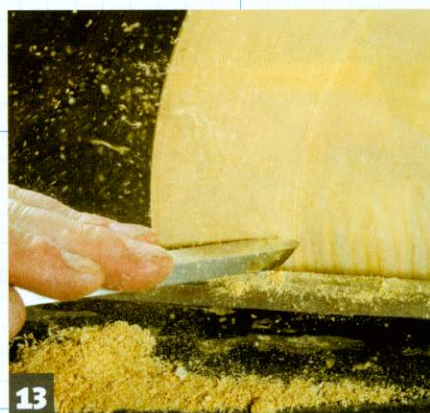
10 Define your spigot with the parting tool, then shape the platter's stand



11 Next turn the shape of the underside with a bevel rubbing cut and the bowl gouge



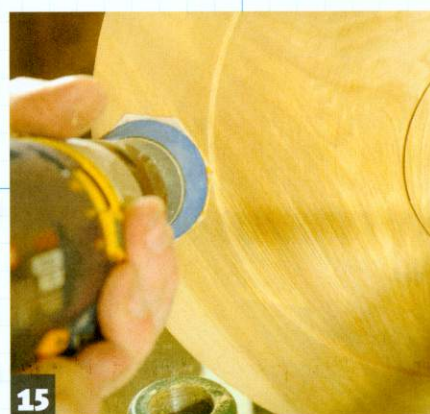
12 Form your quirk with the beading/parting tool, then clean up with a scraping cut



13 Use your round-nosed scraper to refine between rim and quirk



14 Hand sand through the grits when working close to your quirk and stand



15 Then change to your power sanding kit to sand the rest of the platter underside



16 After sanding apply a few coats of finishing oil, burnishing the last coat

17 Now it's time to remount the bowl with the spigot you cut on the underside of the bowl. After you've remounted, bring the tool rest up to the rim edge, and round up the bowl again with a pull cut against the bowl rim...

18 ...when happy the platter is round, take your edge cut all the way across the rim and down into the platter inside, with a bevel-rubbing cut. Don't forget to stop where the internal quirk starts.

19 When happy with the rim shape and the position of the quirk, start removing the waste from the inside of the platter.

20 Eventually you will approach the final shape of the inside, and will be just removing the last waste from the centre. Remember to cut down onto the centre pip of waste. As you approach your final shape, it is worthwhile trying to get the best possible cut. Concentrate on bevel-rubbing, also constantly check your platter thickness with finger and thumb.

21 Now it's down to refining and finishing. Use your round-nosed scraper for the concave inner surface, and remove any remaining ridges, and ripped out grain. For the convex surface between quirk and rim, use your beading/parting tool as a scraper. Then sand through the grits, and finish in exactly the same way as the underside.

22 Nearly done, you now just have to finish the platter's stand. So, remount the bowl with the inside against your friction drive, protected by a pad of kitchen paper.

Then bring up the tailstock, but this time with a conical live centre, so you can turn right into the centre of the stand recess.

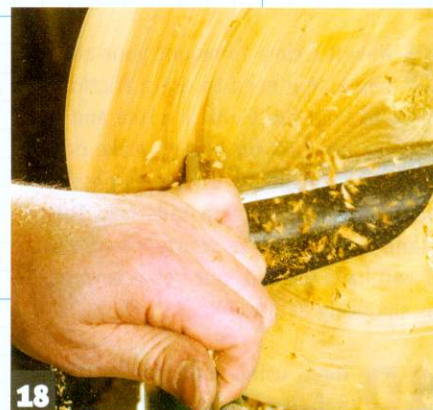
Don't tighten the tailstock too hard, or else the centre will go right through!

23 Define the edge of the recess with the 6mm parting tool, here it is slightly angled to the centre. Then clean up the recess with the bowl gouge leaving a tiny nib under the centre.

24 Lastly, dismount your platter, cut off your nib with a knife, sand the recess smooth and apply oil. Job's a good un! ■



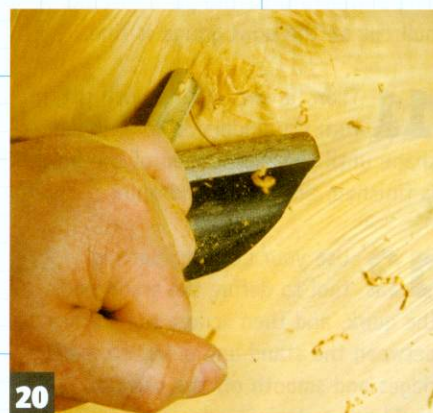
17 After remounting the blank, round up the outside edge...



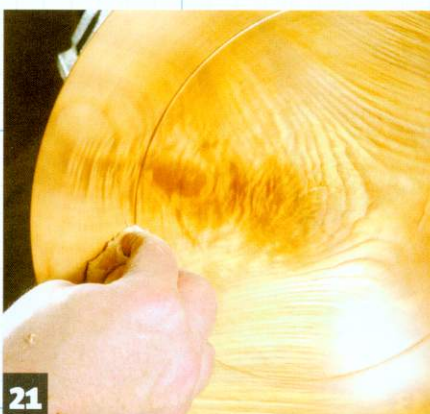
18 ... then, with a bevel-rubbing cut define the concave shape of the rim



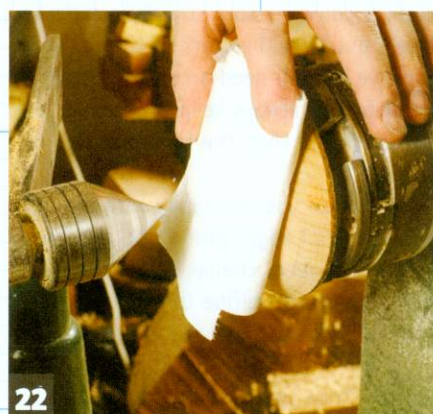
19 When happy with the rim, hollow out the platter with the bowl gouge



20 When removing the last waste, don't forget to cut down on to the centre pip



21 Then sand the inside through the grits and finish, just as with the platter outside



22 Remount your bowl using a friction drive, padding and conical live centre



23 Then define the inner edge of the stand recess with the 6mm parting tool



24 Clean up the recess, before cutting off the nib, sanding and oiling. Job done!

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Manufactured by Robert Sorby of Sheffield, the ProEdge is a revolutionary sharpening system.

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To enter, you will have to answer the questions below by going online at the Woodworkers Institute website:

www.woodworkersinstitute.com

There, you will have to join the online community – at no cost – so you can enter the competition, which will be live on the website from 5 January, 2012.

- 1. Where is the ProEdge manufactured?**
- 2. Name one of the uses of the ProEdge system**

Competition rules

Only entries completed via the Woodworkers Institute forum will be eligible. The competition is going live on the website on 5 January, 2012. The closing date is 1 March, 2012. No entries received after this date will be considered. No cash alternative will be offered for any prize, and GMC Publications reserve the right to offer alternative prizes to those mentioned. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Employees of GMC Publications, associated companies and their families are not eligible to enter. Entries will be forwarded to the manufacturer, who will be responsible for providing the prize. By entering the competition, winners agree that their name may be used in future marketing by either GMC Publications or by the manufacturer. The winners will be notified by email.



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Drinks table



New contributor **Andy Pickard** makes an elegant piece of furniture

Stuck for somewhere to put your gin & tonic? Then read on...

The order for this table came from a couple whom I had previously done work for. They came out to the workshop, bringing with them a small MDF table that had fallen to pieces in a very short time! I was instructed to make a replacement out of proper wood.

The table is a basic design, a single turned spindle with three feet connected via dovetails. Cutting these dovetails was the trickiest part so I have shown an easily constructed jig.

The table consists of four parts: the top, the spindle, the legs and the brace that the spindle fits in under the table. This project requires some basic turning skills, but as we've been covering turning, this shouldn't be too much of a problem!

If you make this, or any other project, out of sapele be careful! It is a popular material and just about right for this job, but beware! Use your airmask EVERY time you do any work, make sure your extractor is on, and vacuum up any and all spillages. This wood is nasty so show it respect!



For
plans see
pull-out,
page 37



The sapele
makes for a
nice looking
table

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDY PICKARD



1 Make sure your timber is at the right moisture content

2 Thickness your table top, with a planer, sander, or by hand



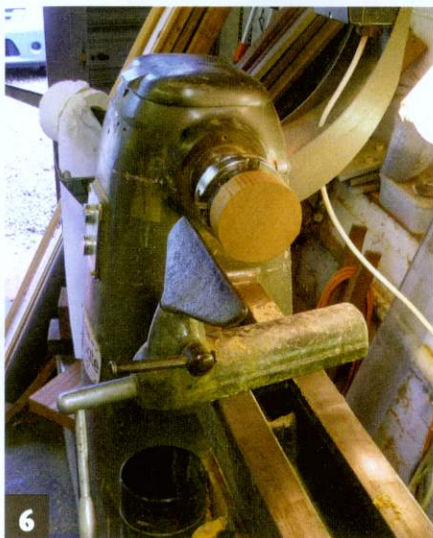
3 Find the centre of your top, and mark the diameter with a compass



4 The top is rough cut on the bandsaw, just over the final diameter



5 A blank for the brace is screwed to a metal ring... the screw holes will be hidden



6 The brace blank is then mounted in a screw chuck on the lathe

1 Make sure that your wood is dry, to match the conditions where the table is going to live – probably in a centrally heated house. Don't rush in and start the job too early, as you will pay for your impatience later! Dry that wood for as long as you can, and get the moisture content to between 10 to 12 percent.

2 First of all, make your top. I've used sapele for this job and made the top from one piece of timber. I thickened the timber to 20mm on the thickening sander. I then finish-sanded the top through the grits to a finish. If you have to make the top up from sections, don't forget to alternate the grain so if there is any movement one section will work against the other, cancelling it out.

3 I marked the centre of the top, with two diagonal lines from the corners, and then described a circle on this with a compass, to the top's diameter of 30cm.

4 The top was then rough-cut on the bandsaw up to just outside of the final diameter.

5-6 Now turn the brace to about 100mm diameter. Cut out an oversize blank on your bandsaw and then mount it on your lathe.

To mount the blank, I screwed it to a metal ring, which is then mounted in a chuck on the lathe.

The screw holes will not be seen as they are on the part of the brace which will contact the table underside.



7 Cutting your blank to the correct diameter with a spindle gouge



The rebate was cut with the beading/parting tool, before the centre hole drilled with a Forstner bit and chuck in the tailstock



9 After turning the cove on the brace, drill your screw pilot...



... and countersink holes, ready to screw to the top underside

7-8 Turn the blank to the finished diameter with a rebate, ready for you to later cut your cove. The rebate is cut with a beading/parting tool. It's best to use a set of callipers, to get the diameter exactly right.

Then, with the blank still mounted in the lathe, cut a 25mm hole in the centre of the blank with a Forstner bit. Cut the hole right the way through the brace.

Once you've drilled your hole, you can finish cutting the detail of the brace. The shape is basically a cove with a fillet.

Cut your cove with a spindle gouge, entering the timber from the edge. Don't cut from the face – always cut downhill.

See WPP's Learn To Turn series in issues 53 to 58 for more information about how to turn safely and properly.

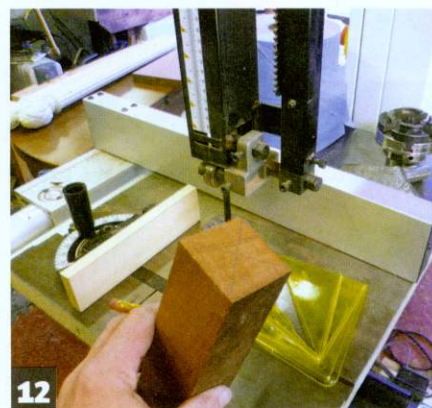
9 Next, mark a line around the centre of the shoulder, and drill your holes for the screws which will hold the brace



11 A 50mm square blank is prepared for turning

to the top. Don't forget to countersink the screwholes. If you won't need to break down the table you can later plug the screwholes.

10 The brace is just screwed to the underside of the top – and don't forget to line up the grain.



12 Finding the blanks centre with lines across the diagonals

11 For the central spindle, I ripped a piece of timber down on the bandsaw, ready to mount in the lathe, about 50mm square.

12 I found the centre of the timber by drawing diagonals from the corners...



13 The 50mm square blank was mounted between centres



14 And roughed down with a spindle roughing gouge to a cylinder



15 The jig to cut the dovetails is 'U'-shaped, with the bottom and sides screwed together



16 A further batten was screwed to the base, to locate in the lathe



17 Here the jig and blank are in position, ready for routing



18 Andy's lathe has an indexing feature, perfect for this job

13 Then mount the blank between centres on the lathe, with a drive spur and live centre.

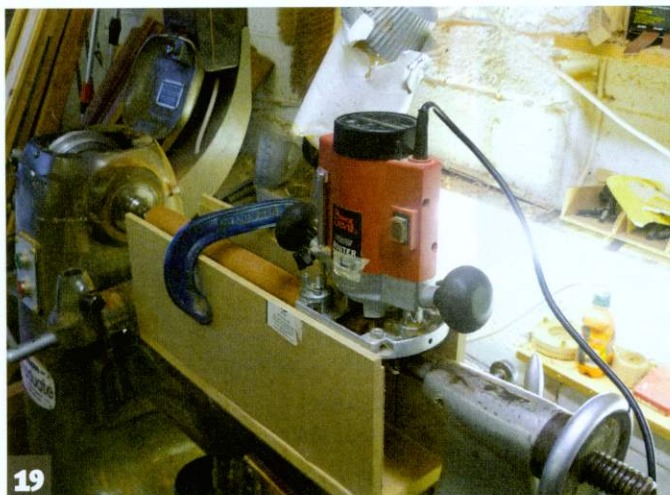
14 The blank was roughed down to 45mm diameter, all the way along its length. To cut the dovetail slots in the stem, I used the indexing feature on my lathe, and made a jig for my router to sit in. Each lathe is different so just make sure that the box, and hence the router, is very secure. I made the jig with a rebate in each side to stop side-to-side movement of the router.

15 The jig is 'U'-shaped, with the sides and base screwed together.

16 A batten was screwed to the underside, which fitted between the sides of my lathe bed for a snug fit to prevent the jig moving sideways.

17 The jig was then fixed securely to the lathe bed. You can clamp it in place or screw through timber into the batten on the jig bottom.

18-19 You can see the indexing feature here on my lathe. I locked the spindle at 120 degree increments, to cut each dovetail socket. Rout in 45mm (mark the spindle or jig so that all cuts are the same length) from the end of your blank.



19

With the lathe locked, and jig secured, the dovetail slots are cut



20

The indexing feature gives perfectly accurate results



21

Andy cut the leg dovetails with his WoodRat on a timber blank



22

Dovetail cut, Andy drew out the shape he wanted for his table legs...

20 Take it slowly with the cut, so as not to strain the dovetail cutter.

21 I used my trusty WoodRat for cutting the dovetails on the legs. I don't use the machine much, but for jobs like this it is indispensable.

If you look at the WoodRat website – www.woodrat.com – you will see the machine doing all sorts of wonderful operations on timber.

Cutting the dovetails needs very careful measurement, delicate cuts and equally cautious adjustments.

It's always best to make test cuts, before cutting your actual project timber.

22 I cut the dovetails before cutting out the shape of the legs.



23

... before cutting out on the bandsaw. Note the grain orientation here!

Once the dovetails are cut, mark up the shape of your legs. Here, I've overturned furniture making tradition, and have the grain running along the dovetail. This makes for a weaker joint, but I prefer the grain orientation. The choice is yours!

23 Then cut out the legs on the bandsaw. Leave a smidgen of timber beyond your cut line, ready for final finishing in the next step.

24 To finish off the legs I clamped them together, and used a spokeshave to shape them to their final profile, then finished them off with a good sanding through the grits. You could, of course, do the final shaping with a bobbin sander.



24

The legs were clamped together for final shaping with a spokeshave



25 I fitted the legs one at a time, with a little gentle persuasion



26 Note, how the dovetails pins are longer than the sockets in the stem



27 The dovetails needed trimming, to create a nice neat joint



28 I remounted the stem and turned the top tenon, and stem shape



29 For sanding, I mounted the stem with a brace in the lathe

25 Because I made the dovetailed pins on the legs longer than the sockets cut into the spindle, I sawed a section of the top of the dovetails off, to fit. This leaves a nice neat joint. I thought about leaving the bottom of the spindle without a cap – just so I could show off the nice neat dovetails, but then I decided to make a cap, as the feet could be left removable.

26-27 Now try a dry assembly of the legs. The brace is already fixed to the top. Use beeswax to help slide the legs into the spindle making sure you don't force them, as a tight fit here spells disaster.

28 Now you are sure all your dovetails fit and the table stands, remount your stem between centres and then you can turn the tenon at the top, so it will fit into the brace. If you are confident, you can use your calipers as you reduce the width.

Start with a parting tool to take two or three cuts down to the right diameter, then join these together with your

spindle roughing gouge, or spindle gouge. Now also turn the gentle curve onto the stem with your spindle roughing gouge, or spindle gouge, if you prefer.

29 You can mount the entire stem and brace between centres, and then give it all a really good sanding.

30 Next, take all of the components and fit them together.

Finishing

To finish the table, I used three coats of thinned-down cellulose sanding sealer. (Mixed 50/50 with cellulose thinners.)

Brush it on and wipe it off quickly – this stuff dries almost immediately – and lightly sand with 240grit abrasive between each coat.

I then added a couple of coats of Danish oil to add a subtle shine. If there are any spillages later on, the oil means the table is easily repairable.

I really enjoyed making this table. It was nice to use different woodworking skills, and it all added up to form a successful conclusion. ■



30 And there's the table put together before finishing, and before the stem cap's fitted



Here's a detail shot of the stem brace on the underside of the table top

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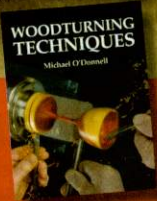
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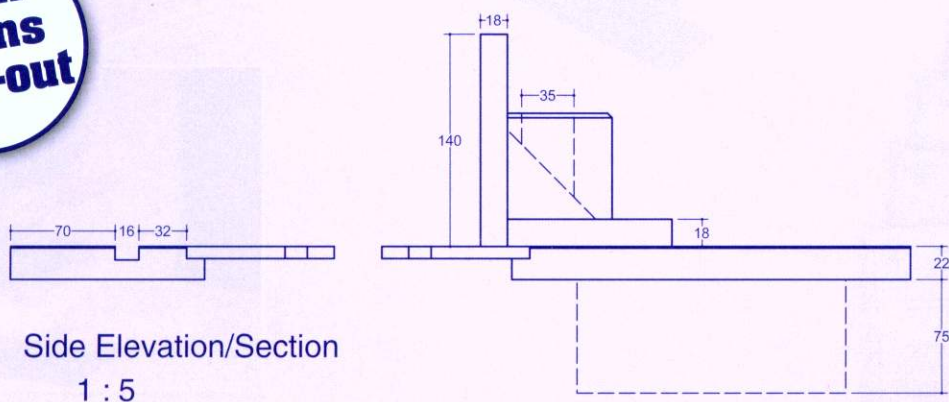
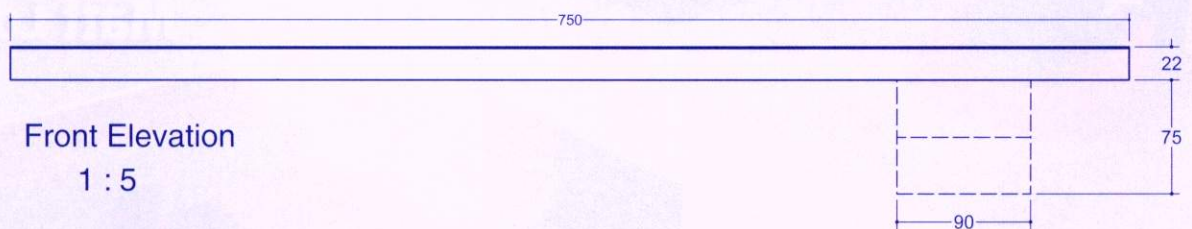
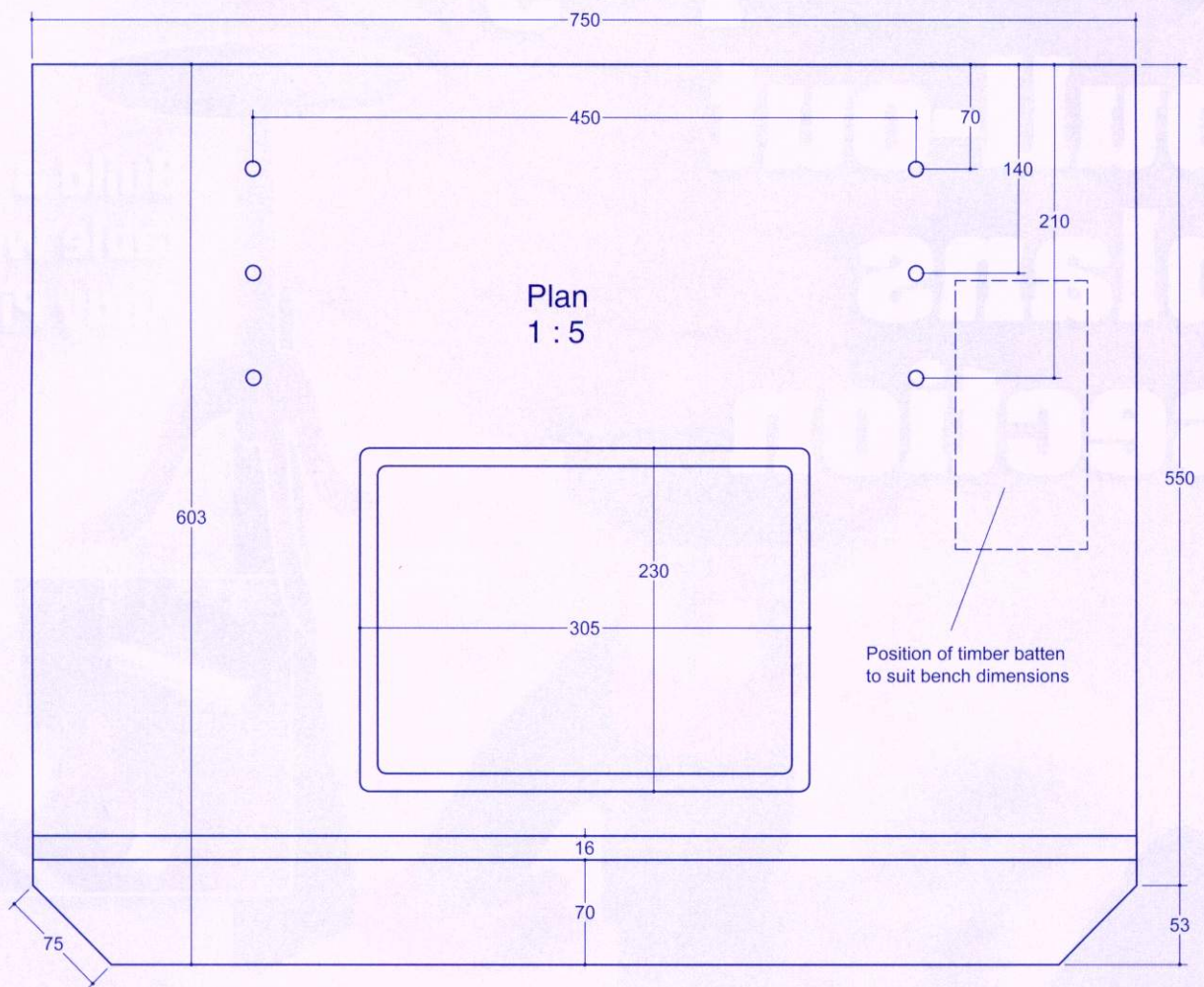
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... and a router
table with
Matt Long

45



Your free router table plan

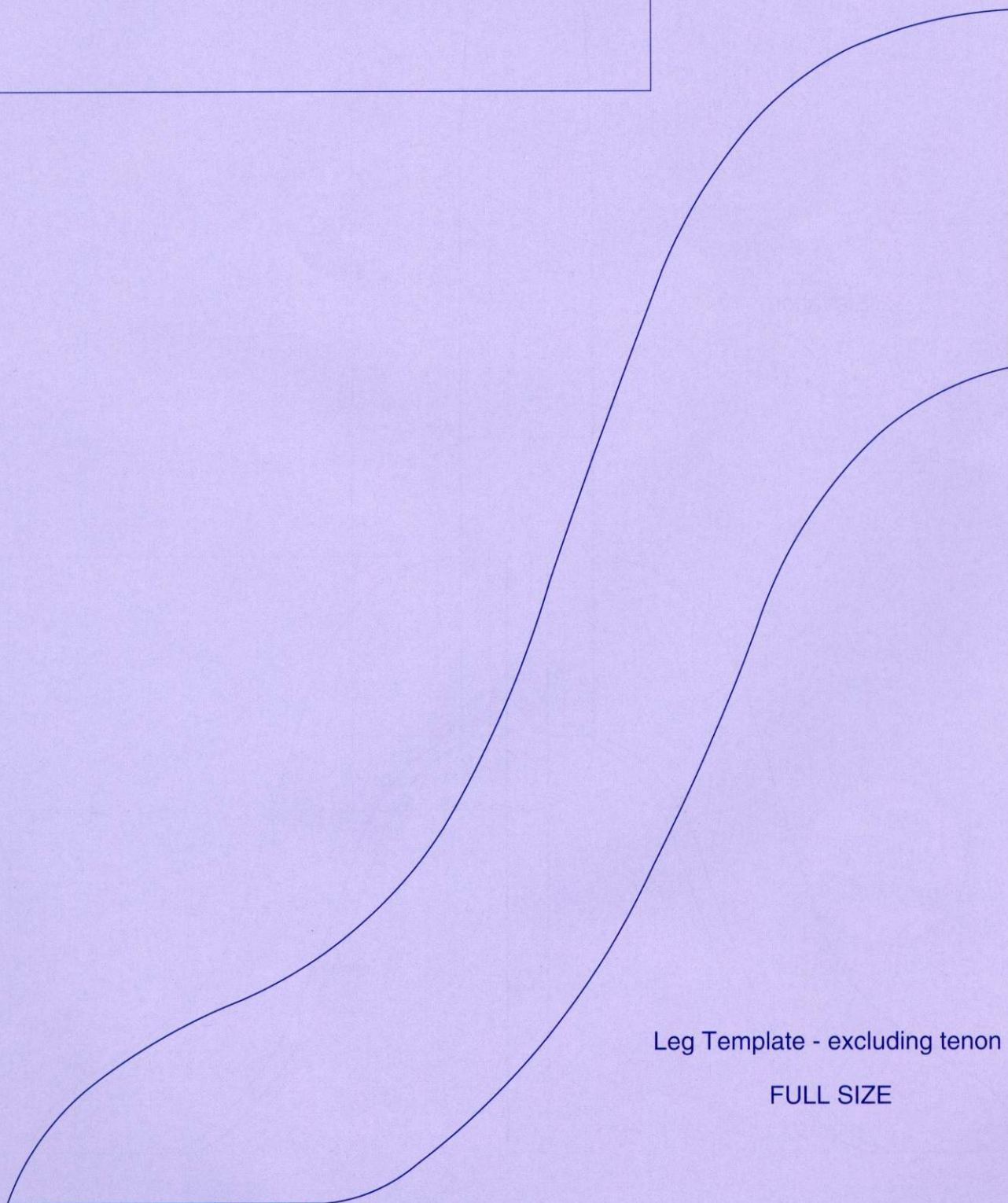


Your free drinks table plan



Cutting List

TOP	1 @ 300 diameter x 20
TOP BOSS	1 @ 90 diameter x 27
STEM	1 @ 310 x 45 diameter
BOTTOM BOSS	1 @ 45 diameter x 25
LEGS	3 @ Ex 185 x 200 x 14

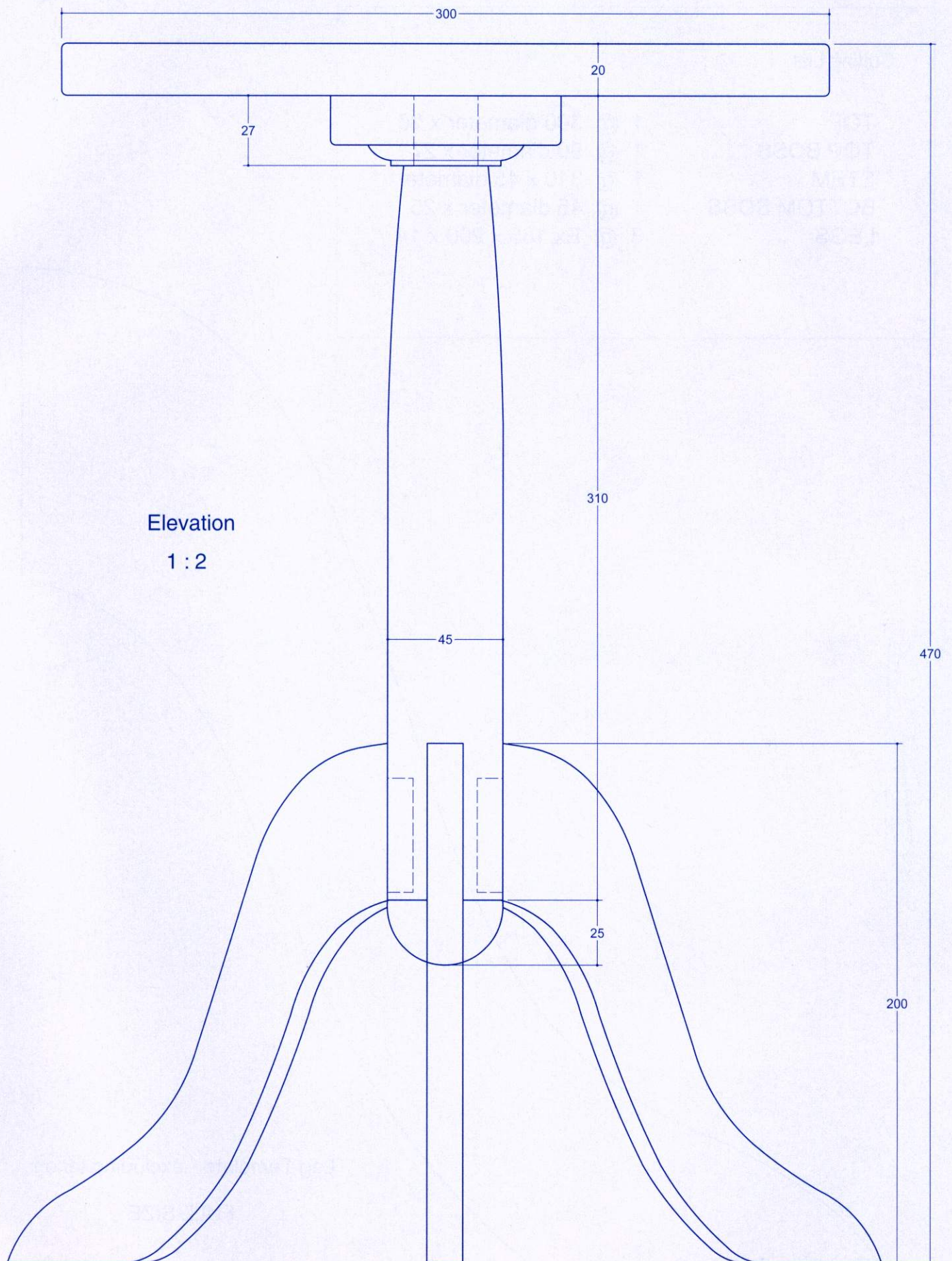


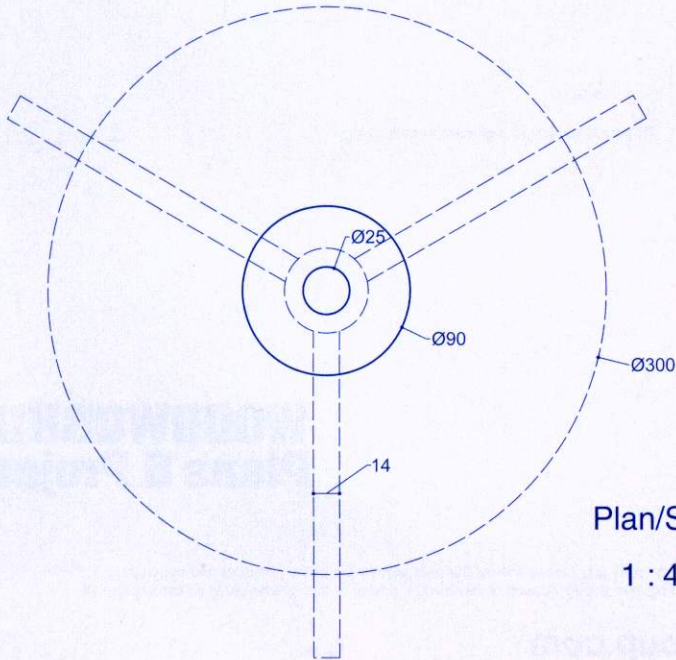
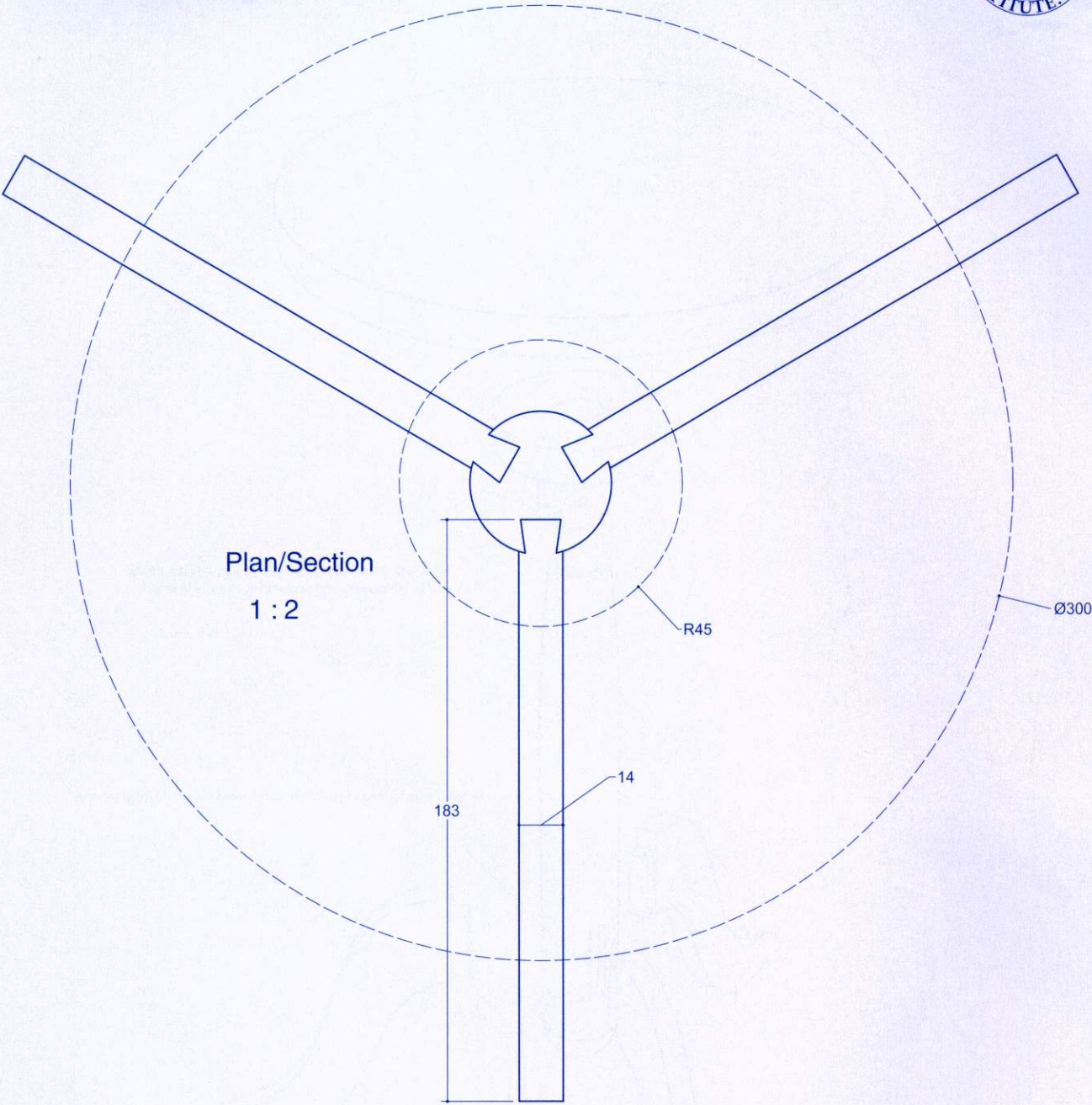
Leg Template - excluding tenon

FULL SIZE



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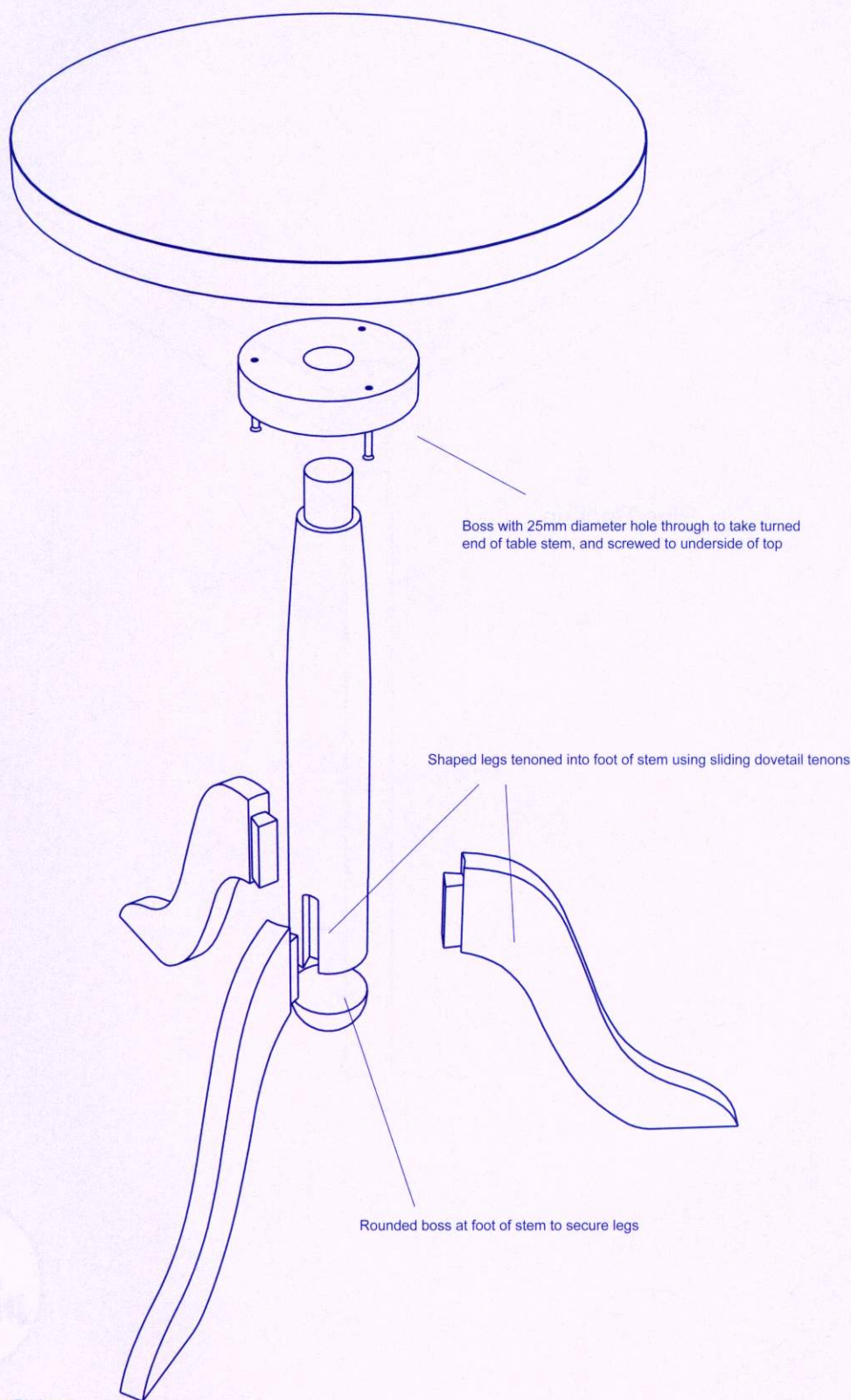




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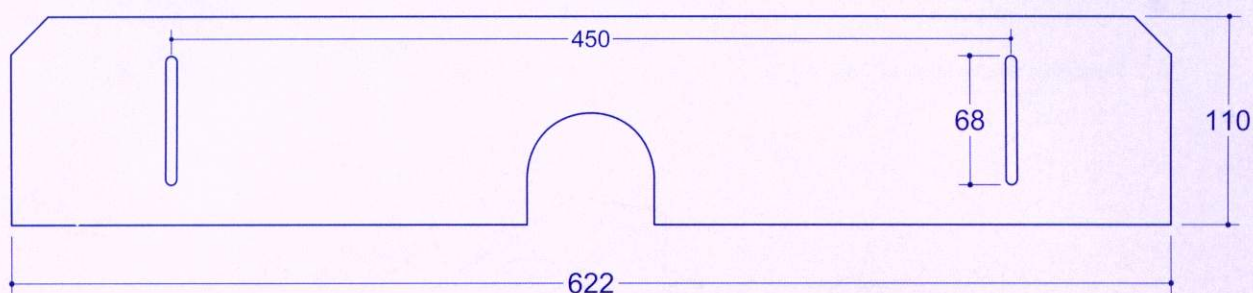
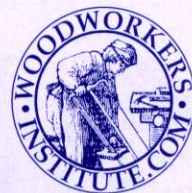
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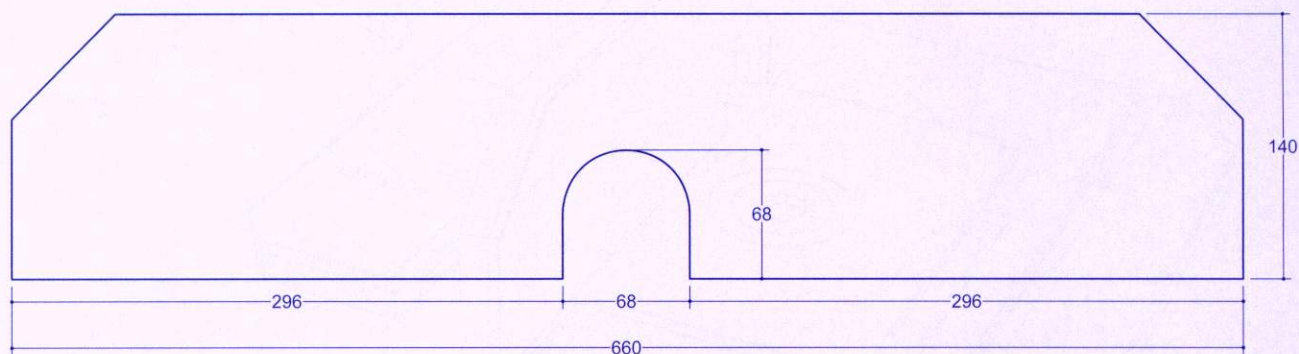
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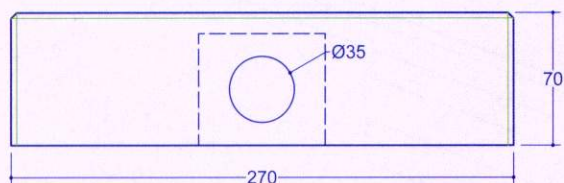
Plan of Base

1 : 4



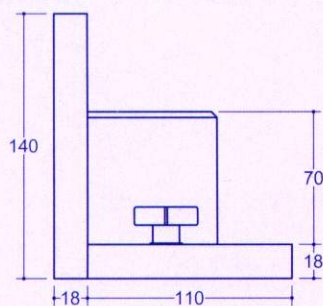
Fence Elevation

1 : 4



Extractor Block

1 : 4



Side Elevation

1 : 4

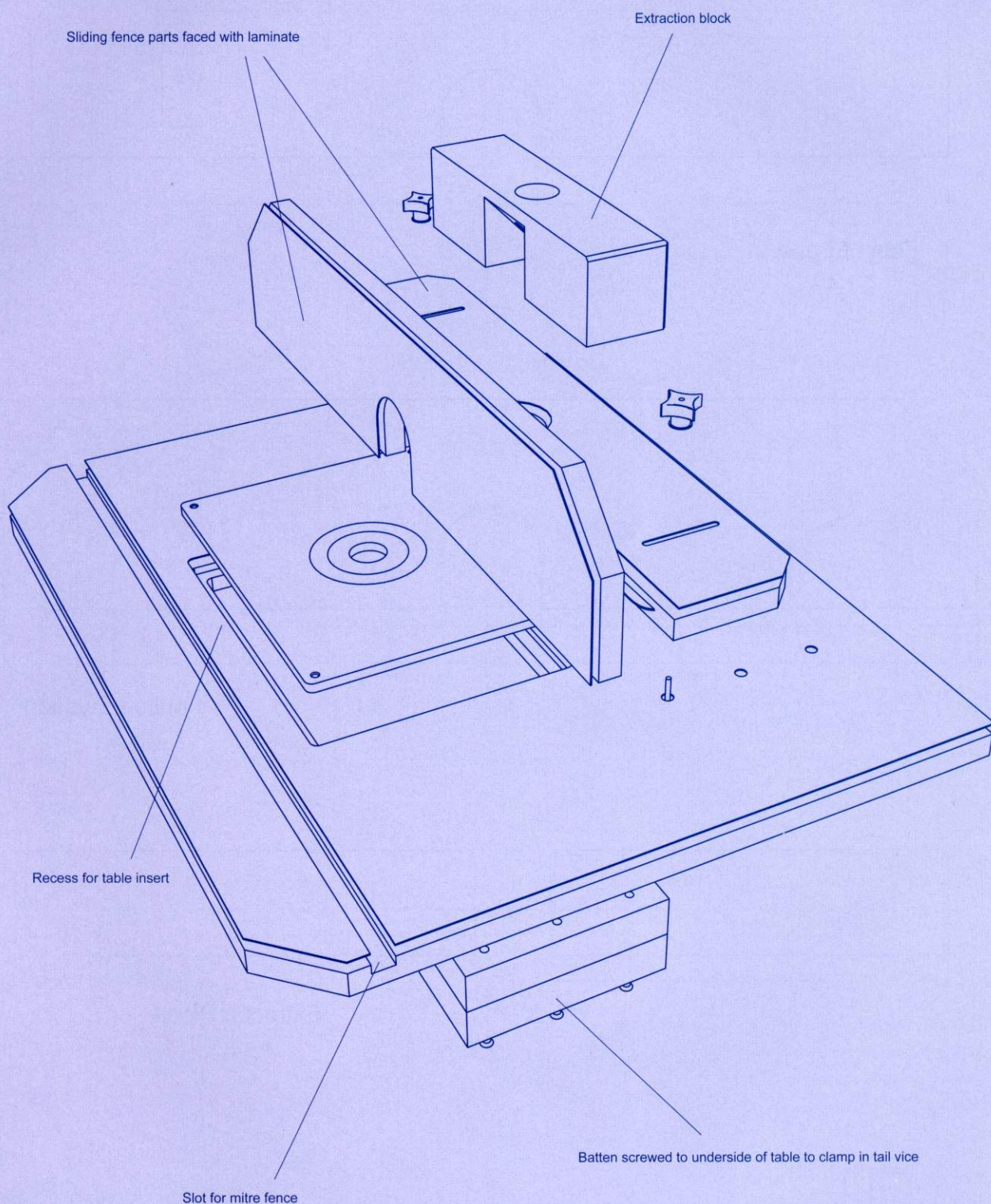
Cutting List

TOP	1 @ 750 x 603 x 22
FENCE FRONT	1 @ 660 x 140 x 18
FENCE BASE	1 @ 622 x 110 x 18
EXTRACTOR BLOCK	1 @ 270 x 70 x 70
BATTEN	1 @ 180 x 90 x 75



Your free router table plan

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Router table

The editor builds a simple router table for the shed workshop



Well, I've kitted out the Pocket Workshop shed, I've built a bandsaw cabinet for the Record BS250 and now I need a router table.

In a shed, you don't have much room for a stand-alone, or even a fold-down router table, so I thought I would design one that will fit on to your existing workbench. Obviously, everyone's workbench is different, so you will have to adapt this design to your needs.

I designed it to be held in place by the tail vice on the Sjöberg bench, and also with knobs, which have their insert nuts embedded in the workbench top... these double up as knobs for tightening up your router table fence.

Speaking of the fence, I've pinched the design for this from the router table Alan Holtham designed and built for issue 46

of WPP. If you can't improve on a design just adapt it!

I've used scrap timber whenever possible for this build to keep costs down. The table bed is an old piece of chipboard work top, and there are scraps of softwood and MDF used as well.

1 The edge of the table was squared up with a handsaw... there's no chopsaw or table saw in the Pocket Workshop!

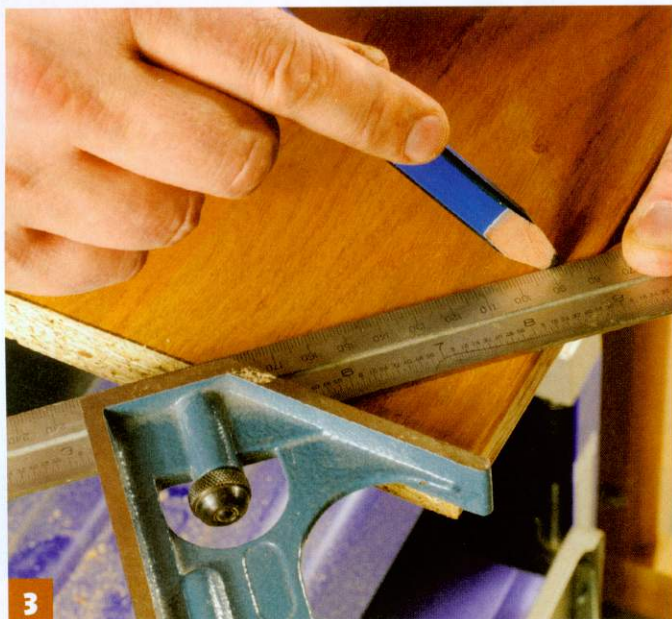
2 I wanted to make the table look good, so I cleaned up the sawn edge with a router, straight cutter and straight edge



First of all, square up the edge of the table with a handsaw...



... then clean up the edge with a router, straightcutter and a straight edge



3

Mark and cut an angle on the front edge of the table

3 I marked and cut an angle on the front edge of the table, mainly to stop it from hurting if you accidentally knocked into the table while it was fitted to your bench.

4 Now, because the table has to be fitted to your bench, marking the relative positions of router insert, fence and mitre fence was a bit tricky.

Basically, the table had to have enough overhang so that the insert with its router attached could be dropped in



4

Clamp the table to the bench to lay out the router table components

place with the table screwed to your workbench. But you don't want the table overhanging your bench too far, as there is very little space in a shed. So, to find the best dimensions for these considerations, I clamped the table to the bench and moved the insert place and mitre fence back and forth to find the optimum position for the them.

The table

5 Once I knew the final position for the insert, I drew around it on the

table top. I then marked up the correct position for the rebate the insert sits in.

6 I also marked the position for the batten which goes underneath the table the tail vice clamps on to, ready to take the screw-in knobs.

7 Once I'd marked up the insert, I cut a hole in one corner with a spade bit, to begin the process of cutting the opening in the top.



5

Draw round the insert ready for cutting the recess in the table



6

Mark the position for the batten under the table, which will be held by the tail vice



7

After marking the insert, drill a hole in one corner, with which to start your jigsaw cut



8 Then cut inside the inside face of the insert rebate using your jigsaw

8 Then it was a case of cutting inside this line with the jigsaw.

9-10 Before tidying up this edge with the router and straight cutter.

11 The next job is to rout out the insert recess around the opening you have already cut. Getting the depth absolutely correct is crucial. Your insert needs to be flush with the top of the table, so you don't get any catches when feeding your work onto the cutter. If you've got a fine adjuster on your router, the task is so much easier. I found the easiest way to get it spot on was to make a test cut and present the insert to this test piece.

12 Getting the exact width correct was not so easy either – I deliberately made it a millimetre too narrow, and tried one dimension of the insert at a time. You can always nudge your straight edge a fraction and recut. An alternative method for cutting the recess is to make a template and use a guidebush, that way if you miscut, you only have to start again with a new template, rather than throw away your router table.

13 The result was a nice fitting and flush table insert!



9 Tidy up your jigsaw cut with a straight cutter and straight edge



10 Be careful when getting near the corners, as the router can bite



11 Now, rout out the insert recess around the opening, being careful to get the depth exact



12 Getting the width correct can be difficult, so do a test fitting as you go



13 Here, you can see the insert fits neatly in to the router table



14

The slot for the mitre fence required two passes as the cutter was only 15.8mm



17

... and cut the MDF to size and shape with a handsaw

14 Routing the slot for the mitre fence required two passes. The mitre fence guide was 16mm and the nearest cutter size I had was 15.8mm, so I cut the slot, then nudged the straightedge over for the second pass, to create a fit without binding.

15 Next, I used iron-on laminate strip to cover the table edges.

16 When the edging glue had cooled, I trimmed the length with a knife. My marking knife proved to be perfect for the job, as it has one flat edge and one bevelled.



15

I used iron-on laminate to cover edges



16

I let the glue dry and trimmed to length with a marking knife

The fence

17 First cut your MDF to size and shape with your handsaw.

18 The slots in the fence base to take the tightening knobs were also cut with the router, this time with a straight cutter that is suitable for a plunge cut.

I used a simple tray jig to cut the slots. The tray jig has a batten underneath which is clamped to the edge of the workpiece to keep the slot perpendicular to the fence edge.

Tray jigs are particularly useful, as they constrain the router movement in both axes of movement.

This way any cut will be perfectly straight, and allows for a limited degree of movement lengthways, so you cannot cut your slots overlength.

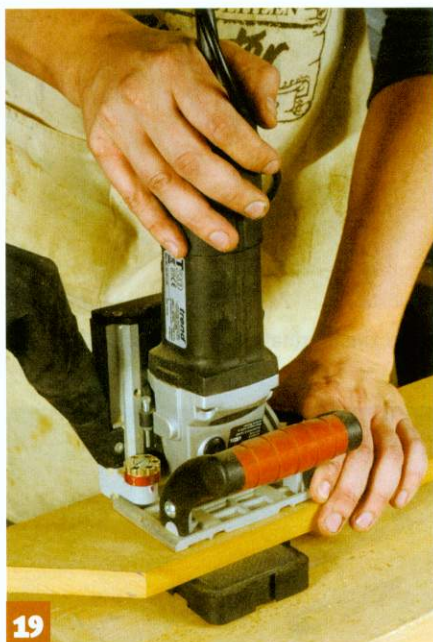


18

Then, I cut slots in the fence base for the fence tightening knobs

Workshop Wisdom

When using the router, constraining the freedom of movement of the router so it can only cut away the required waste is the way to make the most of this valuable power tool. Jigs and fences rule!



19

The base and face of the fence are biscuited together

19 The base and face of the fence are just biscuited together, with additional strength being provided by the extraction block.

20 The fence's cutter openings were cut with the jigsaw, before being tidied up with sandpaper.

21 The extraction block was cut to size, and then the recess for chippings to escape was cut. I made three slant cuts with a Japanese saw...

22 ... before cutting out the waste with a chisel.



20

The fence's cutter openings are made with a jigsaw, then tidied up with abrasive



21

The extraction block opening is cut to size with a Japanese saw

23-24 I used a 32mm holesaw to cut the hole the extraction pipe would fit in. Choose the correct diameter hole that will fit your extraction pipe.



22

Then, the waste is removed with a nice sharp chisel



23

The hole for the extraction pipe is cut with a holesaw...



24

... make sure you choose the correct diameter hole for your extraction pipe. A good tight fit is essential to keep the wood dust under control



25

Break the arrises of the extraction block with a bearing-guided cutter



28

Glue and clamp the fence assembly together



29

Glue and screw the batten for the tail vice on to the table underside

25 I broke the arrises of the extraction block with a bearing-guided cutter.

26 I originally intended to keep the fence MDF only, but discovered an old bit of laminate knocking around the workshop. Really, I should have applied the laminate before shaping the components for the fence, but thought



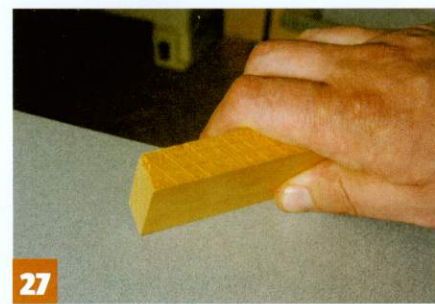
30

Marking the positions for the the holes to take the fence screw inserts



26

Bond the laminate with contact adhesive



27

I used an off-cut to push the laminate securely down on to the MDF

I'd try it afterwards. I bonded the laminate with contact adhesive...

27 ...then ensured the laminate adhered properly to the MDF by pushing from the centre outwards with an off-cut – a veneer hammer or roller would do a better job, of course. Still, this method seemed to work well enough. As I had already cut the slots for the fence, once the contact adhesive had gone off, I carefully cut through with a sharp knife, before cleaning up the edges with a bearing-guided laminate trimmer.

28 Then it was simply a case of gluing and clamping the fence assembly together.

29 I then glued and screwed the vice fixing batten to the underside of the table...

30 ...then I worked out where to position the holes to take the screw inserts, which the fence fixing knobs are tightened into. I drilled three holes for each fence slot to ensure the fence could have as wide a range of movement as possible. The last set of holes doubled up as ways to screw through the table into the bench top, to secure the whole table to the bench.



Email pictures of your finished projects to our Readers' Forum: mattl@thegmcgroup.com



After drilling the holes, cut a countersinking hole for the inserts



... so they will sit flush to the table top



Drill your hole in the bench top, before countersinking and screwing in the insert



The fence adjusting knob goes through the top to hold the router table securely



An NVR switch is essential and can be screwed to the underside of the table

31-32 Once I'd drilled the holes in the table top, I cut a countersunk hole the inserts would sit in, flush to the table top.

33 And drilled the corresponding hole in the bench top, before countersinking that hole and driving in the insert.

34 As mentioned before, for the final set of holes, the insert is screwed into the bench top, not the table.

35 An NVR switch is essential for a router table. They can be bought very readily. It just needs screwing to the underside of the table.

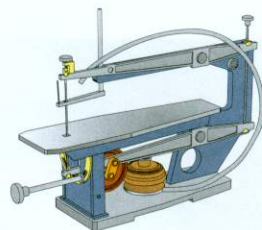
36 And there we are... your table is complete and ready for action! ■



The finished table, ready to go. It will get a lot of use in the PWP, I'm sure!

Scrollsaw bowls

Fred & Julie Byrne's project will, erm, bowl you over



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED & JULIE BYRNE



What you need

- Blade No. 5 or 7 depending on wood used
- Pattern
- Wood of choice
- Pillar drill – 1mm drill bit
- Bradawl
- Digital angle gauge
- Glue stick/spray adhesive/ Wood glue
- Sandpaper: 180 – 320grit
- Sanding block
- Pencil
- Masking tape
- Weights/clamps
- Finish of choice

Who would have thought that you could make a bowl using the scrollsaw – and from just one small piece of wood?

“Can’t look as good as a turned bowl,” we hear you say, and as you can see from our initial practice effort, using 19mm pine, the bowl does somewhat resemble a wooden flower pot!

But, after a little TLC and quite a bit of sanding and polish it does look a little more respectable.

With the first humble creation under our belts, the mind starts working overtime thinking up all sorts of ways to make a more attractive bowl – and I hope you think we’ve achieved that.

A more careful choice of wood is the answer, we found, and laminating two

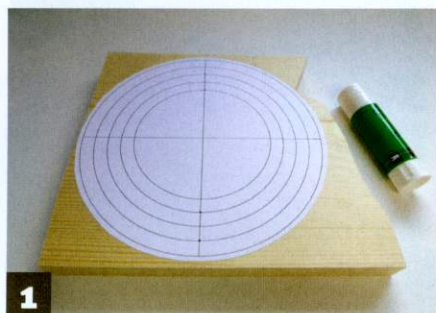
contrasting, slightly thinner woods also created a more pleasing effect on the finished article. Hope you like the results and it goes some way to inspire you to use your own imagination and have a go!

Practice bowl

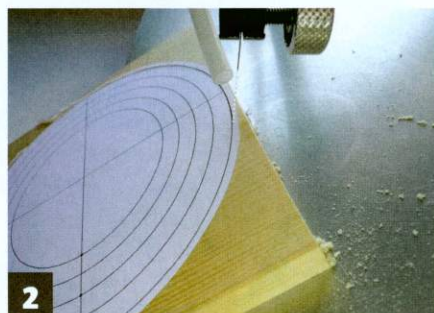
1 Prepare the practice/trial bowl by first attaching the pattern to a 19mm piece of pine, or wood of choice.

2 Tilt the scrollsaw table down 28° to the left and then make the first outer edge cut.

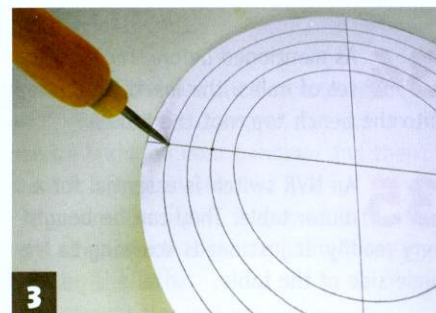
3 Next use a bradawl to make an indentation into the blade entry holes, this will help the drill bit to stay in the correct position when drilling.



1 Attach the pattern to a 19mm piece of pine or wood of your choice



2 Tilting the scrollsaw 28°, make the first outer edge cut



3 Use a bradawl to indent the blade entry holes, so the drill bit holds position



4 Check the bit runs true down the bowl

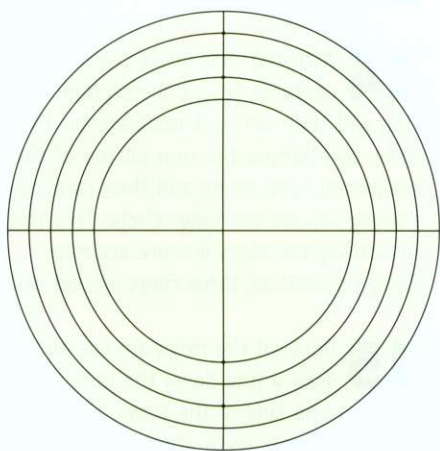
4 Tilt the pillar drill table down to the left by the same 28°, place the bowl blank onto a scrap piece of wood checking first that the bit runs true down the edge of the bowl, at the same angle.

5 Then drill the blade entry holes in alternate ends of the bowl blank – see pattern.

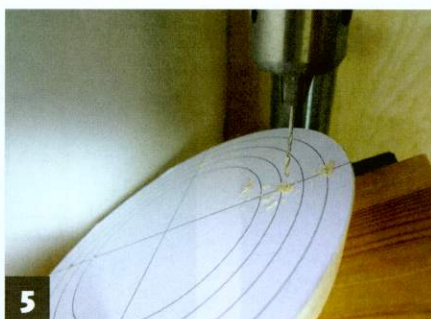
6-7 Transfer the line from the top of the pattern down onto the side edge and onto all consecutive pieces, to use as a guide for aligning the wood grain when gluing. Then thread in your blade and cut out the bowl pieces.

8 Glue the sides of the bowl together and, when dry, sand the inside walls of the bowl, then attach the base, leave to dry and sand the outside.

Apply a finish of your choice. That's the trial bowl, which is simple but quite nice... Now for something a bit more complicated.



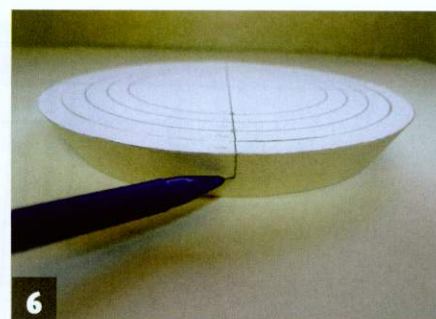
HALF SIZE



5 Drill holes in alternate ends of the bowl



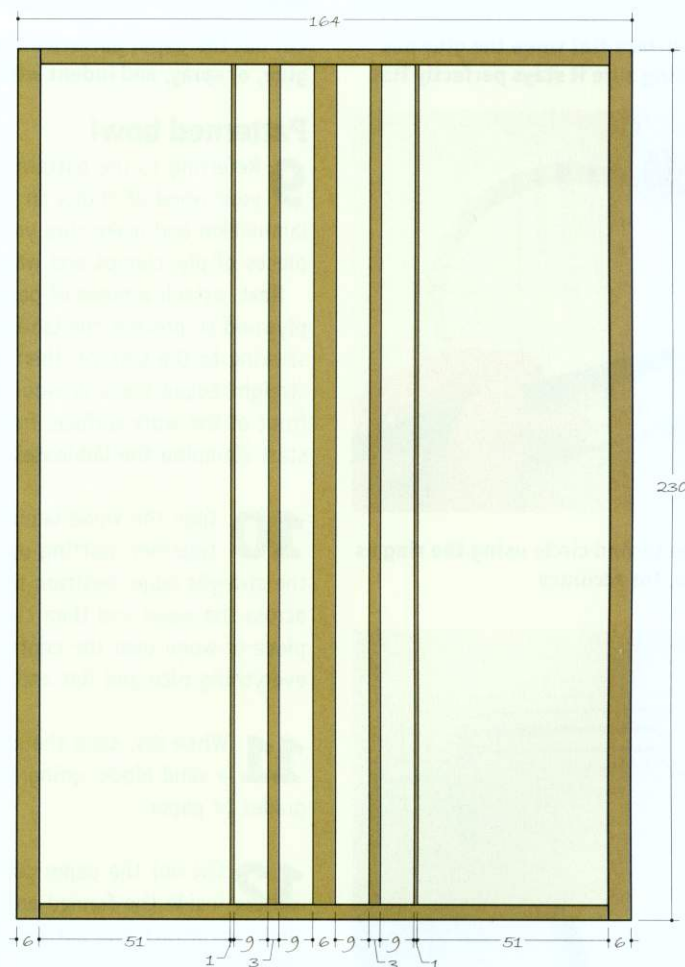
7 ... and then all the consecutive pieces, to use as a guide for gluing



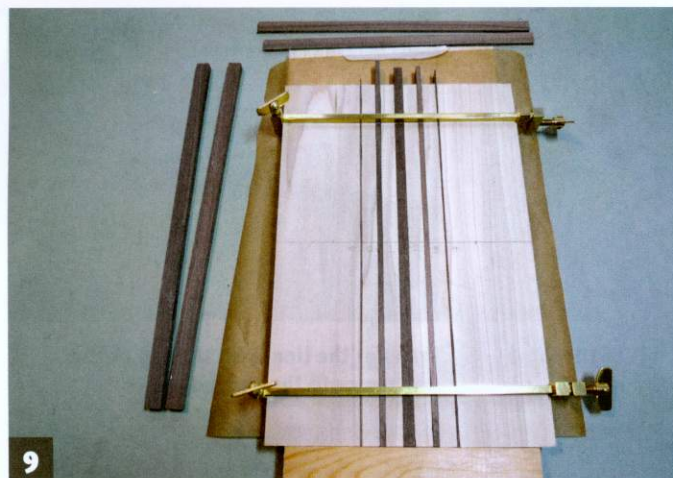
6 Transfer the line from the top of the pattern onto the side edge...



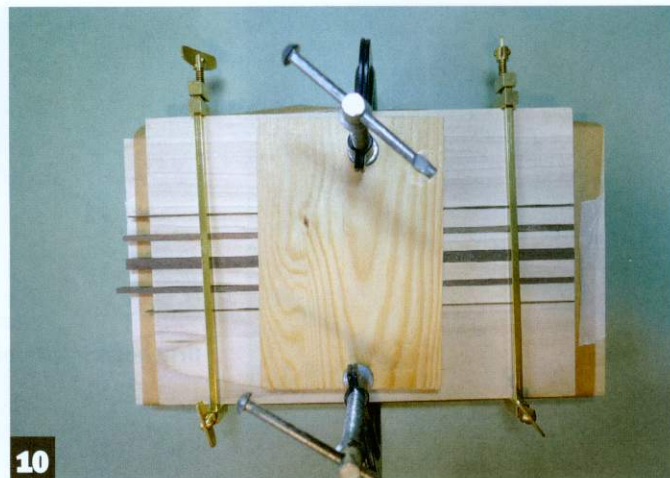
8 Then glue the bowl sides, sand the inside walls, attach the base and apply a finish



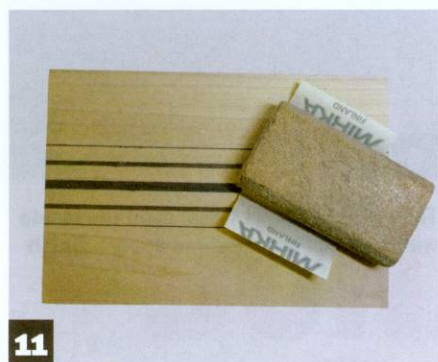
HALF SIZE



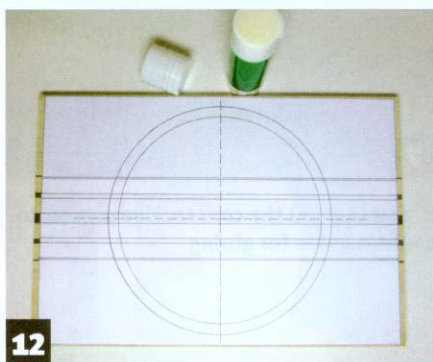
9 Lay out your wood for lamination, with paper underneath



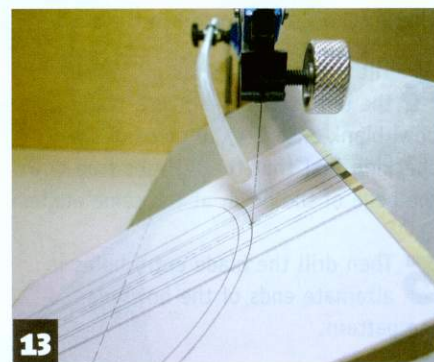
10 When happy, glue together with clamps



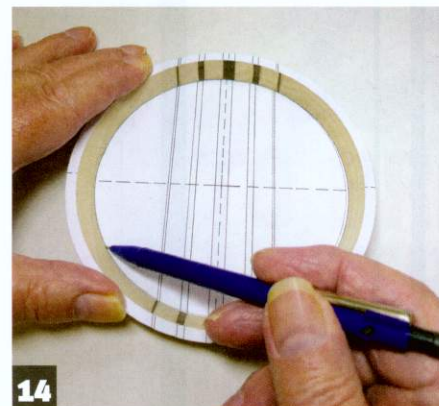
11 Sand the surface flat when the glue has dried, making sure it stays perfectly flat



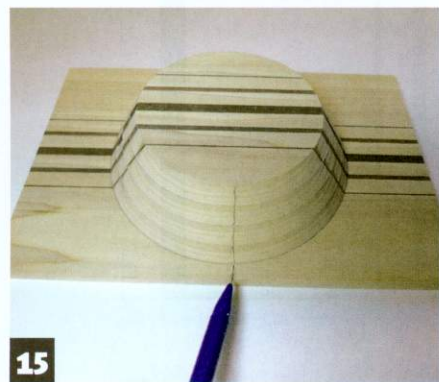
12 Cut out the paper pattern and attach with glue, or spray, and indent with the bradawl



13 After tilting the table, cut slowly around the first circle



14 Cut out the second circle using the ring as a template, for accuracy



15 After the rings are cut, draw a line on the outside of the bowl

Patterned bowl

9 Referring to the pattern, lay out your wood of choice in readiness for lamination and make sure you have scrap pieces of ply, clamps and waxed paper.

Next, attach a piece of paper over the plywood to prevent the laminated woods sticking to the surface, then clamp a straight edged piece of wood onto the front of the work surface, from which to start clamping the laminates.

10 Glue the wood laminates together: butting up one end to the straight edge, position the clamps across the wood and then clamp a scrap piece of wood over the centre to keep everything nice and flat and allow to dry.

11 When dry, sand the surface using a sand block, going through the grades of paper.

12 Cut out the paper pattern just inside the framed edge, then align and attach the pattern centrally onto the wood surface, using the glue stick or spray adhesive.

Then, as with the practice bowl, use the bradawl to make an indentation into

the blade entry hole to prevent the bit from drifting off.

13 Tilt the pillar drill table down to 32° before drilling the blade entry holes.

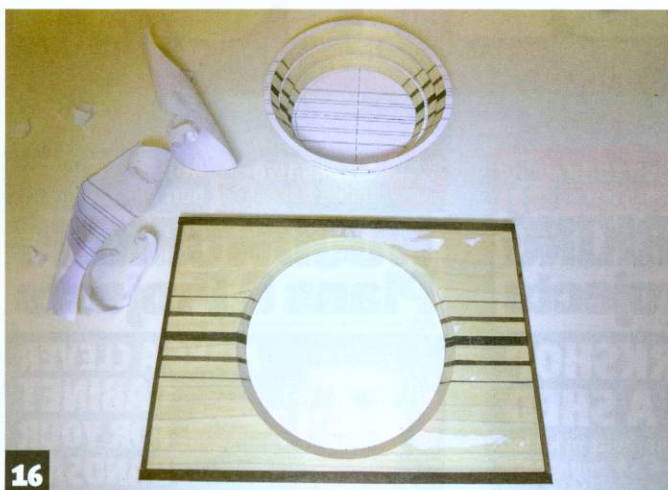
The scroll saw table should also be tilted down 32° to the left.

Thread the scroll saw blade up through the blade hole and secure. Tighten until taut to prevent the blade from wandering.

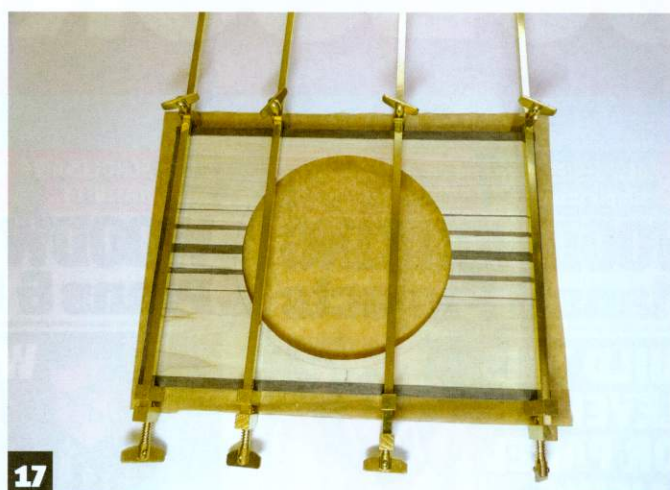
Cut slowly and accurately around the first circle, this time the outer section will not be discarded.

14 With the first circle cut out, continue to cut the second. This ring will then act as a template for the next, by aligning the ring on top of the remaining bowl blank and then carefully tracing around the inner circle. This way of cutting the rings is more accurate. Carry on until all three rings are cut out.

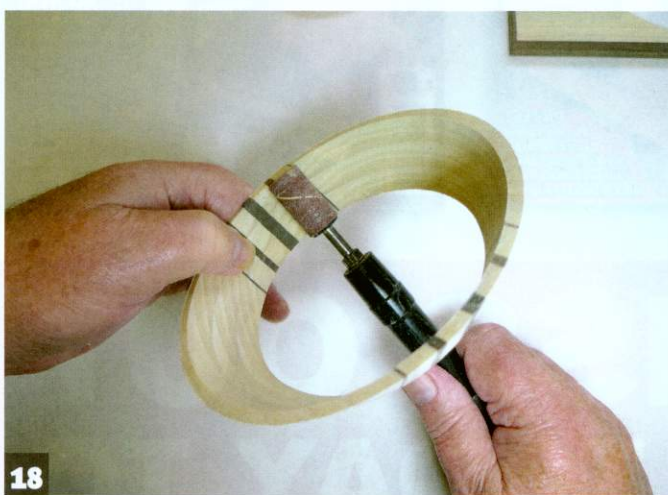
15 Once all the rings are cut out draw a line down the outside edge on one side of the bowl. This will make it easier to align the rings when gluing.



16 Remove the paper pattern and cut out the four edging pieces



17 Glue the pieces together and allow to dry



18 Sand the inside wall with a small diameter drum sander



19 Align and glue the sides to the base, then sand once dry

16 Remove the paper pattern from all the pieces and then cut the four edging pieces for the rectangular top of the bowl to length.

17 Glue the end pieces of the edging in place first and secure with clamps, allow to dry.

When dry, glue the two side pieces of the edging in position and secure with clamps. When dry, hand sand the edging going through the grades of paper to leave a smooth finish.

Next glue the three rings together, taking care to align the pieces accurately, clamp to secure or apply a weight to the top and allow to dry.

18 Use a small diameter drum sander to sand the inside wall of the bowl and hand sand to a smooth finish.

19 Next, align and glue the sides of the bowl onto the base. Once dried, sand the outside edges of the bowl which now includes the base.



20 Glue the bowl section's top edge to the top piece, clamp and allow to dry

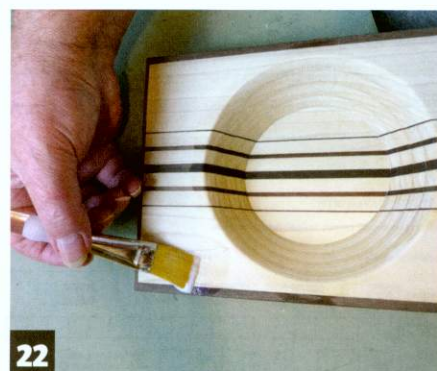


21 Sand the rim and inner walls once dry

20 Apply glue to the top edge of the bowl, brush the glue out evenly with an old artist brush and align the rectangular top piece. Secure with weights or clamps until dry.

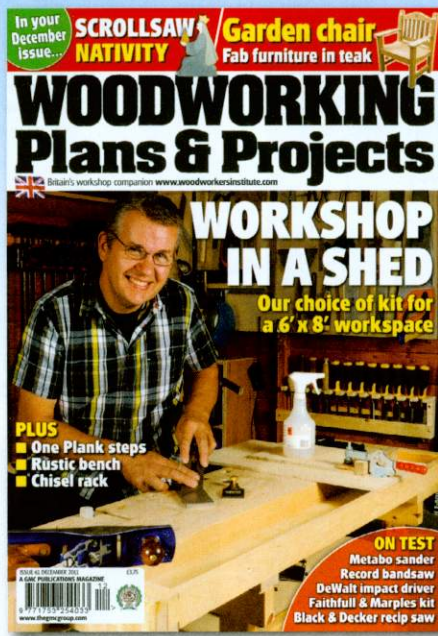
21 When dry, sand the rim flush with the inner walls of the bowl.

22 Lastly, apply your finish of choice, depending on if the bowl is for food use, or for decoration! ■



22 Apply a finish of your choice – and your bowl is ready for action

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Mini Projects

WPP's ideas for tidying up your home or office desk

PAPERWORK TRAY

You will need

- 9mm ply
- Bandsaw or jigsaw
- Router & roundover cutter
- PVA glue • Masking tape
- Quick clamps
- Abrasive paper
- Sanding sealer

Sorting your paperwork, and keeping it to hand will make your life that much easier, and this paperwork tray will do just that.

Make it from offcuts of 9mm ply to keep it sufficiently rigid.

Shape the sides first on the bandsaw and then carefully rasp or file the edges smooth by clamping them together

so that the finished shapes will match. Use the table saw to accurately cut the tray bottoms and ends to the same width.

Note the back ends are slightly higher than the tray sides and with a small roundover.

Sand the components all round, and butt glue them all together using masking tape to hold everything in place then adding some quick clamps for security.

Wipe off the surplus glue, and apply a coat of sanding sealer or clear varnish once the glue has dried.

PENCIL POT

You will need

- 150 x 75 x 75mm square length of sycamore
- 175mm wide x 50mm thick sycamore black
- 10mm spindle gouge
- 10mm bowl gouge
- 20mm spindle roughing gouge
- 3mm parting tool
- Scroll chuck
- Drill chuck
- 6mm saw-tooth bit
- Abrasives, 120 - 400grit



This is a project in two parts – a base and the main body.

Find the centres of each end of the spindle blank and mount it in the lathe between centres.

Take the spindle roughing gouge and create a clean, parallel cylinder. Once you have done that, take the parting tool and create a spigot on the tailstock end to fit into a scroll chuck and the jaws you have.

Once a spigot is cut, remove the wood and fit it into the chuck. Now mount the saw-tooth bit in the drill chuck and fit that into the tailstock. Select a low lathe speed and drill the internal hole to the depth required. About 125mm will be fine.

Remember to remove the cutter regularly to clear the waste. Once cut, use the spindle gouge to round over the top edge and then sand the whole thing down to 400g.

Once sanded apply a finish of your choice – an oil finish is good for this, and then take the parting tool and part it off the chuck close to the jaws, and sand the bottom face.

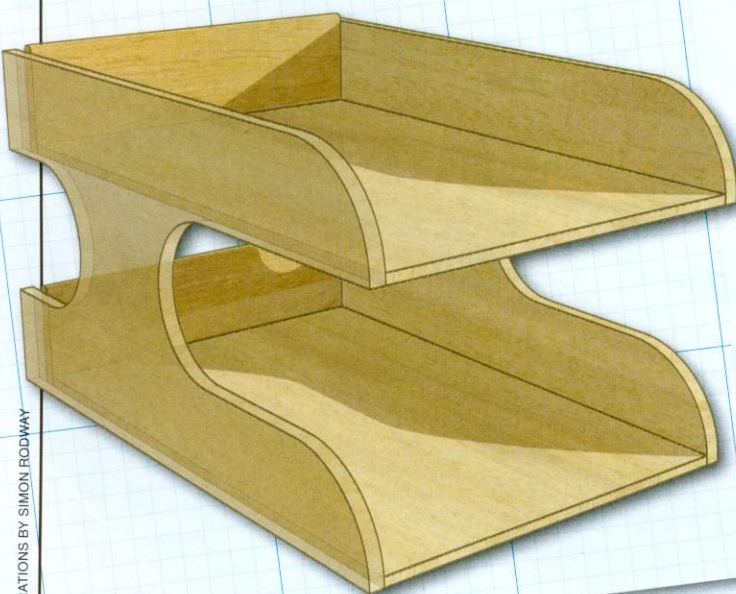
Now find the centre of the base section and drill a hole of the right size and mount it onto a screwchuck.

Take the bowl gouge and rough shape the base. You can create the step details by using a parting tool and then continue the shaping cut as necessary with the gouge.

Make sure the upper section of the base is the exact width of the cylinder. Once shaped, sand the top and side sections and apply your finish of choice.

Remove it from the chuck, sand the bottom, and fit self-adhesive baize on the base.

Now glue the top to the bottom wiping off any excess glue. Leave it to set and you will have a great pen holder!



LETTER RACK

If you fancy a desktop tidier for all your letters, then this simple rack is just the ticket.

It is made up of four pieces of a suitable hardwood of your choice.

Note how the middle upright sits on the base while the front and back press against the edges of the base.

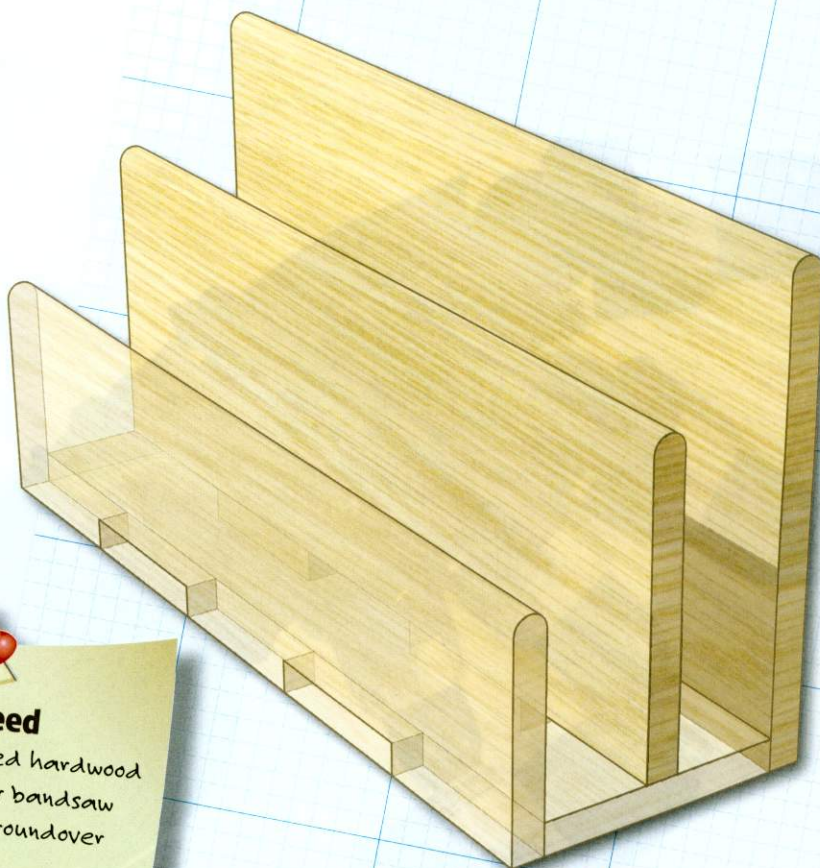
In fact the base has two visible tenons holding the front and rear uprights in place and the middle piece is tenoned into the base.

This gives the whole piece some rigidity, rather than relying on glue alone.

The secret to cutting these accurately is to cut the tenons first, present them to the uprights and mark around them. This way any discrepancies in your cutting will be taken into account.

The top edges are completely rounded over on the router table and when sanding the components the ends should stay crisp and square looking.

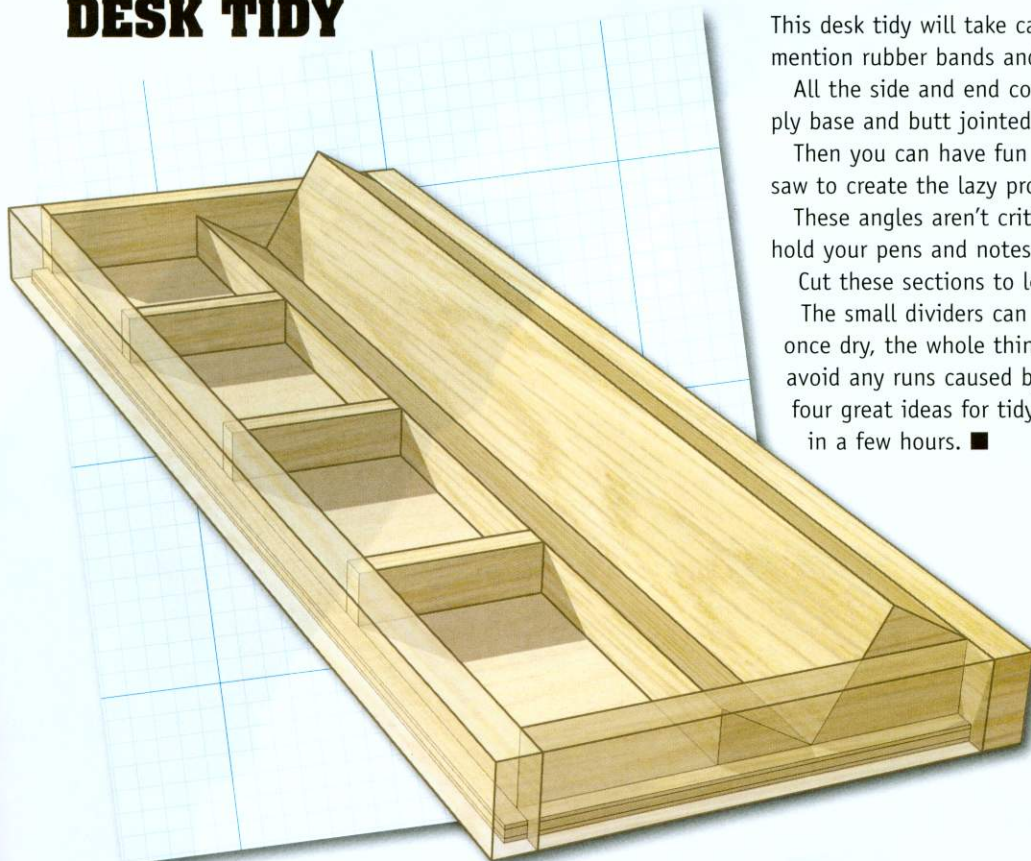
Apply an aerosol lacquer coat for a fine finish and then wax it.



You will need

- 9mm prepared hardwood
- Coping saw or bandsaw
- Router and roundover cutter
- PVA glue
- Abrasive paper
- Aerosol lacquer

DESK TIDY



This desk tidy will take care of all the pens and paperclips not to mention rubber bands and other sundry items.

All the side and end components are rebated to take a 6mm ply base and butt jointed together using PVA glue all round.

Then you can have fun sawing some timber down on the table saw to create the lazy profiles at the rear of the desk tidy.

These angles aren't critical but must be cut so that they can hold your pens and notes when laid on it.

Cut these sections to length, sand carefully and glue in place.

The small dividers can be cut to fit and glued in place and once dry, the whole thing can have an aerosol finish applied to avoid any runs caused by hand finishing. And there we are...

four great ideas for tidying up your desktop that can be made in a few hours. ■

You will need

- 6mm ply
- 19mm thick timber
- 50 x 50mm section timber
- Table saw
- PVA glue
- Aerosol lacquer
- Hardening wax

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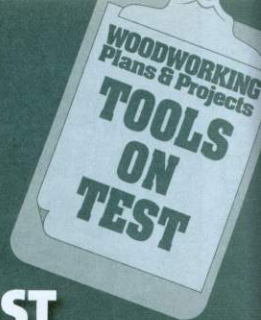
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ON TEST THIS MONTH

P62 Hitachi angled impact driver

Matt Long sees if Hitachi has covered all the angles



P63 Veritas hand router

Mr Bailey sees if small is, indeed, beautiful



P63 Veritas gent's saws

Our Anthony is a proper gent, and no mistake!



P64 Bosch board saw

The editor sees if Bosch has gone off the rails



P65 Metabo jigsaw

Have Metabo thrown a curve ball with their jigsaw?



P66 Milescraft SignPro

Our Anthony sees if Milescraft has read the signs



5 STAR RATING



Our highest accolade for kit tests – one star is just not good enough



Hitachi WH10 DCL 10.8v angled impact driver



AT A GLANCE

- 10.8v Li-ion
- Comes with:
Charger & battery
Carrying case
One bit
- Impact driver for tight spaces
- Built in LED light
- Low battery indicator
- Forward & reverse switch
- Soft grip handle
- Full warranty

THE NUMBER

- No-load speed: 0-2,100rpm
- Impact rate: 0-3,000ipm
- Maximum torque: 30Nm
- Maximum capacity: wood screws 4.2 x 90mm
- Capacity in small bolt: M4 - M8
- Capacity in bolt: M5 - M12
- Capacity in H.T. bolt: M5 - M10
- Drive: 1/4in hex
- Length: 280mm
- Driver bit
- Weight 1kg
- Shipping weight: 1.9kgs
- Price: from £145.85 inc. VAT

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Light
- ✓ Comfortable to use
- ✓ Well designed
- ✗ Very specific uses

WHERE TO BUY

- www.hitachi-powertools.co.uk

5 STAR RATING

- Value for money: ★★★★★
Performance: ★★★★★
Build quality: ★★★★★



The verdict

The driver performed really quite well. But this kit is only for those who do a lot of installation work, so its uses for the workshop are minimal.

In short, a very nice machine, with lots of great touches. ■

Matt Long sees if Hitachi have covered the angles

Manufacturers seem to be in a hurry these days to bring every possible variant of a powertool, so it's no great surprise to see this cordless angled impact driver.

Hitachi must see a market for the machine, but I'm not too sure how many units they will shift.

However, I always try to review kit with an open mind, so I took the driver down to the workshop, and gave it a run out.

Out of the box, it feels like a well-put-together bit of kit... not too heavy, but with a solid feel to it.

My concerns however, were on two fronts... is 10.8v really enough for an impact driver, particularly in an angled variant? And just how well will

it perform in tight spaces, given that, by definition, you won't be able to push the thing onto the screw or bolt too hard, if used as designed?

Well, on both counts I was pleasantly surprised. I drove in a few large screws in awkward spots, and found that even without being able to apply much pressure, the driver turned them in effortlessly, without much cam out at all.

Obviously, an unworn bit helped here, and I think that's the nub of the issue; if you always use new screws and a new bit, you won't have any problems driving screws home.

Bolts don't tend to suffer as much as screws in this area, so that won't be a problem.

The driver has nice touches, too. It's comfortable in the hand, has a built in light, and is nice and light at 1kg.

Veritas mini tests

Veritas from Canada is a byword for quality and innovation, so it seems like a good opportunity to take a peek at a couple of interesting products from them

MINIATURE ROUTER PLANE

Once upon a time I only ever used handtools, including routers – not to be confused with the electric type!

This one is Veritas's tiniest to date with a blade just $\frac{1}{8}$ in or 3.2mm wide although they describe it as 0.12in in

A2 steel. It is very dinky like a toy, but capable of real work and everything from the smooth sole to the crisp-edged blade and comfortable knobs say quality. Care needs to be taken not to lose any bits of it among the sawdust on the floor.

Verdict

Quality aside, it is all about technique, which I suspect many readers are unfamiliar with. It has no fence so you're on your own for with-grain guidance, which is not ideal.

Cross grain is easier because you make two fine saw cuts first, to work between. It may not be obvious but



AT A GLANCE

- Manufacturer: Veritas, Canada
- Model: Miniature Router Plane
- Blade: 0.120in wide A2 steel
- Base size: 58mm wide x 35mm deep
- Typical price: £160.96

WHERE TO BUY

- www.leevalley.com

cutting a slot, which is what this tool does, entails starting at the front edge of the workpiece and moving backwards with each stroke to keep the chippings short. Then wind the cutter down slightly and plane to the required depth.

The router plane is also capable of bullnose working by reversing the blade. Tiny, but fun to use.

GENT'S SAWS

When I was a novice many years ago I bought a German tenon saw and wondered why it didn't crosscut nicely, until I twigged it was set and sharpened for rip cuts down the tenon shoulder only.

Now, saw manufacturers make a positive virtue of the two types and this matched pair of gent's saws are just such examples.

They have minimal set while the crosscut version has teeth with 15° bevels to slice the wood. The

blades are high carbon steel, and for stiffening, feature a moulded spine filled with stainless steel powder, glass fibre and polymer resin binder.

The bubinga handles, however, give a more traditional feel in the hand. With thin blades and 20tpi on the rip and 22tpi on the crosscut blades these are only intended for material no thicker than $\frac{1}{2}$ in, which seems a waste, and I feel they should tackle slightly larger work without hassle.

Verdict

You need to check which saw you pick up before cutting! Thankfully, the blade type is engraved. Many may argue as to which brand of saw cuts best but there is no doubt Veritas has created convincing examples.

They recommend stoning the blade sides first. These are very convincing examples of their type, and cut a very fine, straight keft. They are easy on the eye, and the hand, too.



AT A GLANCE

- Manufacturer: Veritas, Canada
- Models: Gent's Rip Saw, Gent's Crosscut Saw
- Blade size: 200mm long
- Rip tooth geometry: 20tpi, 14° rake, 60° included angle and set is 0.003in per side
- Crosscut Tooth geometry 22tpi, 15° rake, 60° included angle and set 0.003in per side. 15° bevel per tooth
- Typical price: £49.96

WHERE TO BUY

- www.leevalley.com





Bosch GKT 55GCE saw & guide rail

Matt Long tries out Bosch's board-cutting saw

Bosch has a great reputation for power tools, and has brought out a new board-cutting saw – with guide rail – in their Professional range, so we had to test it.

I've used the Mafell variety of this saw before, which was very good, so the Bosch has a lot to live up to.

The saw has some interesting variations on the Mafell guide rail system, which I'll outline. For one, the blade doesn't have a retractable guard, instead, the whole body is sprung, so the saw blade is designed to plunge into the work. It took a little while to get used to the action, but when I did it was simplicity itself.

This plunge feature obviously makes it a perfect saw for dealing with floorboards after they've been fitted.

Just like the Mafell guide system, this is easy to use.

Simply locate the sole plate in the guide – which has a non-slip underside – so doesn't need clamping, raise the trigger lock, which also releases the plunge mechanism, and plunge the saw in.

The saw cut MDF and a hardwood board, with consummate ease and little noise, producing a clean edge.

The depth of cut adjuster has two settings, one for a cut with the guide rail, and one without the guide rail. A great touch.

The tilt arbor is easy to use, with a clear scale on it. This is designed so the blade always enters the workpiece at the same point.

Bosch has a nice system for blade changing. With the saw switched off, you lift a lever sited above the trigger lock, and plunge the saw forward.

The blade then locks in place, which reveals the arbor for attaching and detaching the blade. With the blade in this position, the trigger is locked off, for safety, and the lifted lever reveals the spindle lock.

It sounds very complicated, but is simple to use, and very safe.

The verdict

I found it to be a joy to use. It's accurate, cuts very well, and has features to keep the pickiest pro happy – a great bit of kit for the workshop! ■

AT A GLANCE

- Precision plunge saw and 1,600mm guide rail
- Cuts wood, panel materials, aluminium and acrylic glass
- Variable speed, soft start
- Depth of cut with or without rail
- Good extraction
- Pivots to one cutting edge
- Anti-slip rail
- Freud 48T Precision noise damping saw blade
- Comes with L-boxx case
- Overload protection
- Power boost for tough jobs
- Constant speed under load

THE NUMBERS

- Rated power input: 1,400 W
- No-load speed: 3,600 - 6,250 rpm
- Weight: 4.7kg
- Saw blade bore diameter: 2mm
- Saw blade diameter: 165mm
- Length: 310mm
- Height: 240mm
- Cutting depth (90°): 57mm
- Cutting depth (45°): 42mm
- Spindle lock
- Price: From £345 inc. VAT

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Nice design features
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Versatile
- ✗ Not cheap

WHERE TO BUY

- www.bosch-professional.com

5 STAR RATING

Value for money: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★

Build quality: ★★★★★



Metabo STA 18 LTX Quick Li Power Extreme cordless jigsaw

Matt Long
sees if Metabo
can corner
the market

These days, most power tools seem to have a cordless variant, and more often than not, they work. So here's Metabo's cordless jigsaw, in their Quick Li Power Extreme series.

In my experience, Metabo makes the best of whatever it gets its hands on, and this jigsaw is no exception.

Firstly, blade changing. I love their quick release system. Simply turn the lever on the blade securing apparatus, and the blade pings off into the distance. No touching hot blades here.

The sole plate of the saw has a no-mar cover, which takes a chip breaking insert. Though I'm not sure how that made a difference to my test.

The other functions are pretty standard: a lock-off trigger with variable speed control; a four-position pendulum switch; and an on-off switch for the blower – though I'm

not sure exactly how much of a difference the blower makes.

The battery change is nice and simple; it flips in and out with a switch on the saw's body. They haven't included an extraction point on the jigsaw, but then they never really work that well anyway, so no real loss. Best be safe with dust inhalation and wear a respirator.

Metabo says it has deep discharge protection, overcharge protection and monitored overload and overheat shut-off, along with fan cooled batteries, which should last a long-time – well they are backed up by a three-year guarantee.

AT A GLANCE

- Cordless jigsaw includes:
 - Attachable guard plate with chip break guard plate
 - Hexagonal wrench
 - Two Li-Power Extreme battery Packs (18 V/3.0 Ah)
- Air-cooled quick charger ASC 30
- Plastic carry case
- Metabo Quick blade change
- Low lying blade roller
- Adjustable blower for free view of cutting line
- Integrated LED light for optimum illumination of the cutting line
- Variospeed (V) electronics for variable stroke rate
- Adjustable pendulum stroke
- Three-year battery warranty

THE NUMBERS

- 18v Li-ion battery
- Max cut wood: 135mm
- Non-ferrous metals: 35mm
- Steel sheet: 10mm
- Bevel cut: +/- 45°
- Pendulum settings: 4
- Strokes: 0-2,700 strokes/min
- Weight: 2.8kg
- Price: from £319.95

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Quick blade change
- ✓ Powerful
- ✓ Nice touches
- ✓ No over-complicating
- ✗ Aimed at pros, so pricey

WHERE TO BUY

- www.metabo.co.uk

5 STAR RATING

Value for money: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★

Build quality: ★★★★★

The verdict

Gawd, Metabo has done it again. This is a powerful machine which cuts through thick hardwood with no problems. When wanting finer cuts with no pendulum action, it did the business, and with full pendulum action, it ripped through timber. The blade release is brilliant.

In short, this is a jigsaw you will never regret buying. ■



Milescraft Sign Pro

Anthony Bailey gets signwriting

A while ago, in WPP58, I made a routed name sign for our terraced cottage, by making a template. Another possible route could well be using a manufactured template like this Signpro kit.

So, what's it like? Firstly, the Milescraft Turnlock base needs to be installed on your router base using a collet-mounted centering device.

Although Trend models aren't on the fitting list, I found two matching holes for my T5, easily.

Two bayonet guidebushes fit in the centre, according to the template size in use and, likewise, one of two special corebox type cutters can be chosen to suit, unusually on an

8mm shank. The instructions and photos for assembling the template track are rather spare and unclear, so I went by the much more useful colour photos provided on the box.

There are two sections of aluminium track that connect together and fit into the plastic end mounting plates. The letter templates simply slide into the track before the second end is fitted.

Two sliding end stops press firmly against each end of the string of letters, but any empty space can be filled with spare letters.

Two special plastic pieces act as a surface for the router to sit on above each letter in turn. Two clamps are supplied, if you don't want to screw the Signpro and workpiece down.

Verdict

The letters and numbers have two of each character, with a raised representation in one corner showing

AT A GLANCE

- Simplified, easy signwriting
- Plenty of letters and numbers
- Adaptable add-on base

THE NUMBERS

- Milescraft USA
- Model: SignPro
- Router type: Most types using TurnLock base
- Typical price: £69.99 inc. VAT

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Easy to setup
- ✓ Repeatability accuracy
- ✓ Adaptable to most routers
- ✓ Simple typeface
- ✗ Cutters not designed for incised work

WHERE TO BUY

- www.milescraft.com

5 STAR RATING

- Value for money: ★★★★★
- Performance: ★★★★★
- Build quality: ★★★★★

the correct side or orientation, though they're hard to spot. I found both sets of tracks needed to be used for a six character word, as one length of track is not long enough. The cutters work sweetly without burning and cut incredibly smoothly.

I would recommend doing a trial cut first to get the feel for how the process works. As I found with my own attempt at routing a sign, one or two shapes like the letter 'N' need care so as not to misshape them.

The fit between the guidebushes and templates is a little bit loose but didn't seem to matter greatly. Overall, it worked well, but a bit of practice first will benefit you. ■



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PANASONIC 14.4V DRILL & DRIVER "TOUGH TOOL IP"

To meet the needs of professional tradesmen around the globe, all Panasonic cordless power tools are carefully constructed based on four primary principles: capability, power, weight, and ergonomics. Additionally, their tools are all cordless, so they can be used almost anywhere the professional requires.

The EY7441LE2S31, has been developed to offer a combination of light weight (1.5kg) and compact length (193mm), ensuring ease of use, especially in tight areas or overhead work. A fully charged battery delivers enough power to drive up to 150 6x60mm screws; one of the highest endurances in the professional 14.4V Li-Ion compact class. Moreover, charging time is only 35min. The built-in overheat protection system (OPS) reduces the likelihood of any motor burn out by ensuring that when the tool is overloaded the motor is automatically stopped.

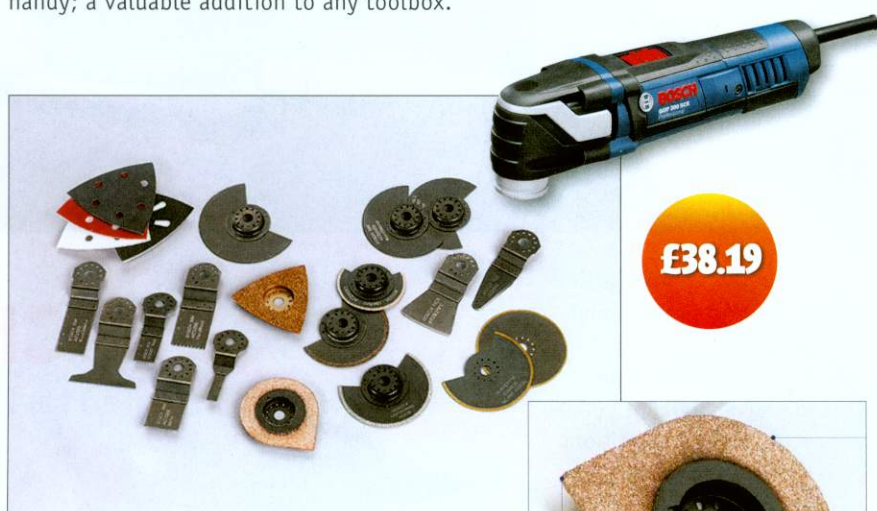


Contact: Panasonic
Tel: 01344 476 540

Website: www.panasonic.co.uk

BOSCH GOP ACCESSORIES

Bosch's GOP accessories fit all conventional multi-cutter power tools. This range features: the 3Max grout and mortar remover, mortar and tile adhesive; bi-metal TiN segment and round saw blades with 30 percent longer lifetime than standard bi-metal or HSS saw blades; diamond-Riff segment saw blade with long lifetime and high cutting speed for hard and abrasive materials and the bi-metal serrated segment blade for particularly fast and precise cutting of insulation materials. Whether or not you own the BOSCH GOP, these accessories will definitely come in handy; a valuable addition to any toolbox.



Contact: Bosch
Tel: 0844 736 0107
Website: www.boschpowertools.co.uk

KING 6000 GRIT JAPANESE WATERSTONE

£33.90

6,000 grit stones are usually the final stage of polishing for routine sharpening. There are benefits to be had by going finer but the additional benefit diminishes the further you go. 6,000 grit and finer stones need to be used with a Nagura stone to build up a sharpening paste on the surface and prevent the surface from glazing; they don't need pre-soaking just a light spray of water.

The stone measures 185 x 62 x 19mm.



Contact: Workshop Heaven
Tel: 01295 780 003
Website: www.workshopheaven.com

LIBERON TUNG OILS

Liberon Pure Tung Oil is highly resistant to water, alcohol and food acids. Providing a hard wearing finish it is ideal for surfaces such as kitchen worktops, tables and all high quality interior wood. Pure Tung Oil, with no added dryers, is a natural, non-toxic product which can be used on toys and objects in contact with food such as salad bowls etc. Recommended for use on exterior oak. One litre covers 10-12 m², and the oil is available in 250ml, 500ml, 1L and 5L tins. A drying time of four days is recommended for total hardness.

Contact: Liberon

Tel: 01797 367 555

Website: www.liberon.co.uk

From
£4 for
250ml



CLARKE BELT & DISC SANDER

This quality belt and disc sander, available from Machine Mart, is an invaluable addition to any workshop. Ideal for use with woods and most plastics, it has a 370W, 230V motor.

Measuring 100 x 914mm, the belt tilts and locks at any angle from 0 to 90° and the belt runs at 450 m/min. The 150mm diameter disc rotates at 2,850rpm and the machine is supplied with a removable sanding table, measuring 225 x 160mm, for use with either sanding belt or disc.

The robust cast iron construction ensures rigidity and long life and the safety features include a finger guard on the belt, full disc guarding and a locking on/off switch. The Clarke CS4-6D is rated a 5-star product by Machine Mart customers.

Contact: Machine Mart

Tel: 0844 880 1250

Website: www.machinemart.co.uk

£95.98



FESTOOL SYSLITE COMPACT WORKLIGHT

This product from Festool features unique lighting, a robust and impact-resistant die-cast aluminium housing, as well as various erection positions for ease-of-use. There is also an additional hanging fixture and various operating and charging options.

Contact: Festool

Tel: 01284 760 791

Website: www.festool.co.uk

From
£138



MAKITA EXPANDS DUST EXTRACTION RANGE

Makita has introduced further additions to the professional dust extractor vacuum range to meet increasingly stringent extraction regulations both on-site and in the workshop.

Two new L-class approved models with 20L and 35L container volumes are available. Both are powered by a 1,100W motor and are available in 240V or 110V modes. The Makita VC2010L and VC3511L extractors are equipped with a washable PET filter that gives 3000cm² of filtration surface. An integral easy-to-operate manual filter cleaning system is provided. These powerful extraction units generate a maximum airflow of 3.6m³ per minute and a maximum vacuum pressure of 18kPa.

Both of these new models have a power take-off point enabling them to be coupled to Makita power tools. Both models feature a fleece filter bag which facilitates the collection of moist debris without damage to the filter. The 3.5 metre-long flexible suction hose has a reliable click-connection system for easy changing of tools and hoses.

From
£187



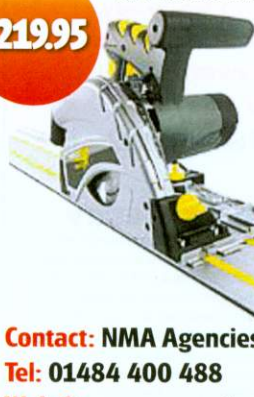
WOODSTAR DIVAR 55 PLUNGE CUT SAW

The Woodstar DIVAR 55 is perfect for achieving professional results for home users and amateurs. Anyone can achieve exact, parallel, splinter-free cuts using the Divar 55 with guide track system; the splinter free protection is guaranteed by the rubber strip. You can use the Divar 55 for edging

up to 15.5mm from the wall and performing mitre and compound cuts with stepless angle adjustments. The optional tilt safety device prevents the saw tipping in tilt mode. The

Divar 55 is ideal whatever the material, including: solid natural timbers, chip board, plywood and even MDF and double coated boards!

£219.95



Contact: NMA Agencies

Tel: 01484 400 488

Website: www.nmatools.co.uk

Contact: Makita

Tel: 01908 211 678

Website: www.makita.co.uk



From
£145

SUNSWITCH IP54 WORKSHOP HEATER

It's that time of year when most of us need some added warmth in our workshops. Unfortunately, dust from woodworking causes safety issues with most heaters. But here's a solution in the form of the SunSwitch IP54 high quality infrared heater. This 1.3kW electric heater with safety glass front is impervious to moisture and wood dust. It produces shortwave infrared and will heat an area of around 3 x 4m.

Plug it in for instant warmth or add a SunSwitch CC1 controller to adjust heat output for extra comfort and economy. Leave the heater just glowing and energy consumption will be little more than a light bulb. Yet it will provide background warmth and stabilise humidity.

Contact: SunSwitch

Tel: 01424 883 344

Website: www.sunswitch.net

SNAINTON WOODWORKING SUPPLIES

Snainton are pleased to launch their new-look web site with additional features and information. The site has been made more informative and user friendly with additional features, such as easy to navigate product categories, more visible search buttons so products can be found more quickly. The ability to compare and view related products, create wish lists and email them to friends will improve the usability of the site. Why not subscribe to the newsletter and submit reviews to show your preferences?



Contact: Snainton

Tel: 01273 859 545

Website: www.snaintonwoodworking.com

CHARNWOOD VARIABLE SPEED SCROLLSAW

£209



A large precision ground cast iron table gives this scroll saw a smooth cutting action without any vibration, and electronic variable speed control gives the correct speed at the turn of a dial.

The Peugeot range use standard 127mm blades and can be used with pin-ended or plain-ended blades. Dust can be collected through a 38mm diameter outlet on the side of the machine. Our 38mm hose will fit straight on – you will require a reducer if your extractor uses a different sized hose. A handy built-in storage box will ensure your spare blades are stored safely.

Supplied with two pin end blades, a plain blade changing tool, cable and plug.

Contact: Charnwood

Tel: 01530 516 926

Website: www.charnwood.net

GORILLA GLUE GIVEAWAY

Gorilla Wood Glue is the latest addition to Gorilla Glue's range of adhesives. Perfect for woodworking professionals, carpenters and DIYers, Gorilla Wood Glue is a must have for every tool-box. Gorilla Wood Glue is a new PVA adhesive specially formulated for use with a variety of wood surfaces including hardwoods, softwoods and wood composites. It forms one of the strongest, longest-lasting bonds on the market and sets quickly, with a short 20 minute clamp time to enable users to complete projects faster. Gorilla Wood Glue dries a natural colour for a better looking bond line and it's water-resistant, so is ideal for indoor and outdoor applications. Gorilla Wood Glue's non-toxic formula can be cleaned up easily with water. New Gorilla Wood Glue retails from just £5.49. Gorilla Glue products are now available from all good hardware stores and on the internet.



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Burr bowl by Peter Fagg, Aston Le Walls

I recently spent a good three hours chipping away at a lump of Elm Burr, and by chipping I mean *chipping*! The wood is so dense; it has had about 100 years to mature and then about 40 years on the floor of a barn covered in straw and hay.

It was used as a foot on which the farmer left his trailers! The bottom still has the dovetail as is my usual way! It is 23 x 10cm.

Walnut clocks by Lee Sneddon, Edinburgh

This is a contemporary clock I have made as a Christmas gift for my sister and brother-in-law. They both like natural woods used in a contemporary fashion so I thought this piece would fit the bill.

It's made from a lovely old piece of Walnut, about 9cm thick and oiled. The face is false acacia, spiral texture, and approx. 14cm diameter and oiled. The clock mechanism is embedded into the wood; I am working on a matching face for the rear to tie the design together.



Rocking Horse by Derek Lane, Kent

This is the completed rocking horse I have been building for a while now. The complete rocker is 101.5cm tall, 134.5cm long and 46cm wide and made from, of all things, MDF (yes, I did wear a mask). The stand is ash so a mixture of woodworking techniques were used. The plans are from the rocking horse shop.





Wooden pens and boxes by Richard Westcott, North Devon

I made these for a Christmas craft fair. This is the first time I have ever tried to make boxes. I never even did anything like this in school, but I am very pleased with the results.

1. Black walnut pen and box 2. Oak pen and box 3. Burr elm pen 4. Oak pen box

Pyrographed pear vase by Mike Gibson, Hoschton USA

The surface is pyrographed and the wood that is left natural is very finely textured. I enjoy looking and touching this piece. It just feels right to me. (Pear: 9 x 7cm)



SHARP AS A TACK



Q Does anyone know where I can get my 310 x 20 x 3mm planer/thicknesser blades sharpened?

Barry Pickering

A Hi Barry,
Good sharpening services are getting thin on the ground, especially in rural areas. We lost ours several years ago. I bought a planer knife sharpening jig for my Tormek. This is really good and produces a better edge than the sharpening service (they use coarser stones). Bit expensive and takes a little time to set up the knives accurately, but well worth it.

Richard Parrott, Cornwall

A I'll agree that, if you're doing a fair amount of work, the lifetime cost of the Tormek kit is good value and you don't have to wait for your knives to come back. Our local builders' merchant (a former independent, now a branch of Jewson's) sends blades away to be sharpened.

Rod Craddock, North Wales

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Bread bin

Use your loaf and make this great storage for your kitchen

WHAT YOU NEED

- 19mm pre-sanded board
- 8mm or 10mm dowels, matching brad point drill and dowel pins
- PVA glue
- Router, table and roundover bits
- Medium and fine abrasives
- Foodsafe finish
- Two magnetic catches

This project is made from 19mm thick softwood, which can be bought in wide, pre-sanded boards for shelving at any good DIY superstore or local hardware shop.

All components can be cut to exact size, apart from the flap door – which should be sized later to fit the carcass.

The back and ends are dowelled on to the other boards using standard dowels, dowel pins and a brad point drill, either 8 or 10mm in diameter.

You could make a simple jig with holes in to guide the drill each time, for greater accuracy.

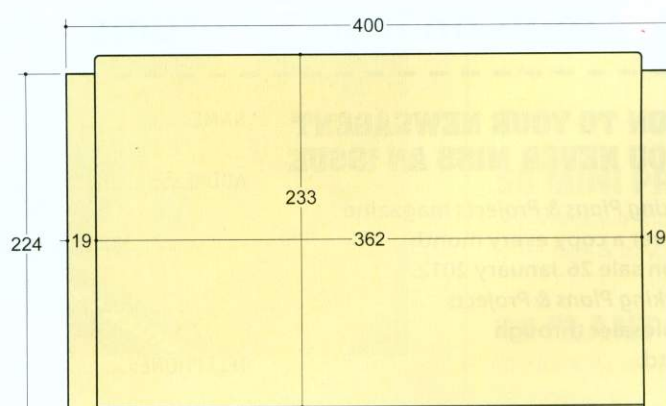
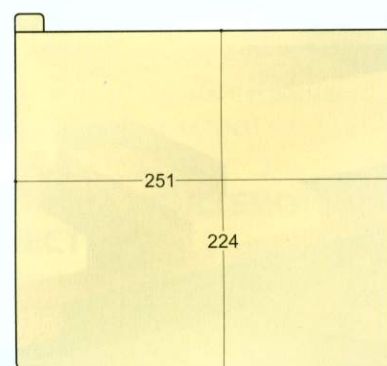
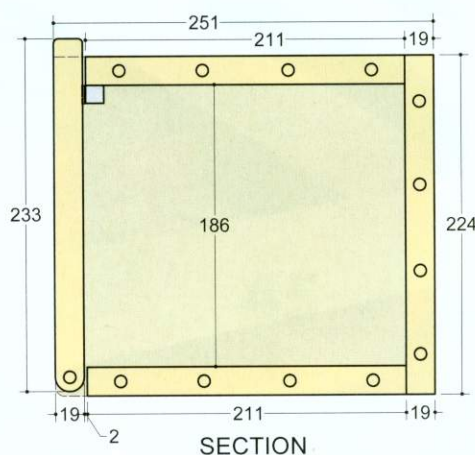
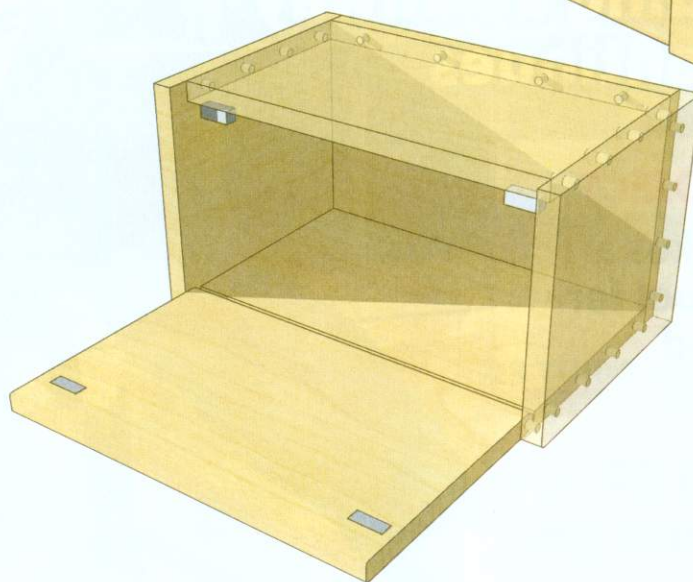
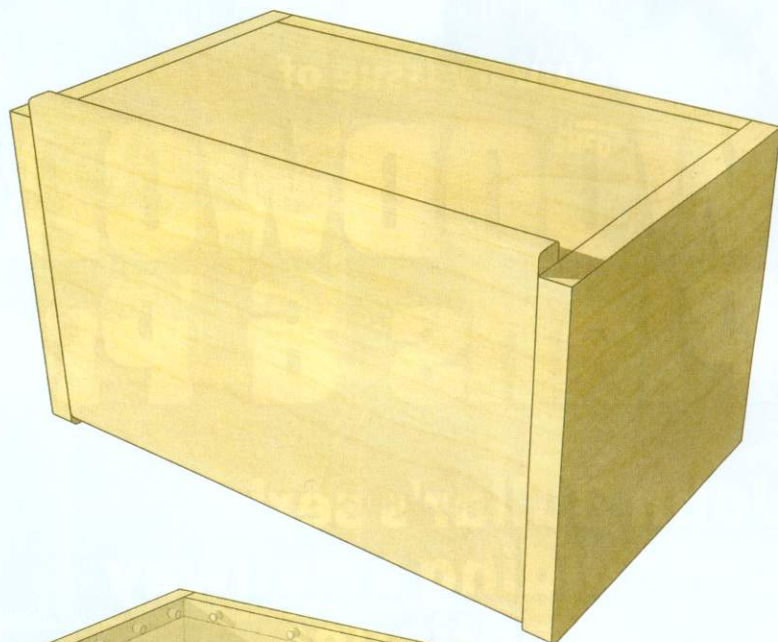
Do a dry assembly with a few dowels and cut the flap to fit as close as possible without rubbing.

The flap bottom edge is rounded so it can open properly, this is best done on the router table – the top edges have a smaller radius applied to them.

Drill the bottom of the flap ends enough to accept a short piece of brass rod at either side, fitting in to receiving holes in the carcass ends.

Now you can finish. Sand the inside faces and then glue, dowel and assemble the bread bin, including the flap door.

Once the glue is dry, sand the exterior and apply a foodsafe finish all over. Lastly, fit the magnetic catches and the bin is done! ■



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