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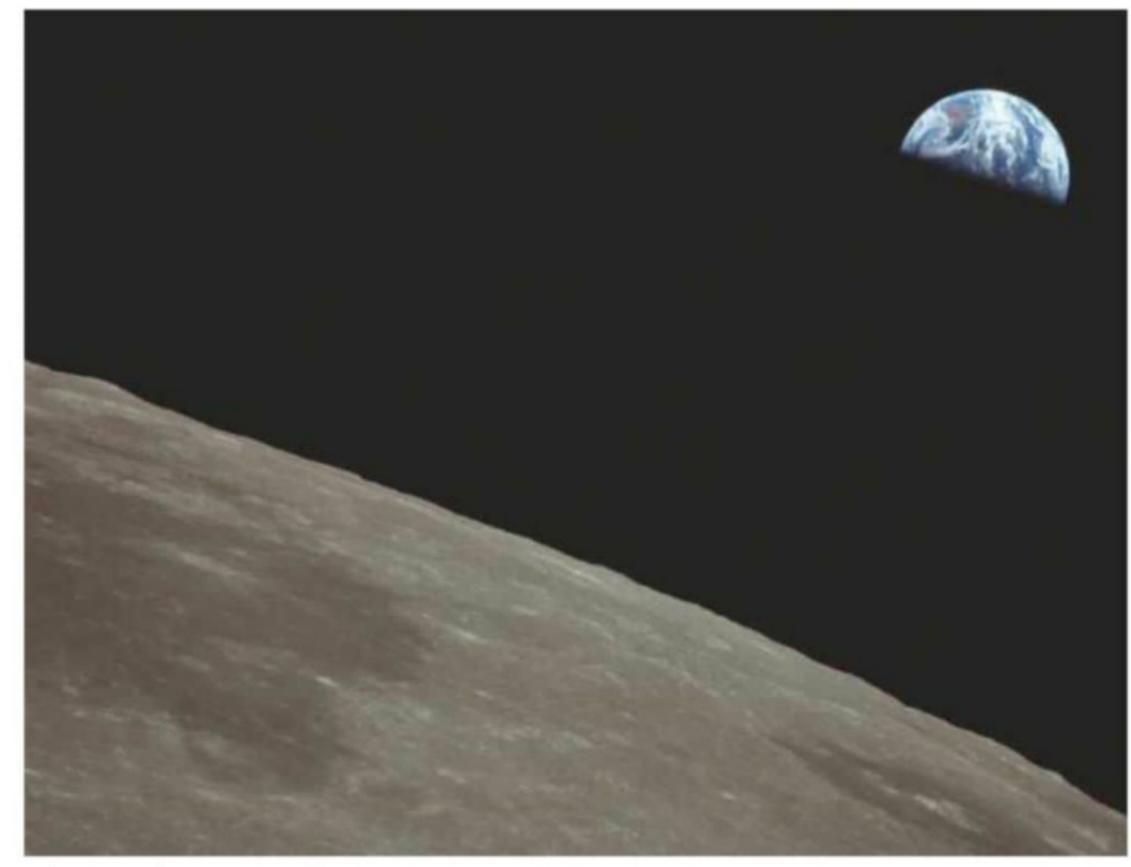
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On the Editor's Bench



Photograph courtesy of NASA

Remembering Apollo 11

Like many readers, I have been following the Apollo 11 lunar mission as closely as when I was a space-obsessed six-year old. Using a marvellous website apolloinrealtime.org I have been able to watch highlights including the launch, landing and return, and many points in between exactly fifty years on from when they happened. I even set an alarm for the small hours to watch Neil Armstrong's 'small step' to make up for having to watch a recording as a boy!

I watched as much of the TV coverage of the whole Apollo programme as my parents would allow; I made all the Airfix models - the Saturn V, the Lunar Module and even Sea King 66. I went on to follow the triumphs and tragedies of the Space Shuttle programme and only a few nights ago I was staring up in wonder as the International Space Station passed overhead.

For those days in 1969 almost the whole world was gripped by the drama of Apollo 11, which must stand as one of the most remarkable engineering achievements of all time. Many of the engineering solutions found during the 'space race' are now part of our every day lives, but NASA's approach to managing and driving forward such a complex engineering project was equally innovative. It certainly set alight my young imagination with so many interests I still have today.

Yesterday was the fiftieth anniversary of the safe return of Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins. Today has been the second hottest day on record for the UK

Are returning to the moon and tackling the global challenges facing the human race incompatible? I hope not, and that we can again find inspiration and unity of purpose, and that a new generation can be inspired to meeting these and the other challenges in our future.

Don't Forget the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition

Regular readers will know how important I feel model engineering exhibitions are for our hobby – and topping up our personal enthusiasm. The Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition is on Thursday 17th - Sunday 20th October 2019 at Warwickshire Event Centre. As well as the usual array of outstanding models on display and in steam, expect plenty of trade stands and demonstration s and lectures on an array of workshop techniques.

See www.midlandsmodelengineering.co.uk or call 01926 614101 for all the details, competition entry form and to book discounted tickets in advance.

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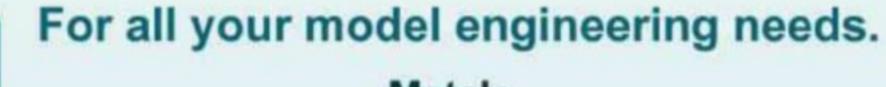
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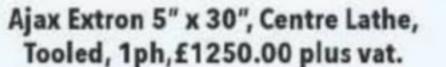
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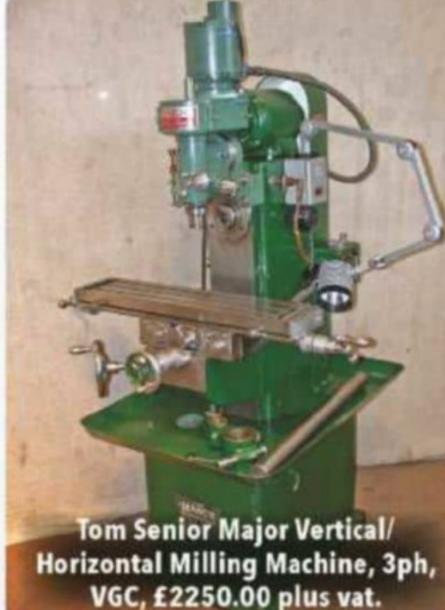
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These neat blocks from Derrick Marsh provide a quick and easy aid to marking out.



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Coming up...

in our next issue

Coming up in our October issue, number 285, another great read



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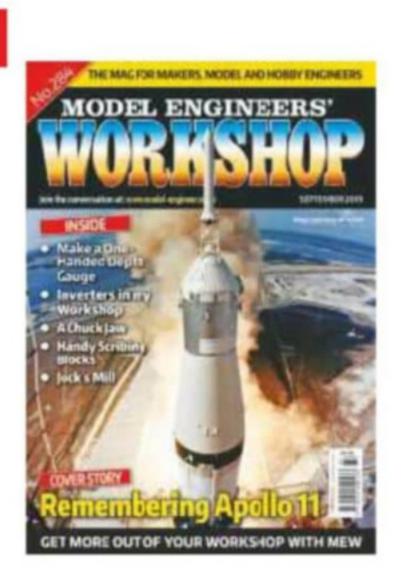
Another selection of your classified advertisements

70 On the Wire

New taps and dies, and a new book on workshop casting.

ON THE COVER >>>

On July 16, 1969, the huge, 363-feet tall Saturn V rocket launched from the Apollo 11 mission from Pad A, Launch Complex 39, Kennedy Space Center. Onboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft were astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, commander; Michael Collins, command module pilot; and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., lunar module pilot, heading to carry out the first landing on the moon. On page 3 the editor remembers the impact these events had on him at the time.

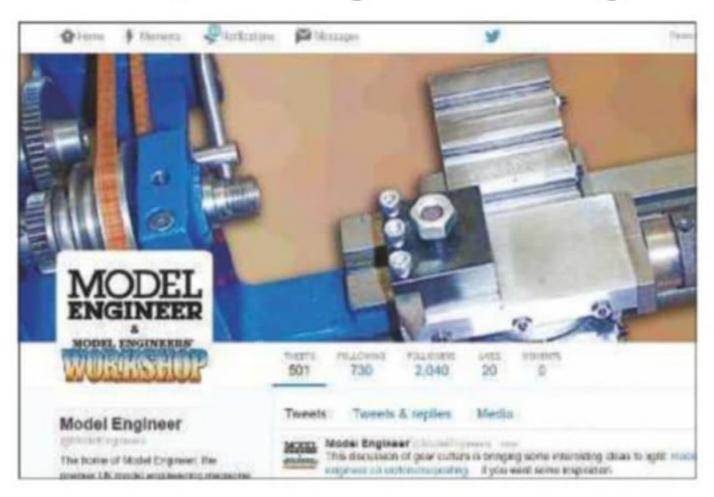


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THIS MONTH'S BONUS CONTENT Log on to the website for extra content

Visit our website to access extra downloads, tutorials, examples and links. This month as mentioned in Scribe A Line, you can access a scan of the 1976 Model Engineer series by Robin Dyer on a Clayton Steam Wagon:

www.model-engineer.co.uk/clayton



Any questions? If you have any questions about our recent Alibre Atom3D or current Lathework for Beginners or Milling for Beginners series, or you would like to suggest ideas or topics for future instalments, head over to www. model-engineer.co.uk where there are Forum Topics specially to support these series.

Where are you? Come and join one of the busiest and friendliest model engineering forums on the web at www.model-engineer.co.uk?

Which Stuart models can be done on a 7x14 lathe with no mill?

Choosing models suitable for modest sized lathes.

Gear Spec for Threading Dial

Do you have a broken threading dial or want to add one to your lathe? If so, what sort of gearwheel does it need?

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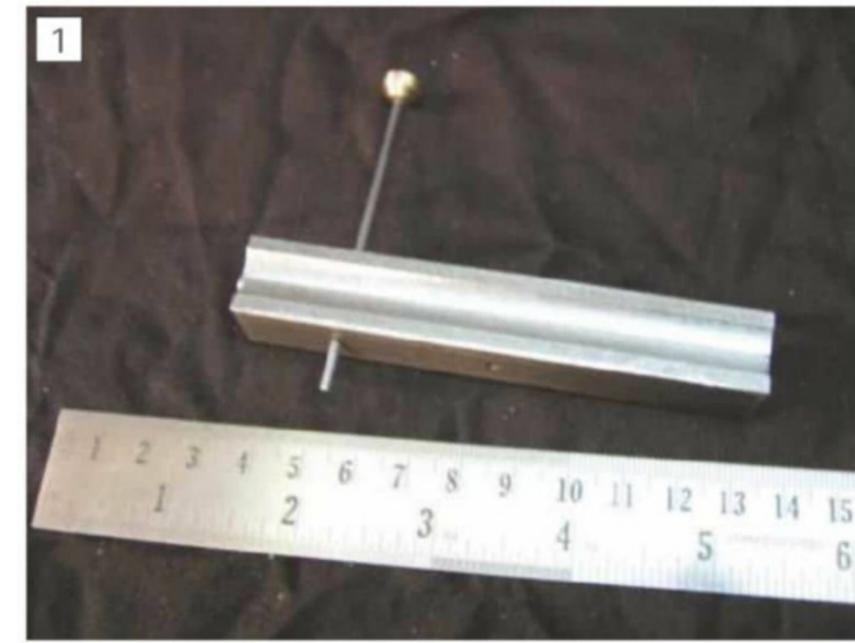
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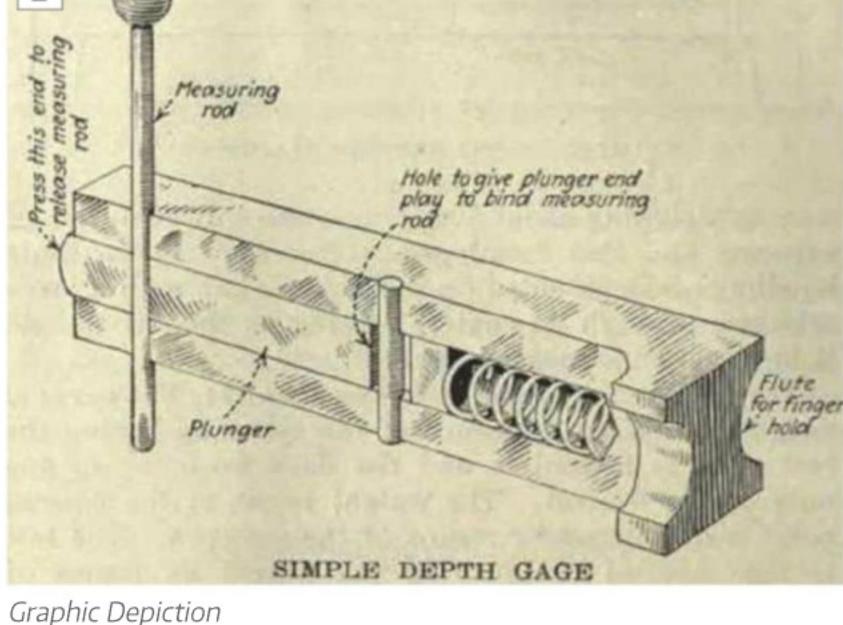
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One Hand Operated Depth Gauge

Stewart Hart recreates another historic tool that makes an ideal weekend project.





Depth Gauge

hilst browsing through an old 1920 American Machinist magazine I spotted a design for a simple "One Hand Operated Depth Gauge". I could see straight away that this was a well-designed little piece of kit, which would fit in the hand nicely, and be easy to use. It could easily be made by someone new to the hobby with limited equipment, and it would be a worth wile addition to anyone's tool box, photo 1.

The gauge was depicted by a very nice piece of graphic art in the magazine it's a pity that graphic art illustrations have been replaced by modern photography and 3D CAD, as I can really appreciate the artistry and skill involved, photo 2, fig. 1.

It can be made from any odd bits of material you have lying about, there is no need for you to slavishly follow the drawing it can be scaled up or down, you just need to follow the general idea and methodology, photo 3.

Starting with the Body Part 3:- I used a piece of 5/8" square mild steel bar, but equally as well you could use hexagon or round bar with a flat milled down the base. Face the bar off to length and mark across the diagonals to find the centre and mark it with a centre pop. Then centre it in the four jaw chuck using a wobble bar and a DTI, photo 4, centre drill nice and deep, followed by a 10mm drill to depth: - don't drill the cross holes yet, **photo 5**.

Plunger Part 1:- You can use silver steel



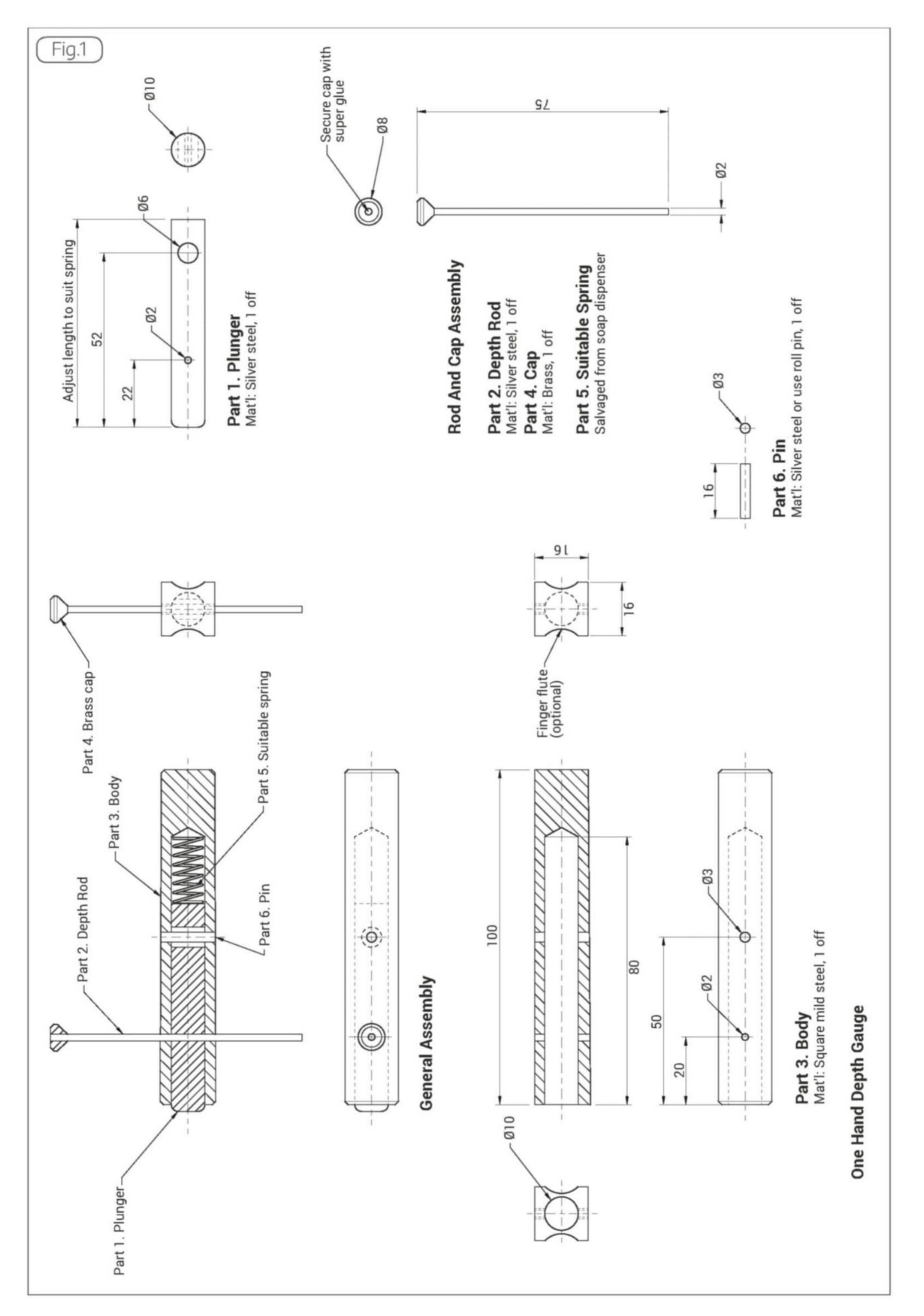
Material

or better still mild steel as its cheaper, cut a length off the full depth of the hole plus 3 or 4mm, face it off, then clamp it into the body so that both parts can be drilled together. On the centre line drill the 2mm and 3mm holes through both parts so that they will line up perfectly. Using the 3mm drill, line the plunger on centre in the vice and then open the hole up to 6mm, **photos**

Next you need to find a suitable spring, I salvaged a spring from a pump type soap dispenser, reduce the length of the Plunger to suite the spring so that holes line up, making sure you reduce the correct end:yes I did make that mistake, so don't ask! Photographs 8,9.

Rod and Cap Assembly Parts 2 and 4, the rod can be made from silver steel and the cap from brass or mild steel. You can

September 2019





Clock centre true with wobble bar and DTI



Drilling to depth



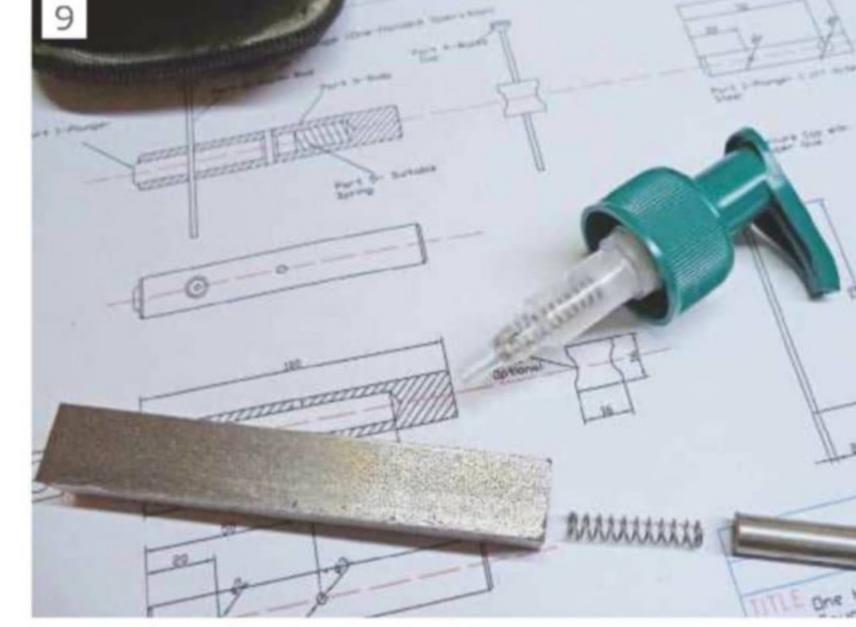
Drilling body and plunger together



Drilling Plunger 6mm



Reduce length of plunger to suite spring



Spring Salvaged from pump soap dispenser

make the rod any diameter or any length you want, the cap is a simple bit of turning just drill to suit the rod and chamfer it off so it's comfortable to use, **photo 10**, I held it in place with super glue, **photo 11**.

An optional little feature is the finger fluting down the body this just makes it a more pleasant fit in the hand, I used a bull nosed milling cutter in the milling machine, **photo 12**, but you could just as easily do it with a half round file.

Before you finally put all the parts together ensure you have a nice flat base by rubbing the base on fine emery paper on a piece of plate glass, **photo 13**, clean everything off and ensure there are no

burs and sharp edges and assemble with Pin Part 6 or a spring roll pin, **photo 14**.

To use couldn't be simpler, just place the gauge on the part to be measured, push the rod to depth, the friction from the spring with keep it in position, zero your digital Vernier on the thickness of the body then take the direct depth reading over the rod:- job done, **photo 15**.

I know that Mr Meticulous will point out that you're actually measuring at a slight angle so there will be an error in your Vernier reading, but come on, we're only talking about half a Gnat's whisker, and who's worried about that. ■



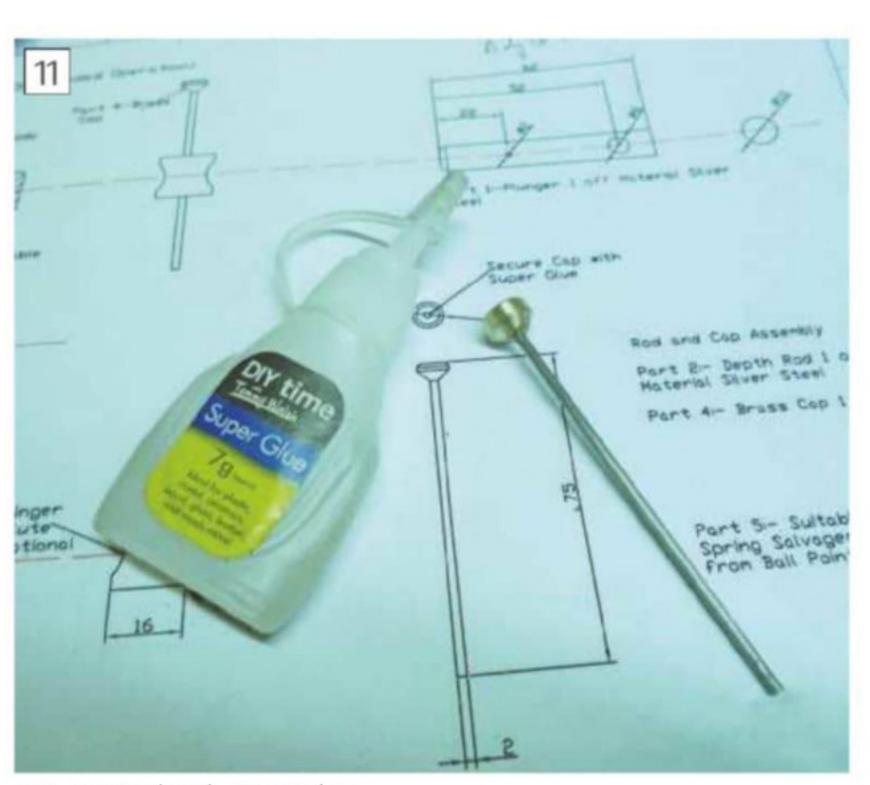
Turning the cap



Fluting the body with a bull nosed end mill



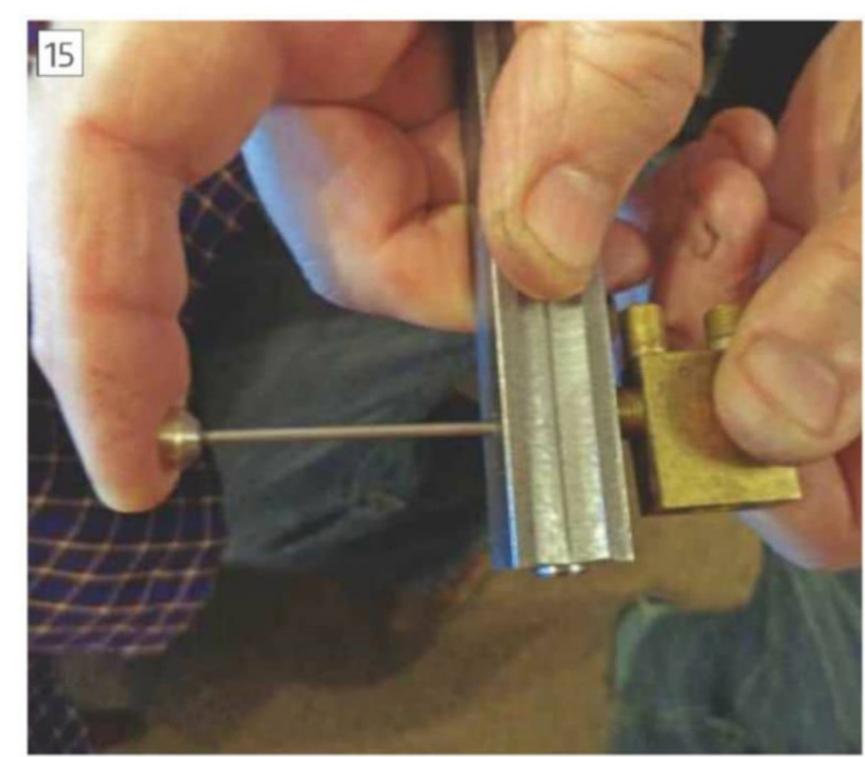
Parts for assembly



Cap secured with super glue



Making sure the base is flat

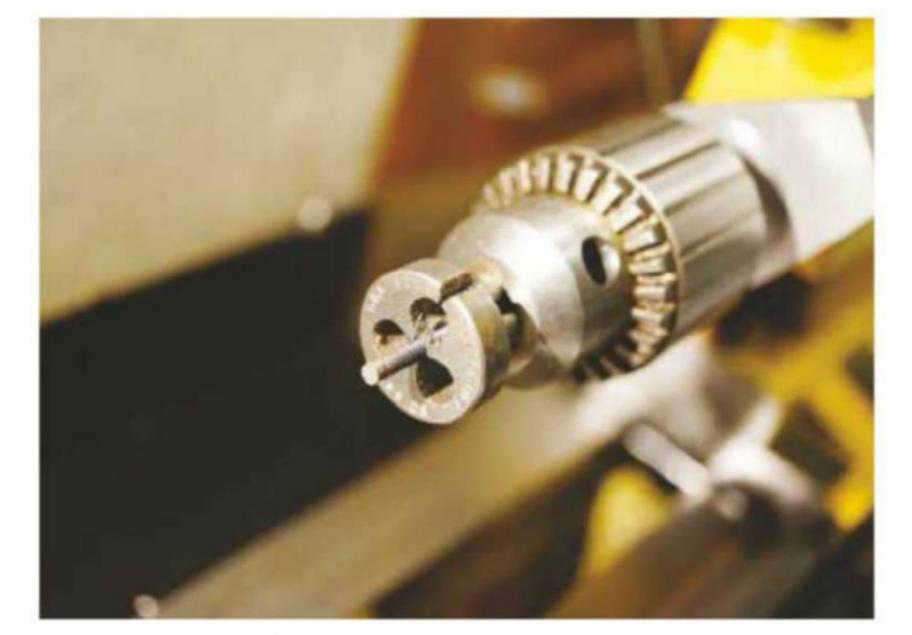


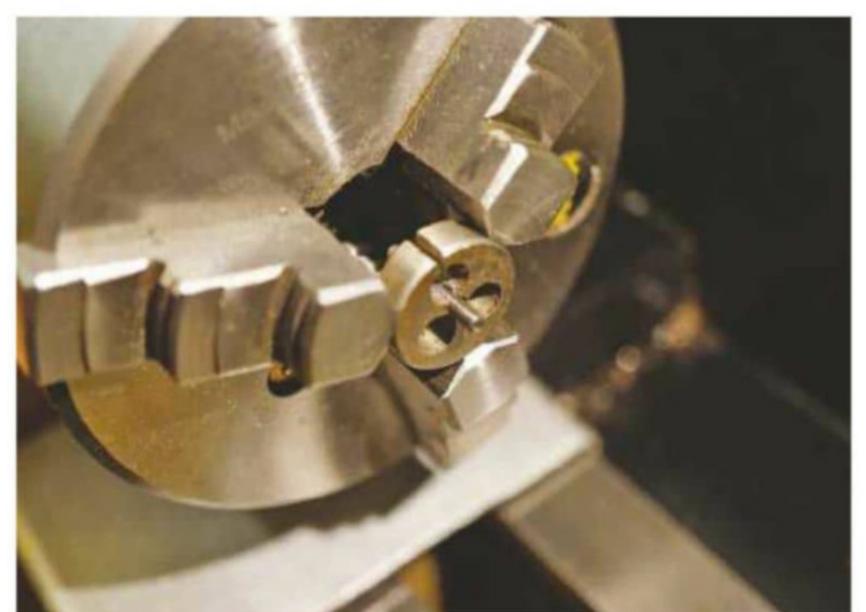
Measuring a hole depth

Readers' Tips Leter MACHINE TOOLS



A Holder for modifying small screws

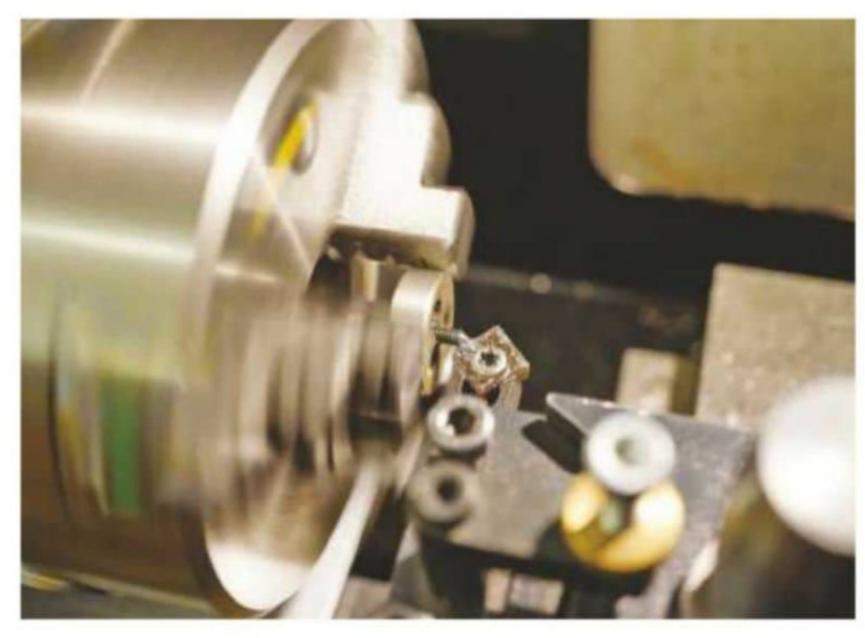






If you have a requirement to modify small sized threaded screws and you do not have one of the clever tools for that purpose mentioned in previous MEW articles, a simple method of holding the screw is to use a split die of the same thread. Put the screw into the die and then put the die into the self-centring chuck, making sure you have the split between any two jaws. Tighten the chuck





and the screw is then locked enabling it to be machined. Either end of the screw can be machined in this way, as there is plenty of clearance behind the die. To ensure the die is clamped parallel with the SC chuck I nip the screw in the tailstock drill chuck and bring it forward to the SC chuck before tightening.

Keith Beaumont.

We have £30 in gift vouchers courtesy of engineering suppliers Chester Machine Tools for each month's 'Top Tip'. Email your workshop tips to **neil.wyatt@mytimemedia.com** marking them 'Readers Tips', and you could be a winner. Try to keep your tip to no more than 400 words and a picture or drawing. Don't forget to include your address! Every month I'll chose a selection for publication and the one chosen as Tip of the Month will win £30 in gift vouchers from Chester Machine Tools. Visit www.chesterhobbystore.com to plan how to spend yours!

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Drehen und Schweissen

Now for something completely different - John Olsen reviews a new book by Dr Frank Reig.

f you know what the title says, then you might be interested in this pair of books by Frank Reig. They are a pair of excellent books for amateur, "Drehen" being about turning and Schweissen being about welding. They are aimed at hobby metal workers and vintage vehicle enthusiasts.

"Drehen" starts with an introduction to the home metal workshop and then an introduction to the properties of the materials we deal with as amateurs, including some useful advice on hardening and tempering and where to get materials in small quantities. Reading drawings and measuring and marking out are covered, as well as some sensible and practical advice on safety. Having covered workshop

basics in the first two chapters, chapter three gets us into lathes, with a brief introduction to their history, then a lot of useful information about the types of machines available to amateurs, from small to large. The pros and cons of the various types and of new and used are discussed and this would provide a useful reference for anyone considering a purchase. Setting up and caring for the machine are not neglected, and in this chapter alone there are 90 pages of good information. Chapter four takes us into actually using the lathe and the principles and techniques of cutting metal. Cutting tools and the various means of mounting them are also covered. The next chapter covers work holding techniques. Chucks, faceplates, turning between centres, and collet chucks and how to set work up are included. Then chapter six covers the actual cutting, using carbide or HSS, with discussion of the capabilities of the different sizes of lathes and some types of work including taper turning and thread cutting. Finally Chapter 7 briefly describes some possible projects, such as making a tool post grinder, changing the motor to a VFD, and using an electric motor for the fine feed, which



would permit leaving a favourite screw thread set up on the banjo if you don't have a gearbox.

Schweissen follows a similar structure, with the first chapter being a very similar introduction to the home workshop. Chapter 2 starts us on the preparation of metal for welding by cutting and grinding. In chapter three we start on the actual welding, with first some information about the types of joints and then an introduction to the commonly available types of welding and advice on equipment available for the amateur, covering oxy-acetylene, Stick, MIG/MAG and TIG. This chapter actually forms the bulk of the book and covers each technique in good detail. There is enough information here to get you started on your chosen technique. I found this book particularly useful since I was in the process of choosing a TIG welder when I received the book. From the information in the book, I decided that it would be worth my while to spend a little extra and buy a machine that was a bit more expensive than I had originally considered, but with the benefit of having AC capability, so

that it can weld aluminium in addition to all the usual material. It also gave me an HF start capability, which turns out to be very useful, both when using the machine for standard stick welding and for TIG. The use of DC for stick welding is also a bit of a bonus, and I am getting much better welds with that than I used to with my old AC only machine.

Chapter four goes on to discuss brazing and cutting with oxy acetylene or oxy propane. Next chapter six covers welding on vehicles, including the regulations governing this in the German context. Finally, Chapter 7 describes and illustrates some typical amateur welding projects and how the author tackled them.

Either of these books would make a valuable addition to the library of any Model Engineer or vehicle restoration enthusiast, the only real downside being that you will need to be fluent in German to make good use of them. They are very well illustrated, in colour, and conclude with some useful reference material. ■

The United Nations Mill



Jock Miller describes a milling machine with multiple origins, with photos by Peter King.

he following may interest readers; this is where an Emco 'FB2' Milling Attachment for an Emco Maximat 11 Lathe has been enhanced to make it a very useful small machine. I obtained the basic machine some years ago via a friend in South Canterbury (New Zealand) who purchased a complete workshop from the Receivers of a bankrupt business (there were three Maximat 11's complete with the FB2 Milling Attachments – two 3 phase and one single phase). He had an extensive home workshop and kept the single phase FB2 but never used it, he was able to sell it to me and from the detail appearance it had never been used.

Milling Head (Austria)

The Emco FB2 was manufactured in Austria to a high standard. The head has six geared speeds in an oil bath, a keyed round column and the only 'defect' was the original 'lever' rack and pinion down feed which was graduated in whole millimetres. It has a 2MT spindle with 120 - 2000 rpm, photo 1

Compound Table (Sweden)

I was able to purchase a heavy duty Arbroga (Swedish) compound table 245mm



The mill, note vice and dial gauge.

x 580mm as the second major item (as new), photo 2.

The Base (NZ)

This is fabricated from two pieces of 6×3 " heavy walled rectangular hollow section (RHS). with a 2" square RHS between, 500mm long with 11/2 x 1/2" flats welded on top. The top surfaces planed were planed flat, photo 3. The left hand RHS contains the electrics including the Emco motor condenser and a switch panel. The right 6 x 3" has a small drawer for spanners and other tooling.

The Down feed (NZ)

I replaced the right gearbox access panel as a mounting for a worm and the 44 tooth worm wheel which works out that one turn of the hand wheel equals 1mm - and is graduated in 0.01mm, **photo 4**. I also shifted the quill lock lever to the opposite side with a new lock bolt (M8). I drilled the head 8.5mm right through to accommodate and clear the worm shaft. The worm and worm-wheel can be disengaged, and the original down-feed lever attached if required for drilling.

The Dust Guard (NZ)

The dust guard, an aluminium sleeve replaced the plastic original and this hides a special nut on the top of the spindle that locates the captive long M10 cap screw that acts as Morse Taper tool retainer (it is reduced to M8 on the end for normal Morse tooling), **photo 5**. Ejection of the tooling is using the above (no Hammers!).

The machine looks complicated but all the 'extras' appeared over several years to make a very useful machine.



The compound table and power feed.

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Elevating hand wheel (NZ).

To make easy operation of raising the head, a small gearbox with 1:1 bevel gears and a horizontal shaft with a hand wheel on each end was fitted (original hand wheel plus a 1:1 replica of the original), photo 5.

The Power Feed (Taiwan and NZ).

To fit the "Align" power feed unit, see photo 2, the Arbroga long travel feed screw was bored at the outer end and a cross keyway milled for an extension through the Align mounting bracket. A substantial cast iron spacer fixed the Align unit. The original "Arbroga" cross feed ball handle and micrometer dial was fitted outboard of the unit. The power supply is a 230v/110v single phase transformer provided under the left hand swarf tray, to drive the unit.

The cross feed screw modifications (NZ). Are to provide for the "Align" over travel switches, the cross feed screw was extended and a new hand wheel and micrometer dial provided.

The Digital Readout (UK/NZ)

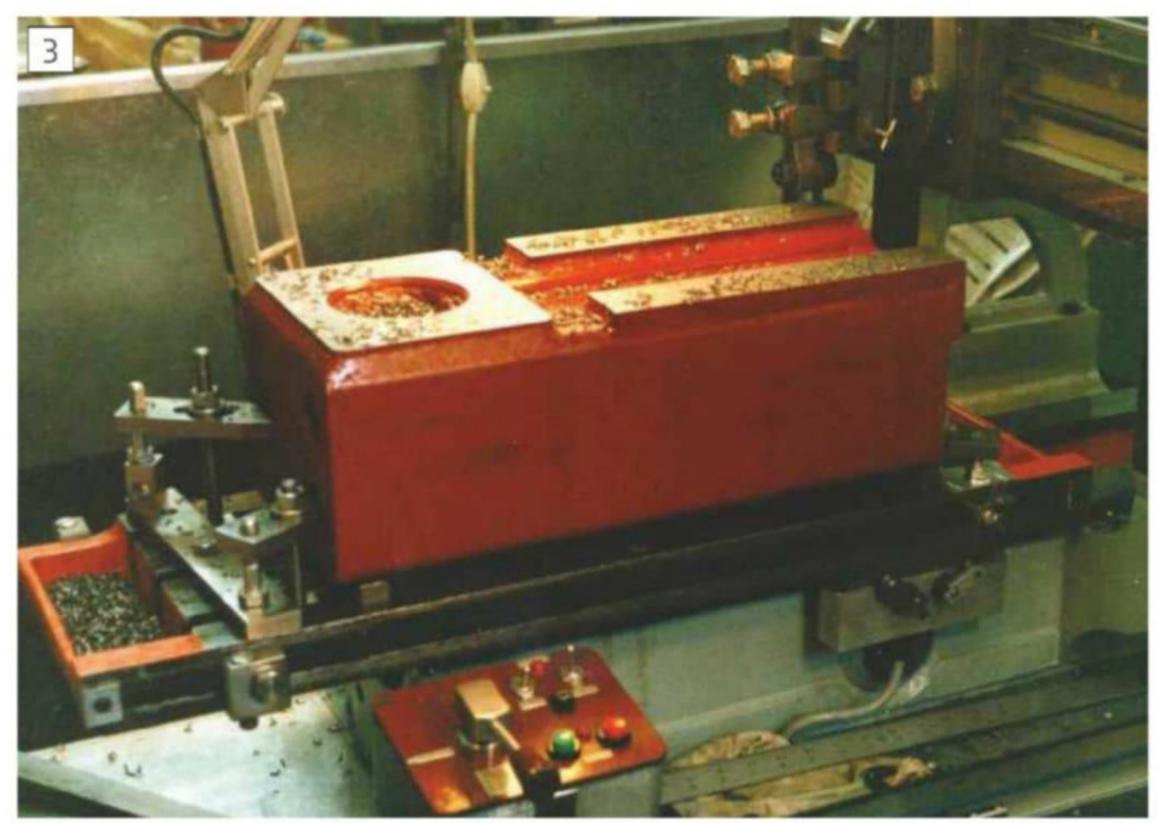
This is an M.B.S. unit was fitted at the right hand end of the front of the table. The 1/2" x 3/16" aluminium strip 'protects' the small diameter wire (metric or imperial).

The Vice (NZ)

Seen in photo 1, this looks a bit "overkill" but well worth its manufacture - excastings from South Canterbury, 130mm wide x 50mm deep soft jaws and a 130mm max' opening. The swivel base is machined from 1" mild steel plate.

The Down feed dial (China & NZ)

This is a Dial Gauge of 50mm travel x 0.001" mounted on 20 x 6mm Stainless Steel flat bar attached to 4mm Stainless Steel plate 1.5mm recessed to Outer Diameter of the Quill and bored to clear Morse Taper Tooling. With the end of the quill tapped for three M3 countersunk screws. The bar passes between the gearshift levers just clearing the face of the head. A small bridge with 3mm cap



Planing the fabricated base.



The opposite side of the mill.

screws to keep the bar close to head is fitted and supports the round D.T.I anvil with a plastic sleeve to keep dirt and swarf at bay, photo 1.

The Rotary table (NZ)

This is 4" diameter, **photo 6**, and has been machined from castings and to design of the late Geo. Martin junior of South Canterbury and has adjustable stops to enable the ends of coupling rods etc. to be radiused.

Conclusion.

The machine looks complicated but all the 'extras' 'appeared' over several years to make a very useful machine. Unfortunately, in N.Z. and I suppose the U.K. sales of the FB2 have been replaced by the cheaper far-Eastern units generally not as well finished or as accurate as the original. When I have visitors to the workshop, I call it my "United Nations" machine.



The head with geared raising handle and spindle cap.



Rotary table.



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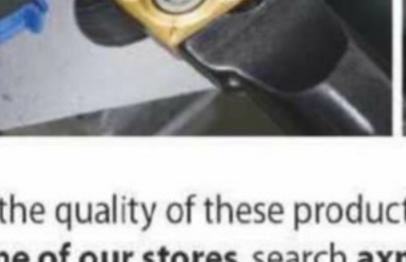
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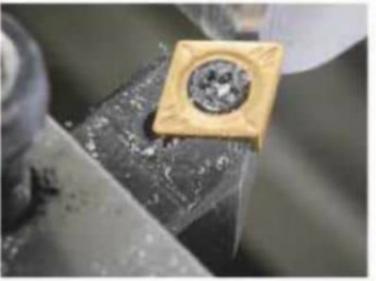
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Double Trouble, and a Three Phase Solution:





Inverter and Control

Gary Ayres describes his motor upgrades on a lathe and drill press.

2017. My Summer of setbacks.

Sometimes, just as all appears to be ticking along quite nicely, out of the blue a whole flurry of things goes wrong. This can be quite a pest, especially when the mishaps and malfunctions start to stack up on top of each other. But – serious disasters aside one tends to utter a few profanities, then acclimatise to the new circumstances and get on with putting them right. And - if we are lucky - sometimes in doing so we end up with something better than that with which we started.

For me, last Summer saw major camper van brake failure, having to replace the keyboard on this laptop and the unexpected demise of my jigsaw, one of my hand drills, my lathe and my floorstanding drill press – all within a few short weeks that also saw me paying for some very expensive dental treatment. The cumulative effect on my bank balance was significant, but – as we all know – to live with non-functional machines is insufferable and there is little you can do except either replace them or buy (or make) the required components and fix them. You will be pleased to know that the focus of this article will be solely on the fixing of the lathe and the drill press, which entailed replacing their single phase motors with three phase ones

and connecting them (one at a time) to a shared inverter.

The Lathe

My main lathe is an imported machine, purchased a few years ago from Amadeal, with 750mm between centres and a 250mm swing over the bed. It's of reasonable quality, is as big as I can squeeze into the allocated space in my small garden shed workshop and has always been a pleasant machine to use. Until recently it had a 0.75 kilowatt single phase motor with variable speed control, which - though workable enough - I always felt was leaning towards the underpowered side. One sunny Summer morning I went into my workshop to do a bit of basic turning for some job or other. I pressed the green button on the control



Recycling

box. There was a single clicking sound, and all the lights went out. No movement or sound from the motor. Nothing. Repeat several times to the point where I'm forced to face an unpalatable fact: something is wrong.

Replacing the speed control board didn't solve the problem. First hypothesis disconfirmed, along with additional financial outlay. A further process of elimination – facilitated over the phone by Amadeal's very friendly and helpful technician - led me to the point at which it was clear that I needed to replace the motor. One of the features of this lathe which I had always enjoyed was its smooth and easy speed control via a rotary controller. This I was not prepared to lose, but I also fancied the improved reliability and performance that a three phase motor would offer, especially as the motor which I decided to buy was – at 1.1 kilowatts – more powerful than the one it was to replace. As we all know, a three phase motor requires an inverter if it is to run on a single phase supply. The inverter and its external control device, both along with the new motor - supplied by Newton Tesla, are shown in **photo 1**.

All good so far, but as the new motor was more powerful than the old one, so it was physically larger in all dimensions and the business end of the lathe required some major modifications in order to accommodate it. Much of the existing housing for the old motor and main drive became redundant as it was simply too small to house the new power plant. **Photograph 2** shows most of it lying outside my house en route to the recycling depot.

With all of this as well as the old motor gone, the lathe was left with only the splashback, part of the motor housing and the arched steel plate which is visible in **photo 3**. I shall call this plate the 'main backplate'.

Motor Mount Plate

The old motor mount plate (which does not appear in photo 3) was too small for the



As we all know, a three phase motor requires an inverter if it is to run on a single phase supply.





Boring the new motor mount plate



Main spindle pulley before modification

The result of these various processes is a significantly chunkier drive system than the one which was originally on the machine...

customer.

Not unusually, the face of the new motor has a raised collar which is concentric with the spindle, and - outside of this - four mounting holes tapped M6. I cut a hole in the new motor mount plate with a hole

variable speed drive. This pulley in its original form is shown in **photo 5**.

I decided to beef up the drive system, and ordered a length of link belting in A-section. You will see in photo 5 that the main pulley has a wide bore to accommodate the rear end of the spindle, so replacing it with an off-the-shelf A-section pulley was not an option. The answer was to keep and modify the existing pulley. As my two Myfords are in my workshop in France, and I have no other metalworking lathe here at home, modifying the pulley

the rear end of the spindle, so replacing it with an off-the-shelf A-section pulley was not an option. The answer was to keep and modify the existing pulley. As my two Myfords are in my workshop in France, and I have no other metalworking lathe here at home, modifying the pulley myself wasn't an option either so I took it to a local engineering firm who turned an A – section groove into it for me. Due to limited space on the pulley, the two small grooves could be replaced by only one bigger one, so the new configuration

very small and thin v-belt and pulleys with

pulley was originally a double pulley which

similarly small grooves. The main spindle

offered two speed ranges alonside the



Motor pulley keyway cutting

saw and then bored it out to accommodate the collar. For this I used a boring head mounted in my significantly modified Sieg X1 Micromill which is powered by the drill press and was featured in the article 'Flat Belt Frankenstein' (MEW 238), **photo 4**.

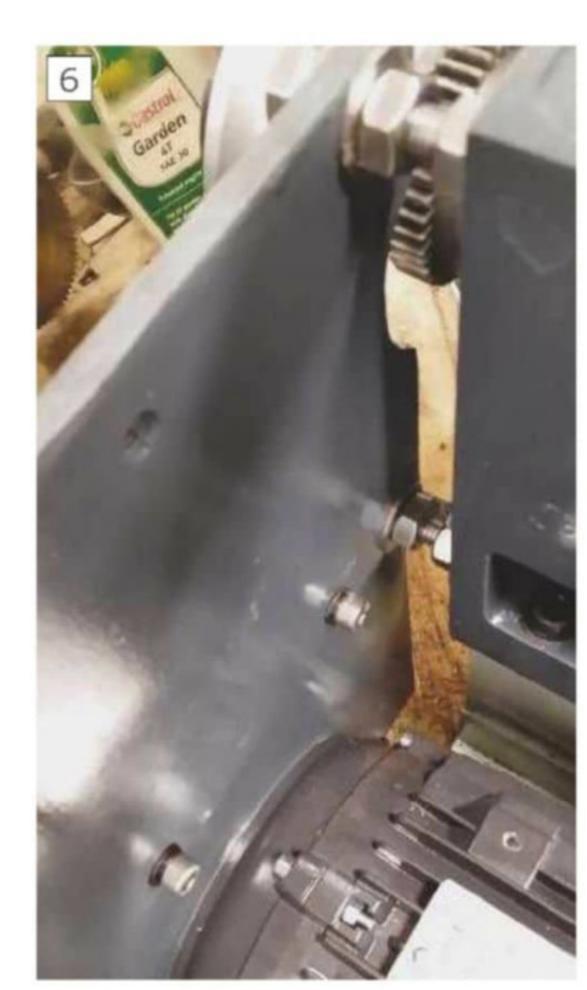
The boring operation itself was successful, but it was right at the very end of it that the motor on my drill press failed (more of which below). Fortunately, my dear friend the Dore Westbury milling machine saved the day, allowing four screw holes to be drilled in the plate. A trial fit saw the collar on the motor face snugly nestled in the bored hole, and the motor screwed securely to the plate.

The Drive

At this point the job became a little more complicated. The drive of the lathe as originally purchased was provided via a

was to have just a single speed range. The overall diameter of the pulley was also of necessity reduced, but this was not a problem as I had been advised by Newton Tesla that a 1:1 ratio between the motor and spindle pulleys was appropriate for this application.. Furthermore, again due to the limited room available on the pulley, we were not in a position to be choosy over the exact location of the new groove. The result of this was that in order to keep the motor and spindle pulleys in line when each was properly mounted it was necessary to move the motor forwards by a couple of centimetres or so. To achieve this, the main backplate stands back from the headstock courtesy of an arrangement of screws and nuts which can be seen in photo 6.

With regard to the small drive pulley on the original motor, it did not seem practicable to re-machine it, so I bought



Main backplate spacing

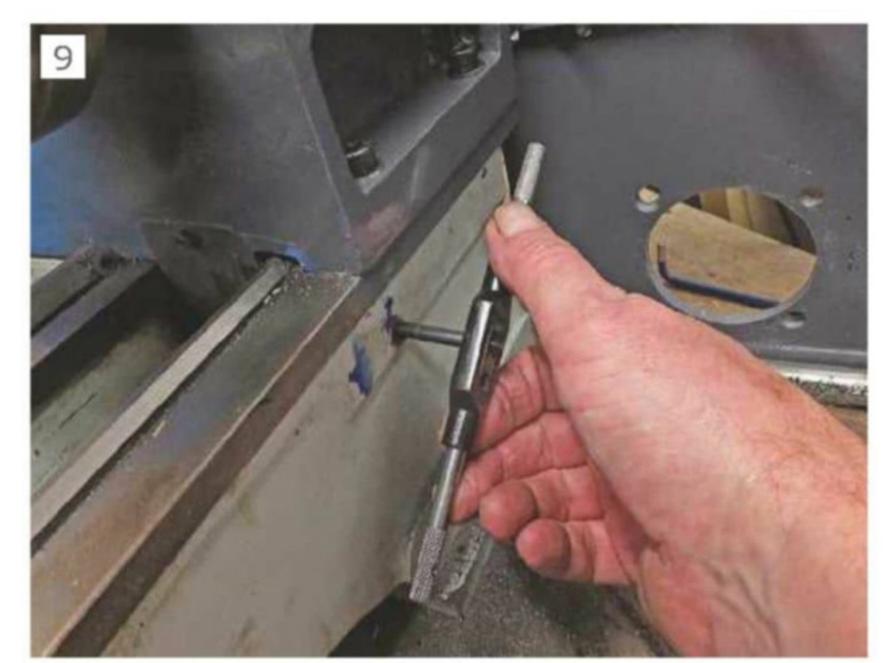
an A-section pulley of the correct bore from RDG tools, a company with which I have always found it pleasant and straightforward to deal. This new pulley came with a tapped hole and set screw but it did not have a keyway. The new motor has a key in its spindle, so I cut a keyway in the pulley on the lathe, using a tool of the appropriate size which was moved back and forward via the carriage handwheel until the required depth was achieved, **photo 7**.

It felt good to be able to make use of the lathe despite its still motorless condition! The result of these various processes is a significantly chunkier drive system than the one which was originally on the machine, **photo 8**.

As I sometimes move my machines



Completed drive



Tapping the main casting

between locations, I wanted to ensure that the motor was attached to the lathe in as robust a manner as possible, therefore in addition to the face mounted setup described above, the motor is fitted with three feet. Two of these sit squarely on a thin rubber pad at bench level, and one is bolted laterally to two tapped holes in the main casting, **photo 9**, held at the correct distance from it by spacers made of three thicknesses of drilled mild steel bar. The finished motor mounting job is shown in **photo 10**.

Motor Housing

Due to having had to remove the original motor housing, I was left with an open gap above the motor down which anything placed on the headstock would surely fall. Again, using the Evolution Rage, I cut a piece of 3.5 mm steel (which had been reclaimed from the base of an Ikea coffee table) into what I feel is quite a pleasing shape, and fixed it on as a cover over the offending gap. To my eye, this gives the machine a kind of 'industrial' look which I quite like, **photo 11**.

We're not done yet though. Despite the motor being pushed forward to align the pulleys, it still also protrudes further at its other end in the tailstock direction of the lathe than did its predecessor. This necessitated my cutting back the splashback and only remaining part of the motor housing, **photo 12**.

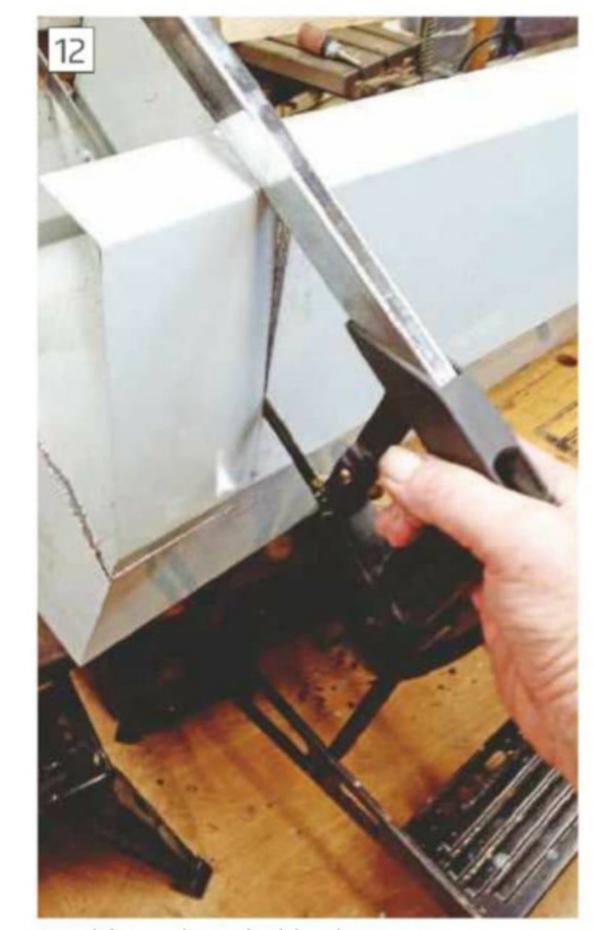
However, like much else in this notparticularly-straightforward conversion,
it required a degree of tinkering. I didn't
want to confine the new motor too much
and risk problems with overheating, but
to cut away the splashback and forward
part of the motor housing assembly to an
adequate degree to allow the air to flow
would have unacceptably weakened the
integrity of the sheet metal structure.
I got round this by cutting some large
ventilation holes with hole saws of various
sizes, photo 13.

These appear to be sufficient to keep the motor cool (and indeed may even be unnecessary), but in turn could leave the fan end of the motor vulnerable to the



Motor mounted!

Headstock with cover



Modifying the splashback

ingress of swarf, so I pressed part of an unused stainless steel cooker hood into service as a swarf guard. This does the job while remaining open at the end towards the tailstock, allowing plenty of air to flow through to the motor. Admittedly not the most accomplished piece of sheet metal work in the world, but it works. It can be seen in **photo 14**, which shows the finished conversion.

The drill

As noted above, the motor on my imported floorstanding drill press malfunctioned following the sustained use of the machine to power the flat-belt converted Seig X1 micromill (back in photo 4). Once again, I called upon the expertise and friendly counsel of John Newton of Newton Tesla, who advised me that single phase motors tend to react badly to being switched on and off a large number of times in succession. This was certainly the case in widening the hole in the lathe's new motor mount plate, as of necessity I was taking very light cuts with the boring head to avoid slippage of the flat belt of the mill's custom drive setup and needed to stop and restart the motor after every pass to adjust the depth of cut of the boring head. I do not feel that this particularly reflects a flaw in the flat belt setup, which I will happily use again with the new drill motor. Flat belts do tend to slip to a degree under a certain load, and had I used the Seig in its original form for this operation, I would have been taking equally light (or even lighter) cuts to avoid stripping the mill's plastic drive

Fortunately, my dear friend the Dore Westbury milling machine saved the day...

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gears (it was frustration with these gears that led me to convert the mill in the first place). Truth to tell, a bigger mill would have been more suitable, but there was no bigger mill available which was eligible for the job. The Dore Westbury - although not large – would have handled the operation much more robustly, but the drawbar for my boring head is too wide to pass through the DW's spindle. I therefore had no option other than to embark upon the boring operation using the drill press powered Seig, blissfully unaware at that point that it was going to cost me. It was fortunate that it was just at the moment that I had completed the boring operation that the drill press motor failed, or I would have been stuck.

The annoyance of having to buy my second new motor in a matter of weeks was tempered by the realisation that I could now have a variable speed drill press with a three phase motor. This was an exciting thought! The only downside would be witnessing the further dwindling of my bank balance, but by this point I was past caring. A further consultation with Newton Tesla confirmed my suspicion that it is unnecessary to purchase a second inverter to run a second three phase motor, provided that (a) the two motors are of the same rating, and (b) you don't try to run them at the same time. I therefore purchased another 1.1 kw three phase motor along with two three phase plugs and one three phase socket. The arrangement – with perhaps a little tidying up of cables still to do – is shown in **photo 15**.

This arrangement would make sure that only one of the machines is connected to the inverter at any given time (and when you think about it, it's quite a good idea – for a variety of reasons – not to operate two machines at the same time).

Pulleys – Again!

I was happy to discover that the new motor for the drill press was exactly the same size as the old one, and it bolted straight on to the mounting bracket with none of the kind of modification work that the lathe had required. The only complication was that while the old motor had a flat milled into its spindle, the new one had a keyseat and key. This necessitated my cutting a keyway in the motor step pulley. The structure of this pulley was such that the only possible position for the keyway was in the reinforced section which was drilled for the set screw, **photo 16**.

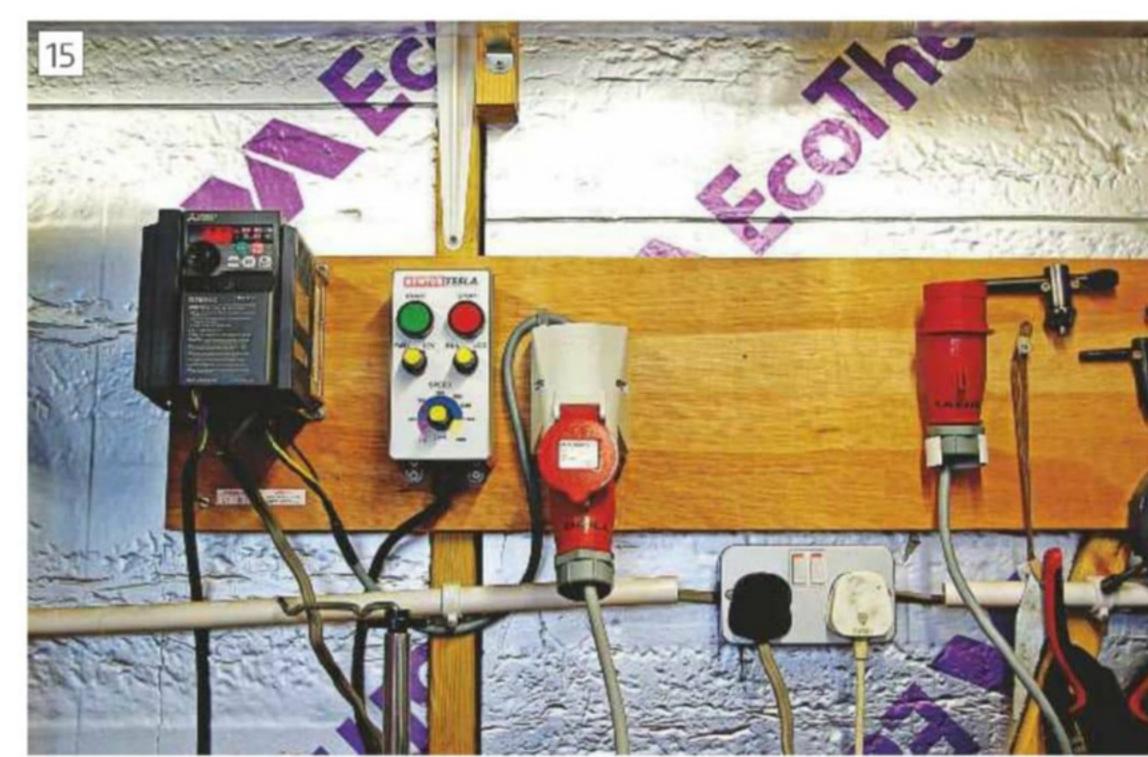
The set screw now presses upon the key. Given that in theory this does nothing to prevent longitudinal movement of the pulley upon the motor spindle, I drilled and tapped a second hole at the opposite side of the pulley's bore and spotted a recess for a second, smaller set screw in the motor spindle. Again, the keyway for this pulley was cut on the lathe, but the job was a much longer one than cutting the keyway in the lathe drive pulley, as



Ventilation holes



Ready for takeoff



Three phase supply



Modified drill motor pulley

the drill's pulley is made of a much harder alloy with an almost granular consistency which impressively resisted the advance of the cutting tool. I am no metallurgist, so we'll leave it there, but suffice to say that if I find myself having to cut many more keyways in pulleys made of this material, I'll be looking to acquire an arbour press and some broaches.

I had seen a video online about a similar conversion in which the owner had removed the central jackshaft from his machine and inverted the rear pulley cone, resulting in a direct drive between front and back pulleys, with only one belt. This, he said, was not only a simpler setup, but also a quieter one. This idea appealed to me, but Newton Tesla advised against it because although three phase motors are not particularly vulnerable to overheating, there is nevertheless some risk of this occurring if the machine is run at low speeds for lengthy periods. This is because the fan is running slowly and so cools the motor less effectively. Keeping the central jackshaft would retain a broader range of speeds and provide a mechanical advantage, offering low spindle speeds while still allowing reasonable motor speeds. I followed this advice and left the central pulleys alone, **photo 17**.

The result is a variable speed drill press which is formidable for its size and offers some of the exquisitely slow speeds that guys with beautiful old camelbacks like to show off on youtube. It is also worth noting here that there is a common belief that inverter-driven three phase motors lack torque at the low end of the speed range. I am reliably advised that with modern inverters of good quality this is not the case, and my newly converted drill certainly bears this out. Even at its very lowest speed (of a glacial 18 rpm), it delivers an assured and – it seems – unstoppable degree of torque.

A drill like this deserves a bit of bling, so as a finishing touch I ordered and fitted a vertical digital readout purchased from Arc Euro Trade. This looks good, but appears to also be a solidly-made instrument and I have no doubt that it will also prove useful. I also replaced the original keyed chuck



The drive - if it ain't broke, don't fix it



DRO and chuck

with a new keyless one of 5 mm – 20 mm capacity from RDG Tools, **photo 18**.

I also plan to install new digital tachometers to both machines (the one on the lathe having fallen victim to an instance of clumsiness on my part while I was working on it) but the delivery date has now passed on my second attempt to order these from two different sellers on ebay so whether and when I shall receive them I am unsure.

On Paint and Colour

Now, a brief note on the paintwork and colour scheme. The lathe was originally decorated in a blue and cream scheme. Colour is important to me, and although I'm generally fond of blue I have never

particularly liked it on machine tools. I was pleased to see the handsome gunmetal grey finish on the motor for the lathe when it arrived, even though it would be hidden on the completed machine. Picking up the cue from this, I took the opportunity to cover the blue areas of the lathe in a dark grey gloss DIY spray paint from the Rust-oleum 'Painter's Touch' Multi-purpose paint range. I will not pretend that I did a proper job of the paintwork. It was 'quick and dirty'; a cover-up job, and it will serve me right if it doesn't look good for long. One day, of course, I may do a proper strip down and repaint of the machine. For now, though, I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the paint, its ease of use and the relative durability of the finish despite the provisional nature of its application. I also looked forward to the lathe and drill being colour co-ordinated in a restrained grey-themed livery – until, that is, the motor for the drill press arrived, and emerged from its packaging resplendent in bright blue! This can be seen in **photo** 19, which shows both machines in their completed state. I draw the line at painting the motor grey, though. In fact I have decided that I'm growing to rather like blue on machine tools...

In Use

As is the case for many of us, the lathe

As is the case for many of us, the lathe and drill press are fundamental tools in my workshop...

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Lathe and drill press complete



Light tube, lens and part of shell for steampunk pump housing/lamp work in progress



Finished punk housing

and drill press are fundamental tools in my workshop, so unsurprisingly they were pressed into service as soon as they were operational with their new motors installed. They have both been used on a project I am currently working on. The smaller of our two woodburning stoves has a built-in back boiler which heats two radiators on the floor above via a system of vertical copper pipes which ascend the wall in the corner of the room It is, in effect, a mini wood-fired central heating system. On installing it we left the copper pipes on view as a design choice. Unfortunately, the visual appeal was compromised by a rather ugly green pump mounted on the pipes, so I decided to build a housing to conceal it. The light tube, lens and part of the shell for this artefact can be seen in **photo 20**.

Photograph 21 shows the finished pump housing for the small central heating system that runs off a woodburner with a back boiler, doubling up as a lantern with dimmable red LED's shining through an old theatre lamp lens. It sits in the corner of the chimney breast in our bedroom, the woodburner being off-camera to the left.

Using both machines on these projects has been a pleasure, and my initial impression is that the drill press in particular really shines. This may be because I was already used to the lathe having variable speed, but not so the drill. In any case, I am no longer sorry that the old motors failed, and look forward to calling upon the services of both machines - transformed as they are - for many jobs in the future.

In our Next Issue

Coming up in issue 285

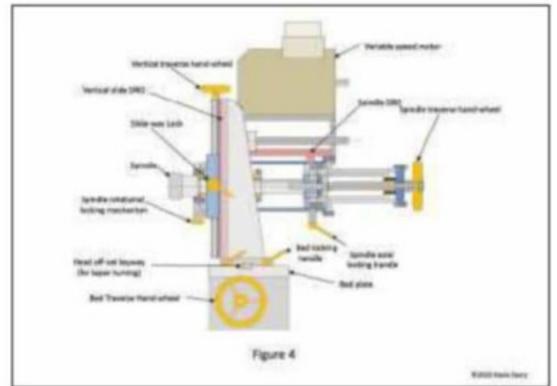
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Content may be subject to change

October's issue, number 285, is shaping up to be one with something to interest every reader:



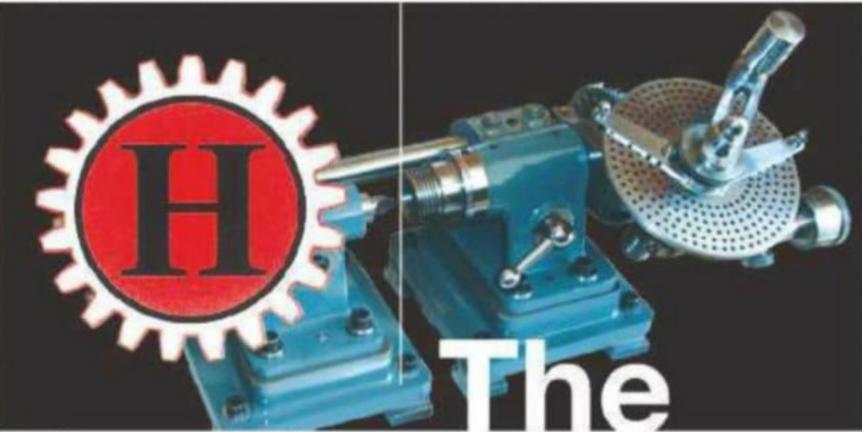
John Crammond reverses the feed on a compound table.



Kevin Barry explains horizontal boring on the lathe.



R Finch improves a milling vice.



ahead

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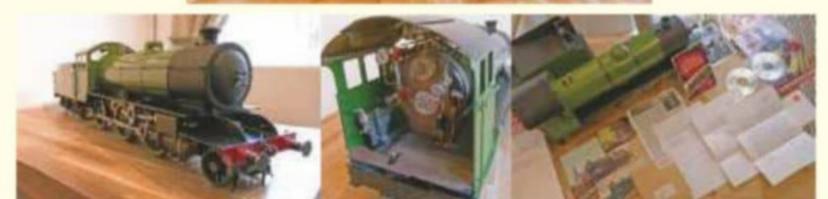
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Photos of the build process and the full-size steam engine detailing the design dated and numbered by Martin.

Engineering drawings folder with developments and copied articles of the engine build.

The engine has been in the family for many years and the engine should be returned back in to the model engineering community and to be enjoyed by someone who understands the incredible contribution the late Martin Evans had made.

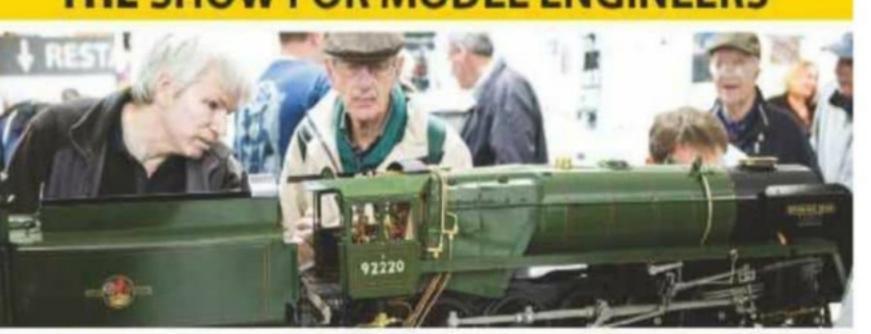
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Scribe a line

YOUR CHANCE TO TALK TO US!

Drop us a line and share your advice, questions and opinions with other readers.

Supersize Me

Dear Neil, to "supersize me" (MEW 283) had many pitfalls! The post-mortem on the breaks brings back memories of an agricultural problem that may give an answer? A 2"Dia solid roll shaft would break for no initially obvious reason. Close inspection after several had snapped showed an interesting pattern of rings getting bigger from one point, where a tiny mark caused by a hammer blow on assembly acted as a stress raiser! In use the shaft adopted a curve between the two bearings (about 10' or 3m apart). At any one time the front of the shaft was in compression whilst the rear was in tension, effectively bending the shaft back and forth with every rotation! The tiny indentation starts the crack that then runs straight through the shaft until it breaks.

The drill shaft was extended with 16mm black bar in a hole 25mm. The O/D of the black bar would have many surface imperfections which would under these conditions act as stress raisers. The rotary impact hammer(drill) would impart considerable force into the shaft! Some would be absorbed and converted into a bending force, in this case between the bottom of the hole and the drilling machine. With the hole being 25mm and the shaft 16mm there would be room to bend even in the hole. The weight of the extended drill would also reduce the force available at the tip for drilling or chiselling. Supporting bushes along the length, just smaller than the hole might well help along with a smooth shaft or a larger smooth shaft.

And what did I do with a broken shaft 2" diameter? Use oxy acetylene to cut both the ends into a 45* cone, then weld it back together - I never had one break on the weld!

Noel Shelley, Norfolk.

Bombe & Collossus

Hi Neil, there is a book: title Colossus, by Jack Copland & others, this describes the 'how what and why' of the decryption of 'Enigma' and 'Tunny' etc. Much of it is by those who did it and built these machines, however, the maths in some of the articles will put anyone of less than 250 IQ into mental freefall. Nevertheless, it is a fascinating read and if one can follow the basic procedures, an understanding is gained of what a colossal advance was made in a very short time. Further, it reveals an insight into how able those few geniuses were. If reading it makes your brain implode – I am not responsible!

Peter King, New Zealand

Bombe Continued

Dear Neil, I like to give you a follow up about the working of the Bombe.

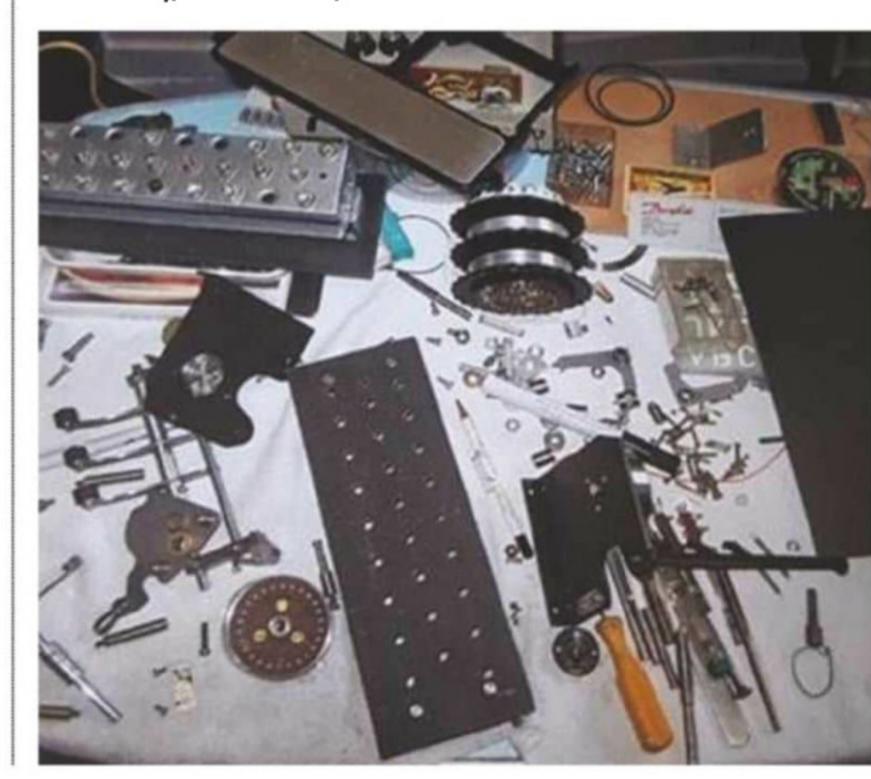
Some one brought me in contact with a former member of my Model engineering association. Unbelievably, he lives about 8km from my home. His name is Bert Stam and I visited him.

He has built 4 Enigma machines because this interests him a lot. A fifth is under construction. This is an alternative to a bombe. In principle the working is more or less the same. Both are codebreaking calculators. Enclosed a picture of all kind of parts and one of his complete Enigma's which he made.

But moreover, about a year ago he visited the Bletchley Park

museum, so he could fully explain the workings. All in all very interesting.

Henk Salij, Ridderkerk, Netherlands.







Thank You Michael Cox!

Dear Neil, I wanted a personalized winding key for my clock(s). According to the literature, the square hole is "formed by filing with needle files". For me a horrifying proposal. But I used Mike Cox's rotary broaching device, proposed in MEW number 241 (May 2016), page 24. Used in the lathe, to be concentric and obviously adapted to square holes. Amazing what a super-simple item as this one can do. I could never invent that. I used a piece of brass rod and made the sphere at the other end of my key with Mike Cox's ball turner (MEW 259, autumn 2017, page 53). The key was made much easier and faster than I expected. The result is of a high level.

Bernard Zaegel, The Netherlands

South Bend Lathe Spares

Dear Neil, further to the request for information on South Bend lathe spares, we had a company in Australia make a clone known as Hercus. My lathe is a 1948 Hercus and is very similar to the 9-inch South Bend. A company with a stock of Hercus parts may be helpful as so many parts were similar. This company is AMH or australianmetalworkinghobbyist.com

The postal address is 54 Peel Street, Holbrook, New South Wales 2644

Hope this may help.

Edward Millington, Australia

Gimmel Rings

Dear Neil, thanks so much for Gary Wooding's superb MEW 283 article, making Gimmel Rings. I have just read this while having my morning cup of coffee. It just shows the British character, when the chips are down, we can do it! So enjoyable to read, I can see me returning to the article many times to take it all in again.

John Parry, Island of Jersey.

Rust Never Sleeps

Dear Neil, ref. Issue No 282 John R. Yeomans email 'Rust'. I use phosphoric acid which I get from TM Chemicals Ltd. Under the name SCALE-X, tmchemicals.co.uk.

I use it neat from the bottle without dilution. Obtain a hank of wire wool plain without soap. Take a suitable bit of this and dip it in the acid as required. Then rub the rusted surface until the rust has gone.

This should give a nice grey finish. When you are satisfied get some kitchen paper and rub the steel as dry as you can. Do not wash off in water. You will have a thin protective coat on the steel.

You can then paint it when you are ready. Regards

Hugh Castellan

Clayton Steam Wagon

Dear Neil, A recent post on ME was by someone looking for details for a steam lorry and I have found drawings on the internet for a Clayton steam wagon which was published by ME in 1976 but am reluctant to post it on MEW because of copyright laws. The archive magazines do not go back to 1976 and therefore, I could not give a link to the issue. Attached is a copy of the file which could possibly be added to the article reprint section.

Paul Lousick, Australia

Thanks Paul, I have put your PDF in the reprints section of the website: www.model-engineer.co.uk - Neil

any title for



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Right Left and Centre.



Stephen Bondfield looks at correcting mismatched chuck jaws





Low cost chuck

The closed jaws of a good quality chuck.

ometimes, what at first appears to be a "bargain" money saver, eventually transpires to be a costly waste of time, money and effort.

The following might be of some interest to readers who have purchased low cost lathe chucks from various sources and have discovered that the jaws do not close with equal parity – the surfaces of the closing jaws do not meet and align without there being an irregular and varying space in between, **photo 1**.

If we examine the effects of such an arrangement upon the result of our turned item we would see nothing very much other than a slight eccentricity when the object in the chuck is in rotation. This is of no real consequence if the dimension that we are machining to is less than the initial diameter of the stock piece in the jaws of the chuck, and the result should be a round, concentric item; facing off doesn't present a problem, neither does drilling the end of the workpiece or parting off. However, if we decide to remove the item from the

chuck for one reason or another and then try to relocate it in the chuck, we would find that the drilled hole appears to be rotating slightly eccentrically, the same with the outer surface. In trying to re-machine or tap the hole that we have previously drilled we might also risk breaking the drill bit or tap if the departure from the original position is too great. We would have to start again only to find that the same fault recurs and that trying to achieve exact centre comparative to the rotating outer surface is futile, because, we have begun at a starting point where there is an inherent fault; the chuck jaws do not grip the workpiece in such a position that will allow it to rotate concentrically, comparative to the centre of the drill in the tail stock chuck or the cutting tip of the tool in the tool post.

If possible, the most obvious thing to do at the time of purchase is to thoroughly examine the opening and most important, the closure of the jaws. Bear in mind that if the jaws appear to be significantly misaligned this may mean they have simply



Rear end view of chuck.

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been inserted in the wrong order! With a three-jaw chuck, try swapping two jaws over before rejecting it out of hand.

With the chuck jaws closed and the item held in one hand, hold it up to a light source and examine the rear view of the chuck from the backplate end. With the other free hand, key the jaws to open and close. There shouldn't be any variation of light space between the meeting surfaces of the three closed jaws, **photo 2**. Do the same with the front, face view of the chuck. If there is any disparity it should reveal itself by this examination, **photo 3**. You will have to decide to discontinue the purchase or to buy, with the knowledge that you have sufficient resources of expertise and tooling to be able to do something remedial about the discrepancies that you observe when the chuck is held up in front of your eyes. If you have ordered your purchase through a mail order source and discover when it arrives that there are these faults, you are confronted with the task of complaining to the supplier about the standard of the item and its usability on your lathe. If the supplier is not the manufacturer, then there may be the need to demonstrate to the supplier that the item is unusable in its existing state. This all adds up to frustration

centring assembly. A set of feeler gauges can be helpful to obtain a fairly accurate estimate as to the quantity of metal to be removed from the 60 degree surfaces of each jaw, that will allow the closure of the jaws in sequence, to align with sufficient closeness to provide a secure, concentric grip in order to enable greater accuracy when turning or drilling the work piece.

In order to achieve this objective it is necessary to construct a fixture to hold each jaw, **photo 6**, and to locate it securely, in the vice of a milling machine or a surface grinder, to serve as a guide to allow accurate removal of metal to correct the discrepancy of the chuck jaw, **photo 7**.

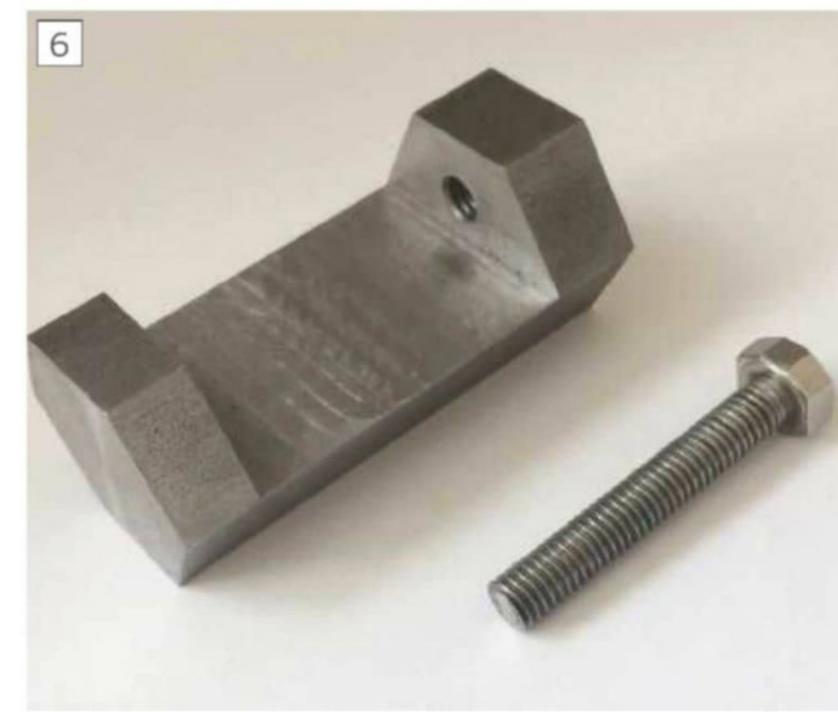
The item was made from a scrap piece of hexagonal, 25mm <A/F > mild steel bar approximately 60mm long. Obviously the length of this fixture could be varied to accommodate larger chuck jaws. A section of metal 35mm long by 14mm deep was removed from the bar by the use of a 16mm end mill, held in a collet, in a vertical milling machine. At one end, a hole drilled and tapped 6mm, to a depth of 10mm, and positioned 5 mm above the centre line of the bar, serves as a clamping point to securely hold the jaw in place ready for machining, **photo 8**. The 6mm bolt that is



Chuck jaw showing surfaces of unequal length.



The three jaws and the surfaces to be corrected.



Fixture and securing bolt.

and dissatisfaction in the equation of the situation, which is "a waste of time, money and effort."

The problem is not the fault of the scroll, concealed within the body of the chuck, but upon the finished machined surfaces of the chuck jaws, at the gripping end, which should all be 60 degrees to each other, and being equal in length, **photo 4**. Although this measured error may be small, **photo 5**, it does have a significant effect upon the final result of any machining activity, to produce an object that is concentric without it being discarded as waste.

This error can be corrected by the removal of each individual jaw and a comparison made between its neighbours in the sequence of closure of the self

screwed into this hole must be tightened against the chuck jaw very securely, without displacing the horizontal position of the jaw in the clamping fixture. The necessity for the assembled parts to be secure must be emphasised because of the extreme forces that are involved in the process of machining each jaw, although only a small quantity of metal is being removed.

The choice of hexagonal bar that forms the matrix of the fixture is exactly the right form for the task, because each side corresponds to the 60 degree angle of each of the six surfaces at the ends of the three jaws (360 divided by 6 = 60).

With the jaw securely located in the fixture, placing the fixture on one or the other < right and left > of the lower of its



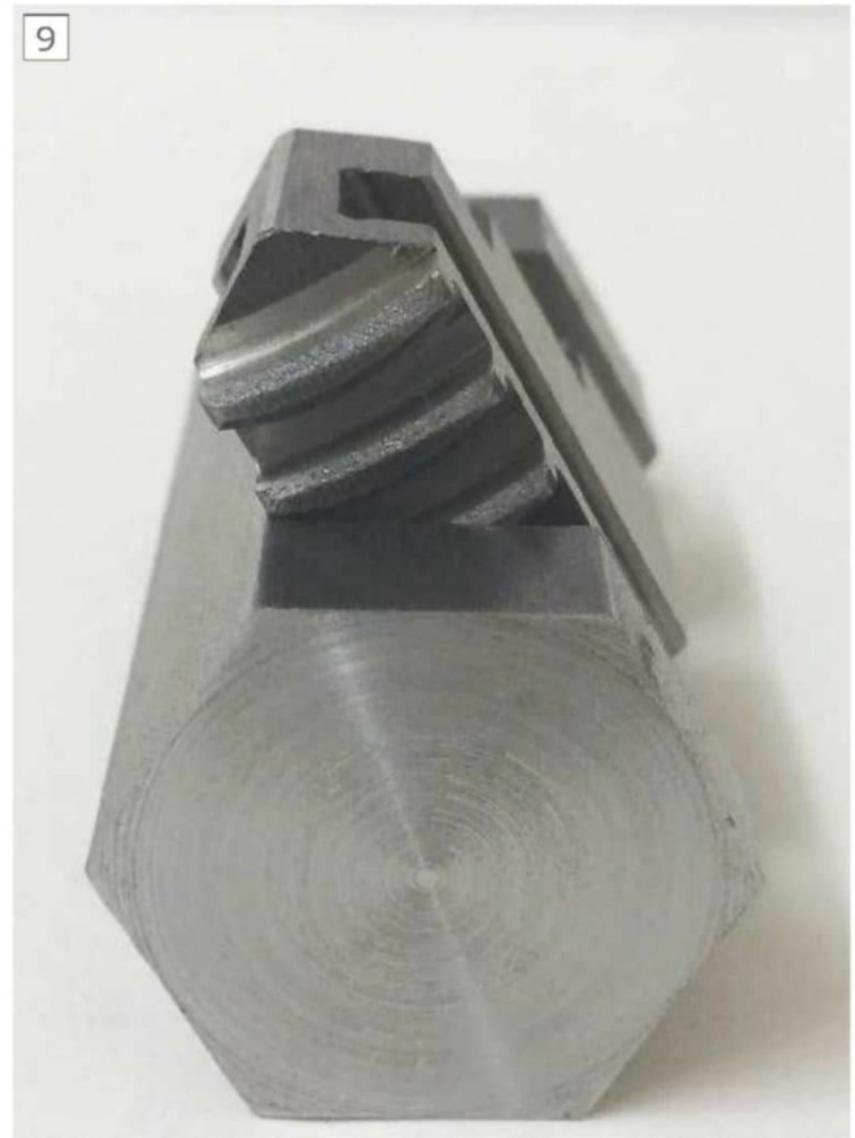
Fixture with jaw.



Fixture assembly located in machine vice.



Positioned 60 degrees right.

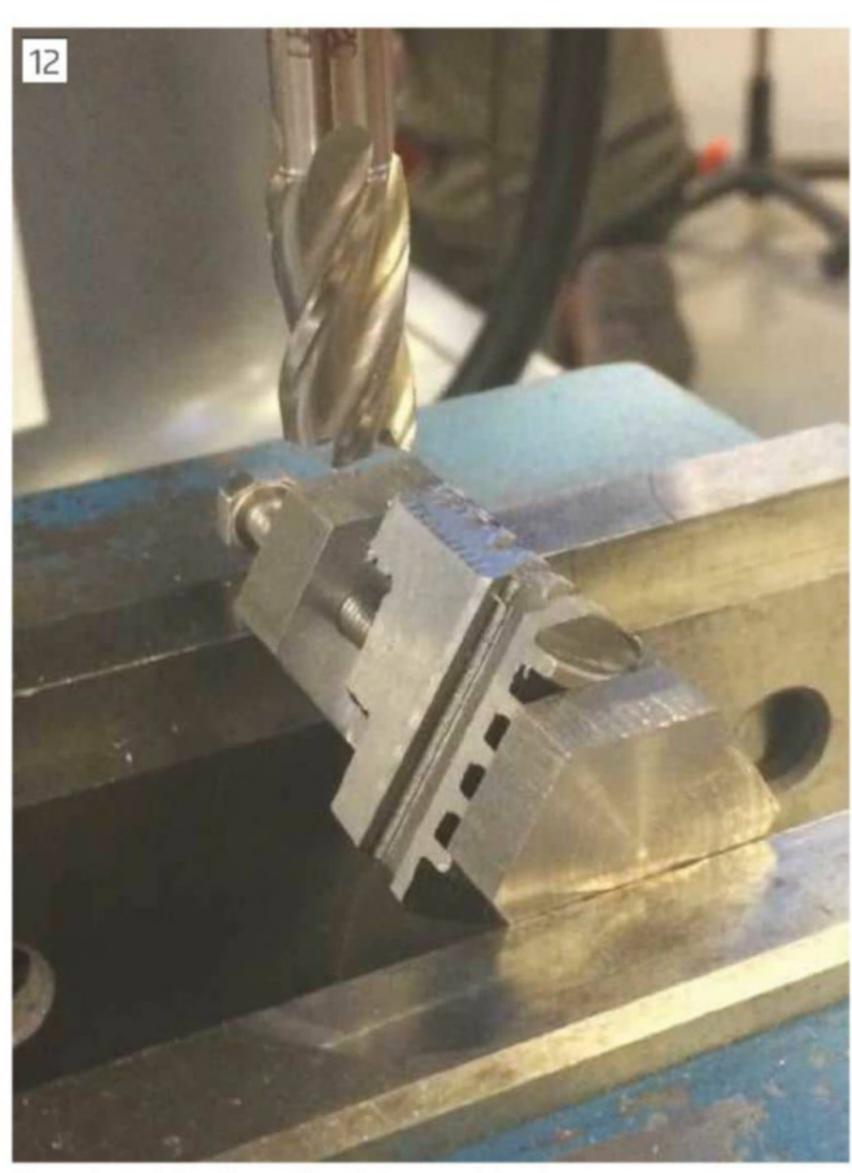


Positioned 60 degrees left.



Surface removed by shallow cutter action.

-

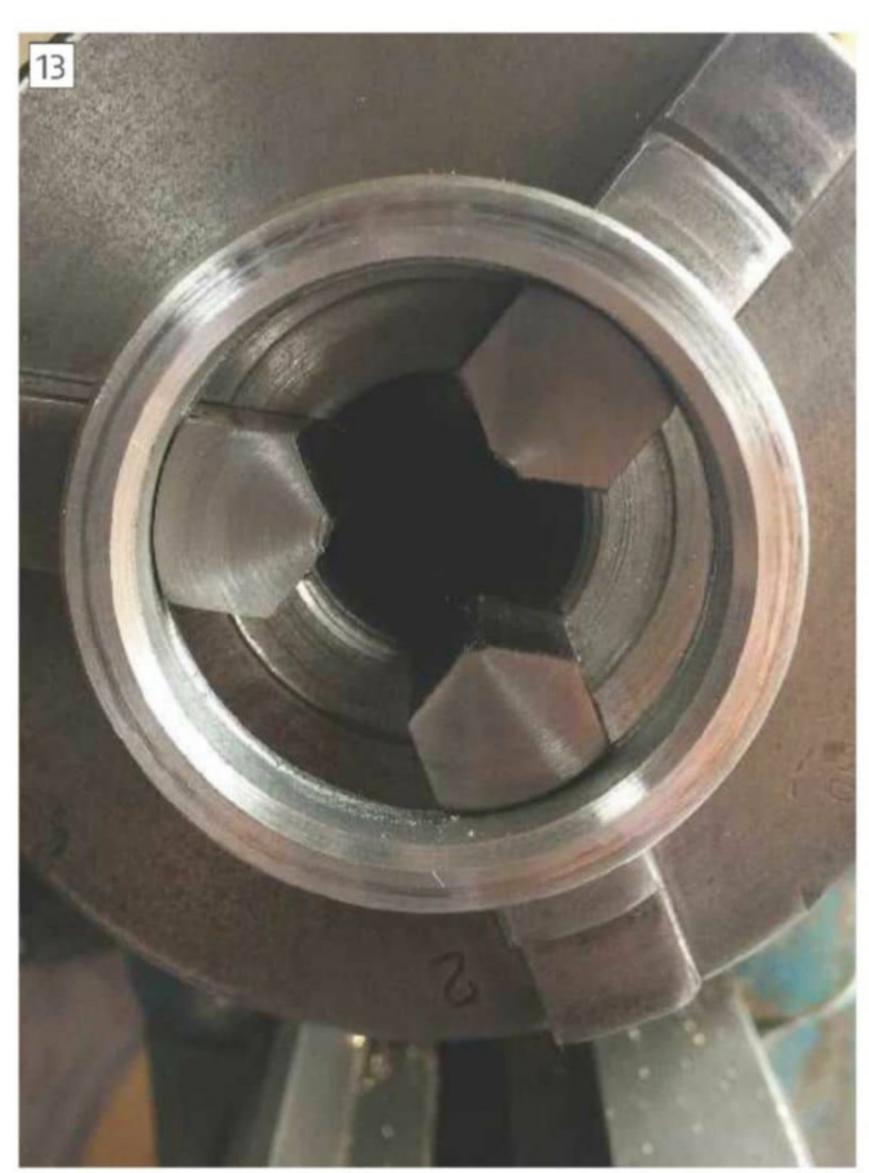


Same jaw, right side surface being machined.

six sides, the chuck jaw is positioned to the corresponding horizontal plane, of the side which forms the base, this is very convenient for the purposes of machining, to accurately recreate the 60 degree angle of the jaw. Rotating the fixture by 60 degrees to its adjacent side and repeating the machining action enables both surfaces of the same jaw to be altered comparative to each other, photos 9,10. However, one jaw surface might require more metal to be removed than the other to bring the jaw into close parity with its neighbours in the sequence of closure.

For this reason, it is necessary to remove the jaw from the clamp fixture at intervals and refit it to the chuck to examine its position comparative to the jaws preceding and following. This action can be time consuming and tedious but is entirely necessary to achieve any degree of accurate integration of the three jaws. Furthermore if the item to be machined is a jaw that grips the external circumference of larger circular objects, caution must be exercised because although the 60 degree angle dimensions at the closing centre have been corrected it does not necessarily follow that the inner surfaces of the outer circumference of the jaws are also concentric. This dimension might have to be machined with a boring tool whilst all three jaws are fitted in the chuck and with an object secured in place at the centre of the chuck.

As for the machining actions, most low cost chuck jaws are fairly soft and because



Securing jaws open under light pressure, restrained by circular band.



Machining an old chuck. Method to recreate the tips of the three jaws.

only a small quantity of metal needs to be removed it is possible to machine them using ordinary high speed steel milling cutters rotating at approximately 350/400 RPM, photos 11, 12. Take care to do exactly that, only make light, shallow cuts.

Because of the possibility of vibration, it is a good thing to check the security of the jaw in the fixture and the latter in the vice of the milling machine at intervals.

After all the jaws have been checked

for closure it might be found that the very ends of each jaw have become rather pointed as the result of the extended 60 degree surfaces. In this instance it is necessary to re machine the ends to recreate the surface which actually comes into contact and grips the surface of the work piece. For this action, a single, circular piece of steel piping can be fitted over each corresponding step of all three jaws to contain and restrain them when they are opened and held under light pressure, **photo 13**. Using a boring bar through this 'hole' metal can be removed from the ends of each jaw, **photo 14**, thereby creating surfaces which can be applied to close concentrically around the workpiece item held in the jaws, gripping it securely.

If the method of grinding is chosen to remove metal from the surface of the chuck jaw, make sure that the entire clamping system, machine vice and clamping fixture is secure on the magnetic table of the surface grinder.

The accuracy or rather the concentricity of the rotating chuck comparative to the cutting surface of the tool in the tool post is only as accurate as the rotating shaft of the headstock spindle and the backplate upon which the chuck is mounted. Any free movement of these component parts, caused by worn bearings or a loose backplate, will have a corresponding effect upon the workpiece held in the chuck. It is therefore worthwhile to make sure that all three components are integrated to form a secure, common centred turning plane. ■





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A Lathe Saddle Multi-stop Part 2

Roger Vane presents a refined design for lathe saddle stop worthy of any machine.

Photograph 19 shows the clamping holes being drilled, together with the buttons and parallel described by Paul.

The first milling operation is to machine a 10mm slot in, but as this is a guide for the guide pegs it needs to be accurate and above all, consistent. I would have milled to initial slot using a slot drill slightly smaller in diameter than 10mm, with 3/8" diameter being ideal. Then finish with a 10mm slot drill - finishing the slot at 10mm allows the heads of capscrews to be fitted easily.

I appear to have used a non-standard tee-slot cutter and made my peg keys and tee-nut bar to suit. As such, a cutter may not be available to all so I have drawn the tee-slot based on a standard 8mm cutter which is available from Arc Euro Trade and others (usual disclaimer). It has a maximum diameter of 16mm with a 'width' of 8mm. The 'neck' at 7mm will easily clear the 10mm slot. If you use a different cutter to this, you may need to re-dimension the guide pegs and tee-nut bar to suit the revised slot. **Photograph 20** shows the tee-slot being machined.

Stop Body (fig. 5)

5.1 Stop body fabrication

The stop body is fabricated from four parts, which is shown on the drawing



One method of setting the mounting bar on the milling machine table (Paul Clark)

(fig. 5), together with the completed fabrication. The individual parts will be silver soldered together.

The parts themselves are straightforward to make, being made from mild steel flat and round bar. The parts are shown in **photo 21**.

Squareness is most important here, so assembly with tight-fitting pins is the best option to achieve this. The holes for the pins should be coordinate drilled on the milling machine, rather that relying on marking out

and a drill press. Although I have specified 1/8" diameter pins, they can be any size you like as long as they are close fitting.

One minor point to be aware of is that part 'B' has a 5/16" BSF tapped hole through it, but you will probably find that your taps will not go any deeper that about 1", so the remaining 1/4" or so will need to be in clearance.

Also, the angled face on part 'D' is best put on using an indexing head to achieve the 30 degrees required.

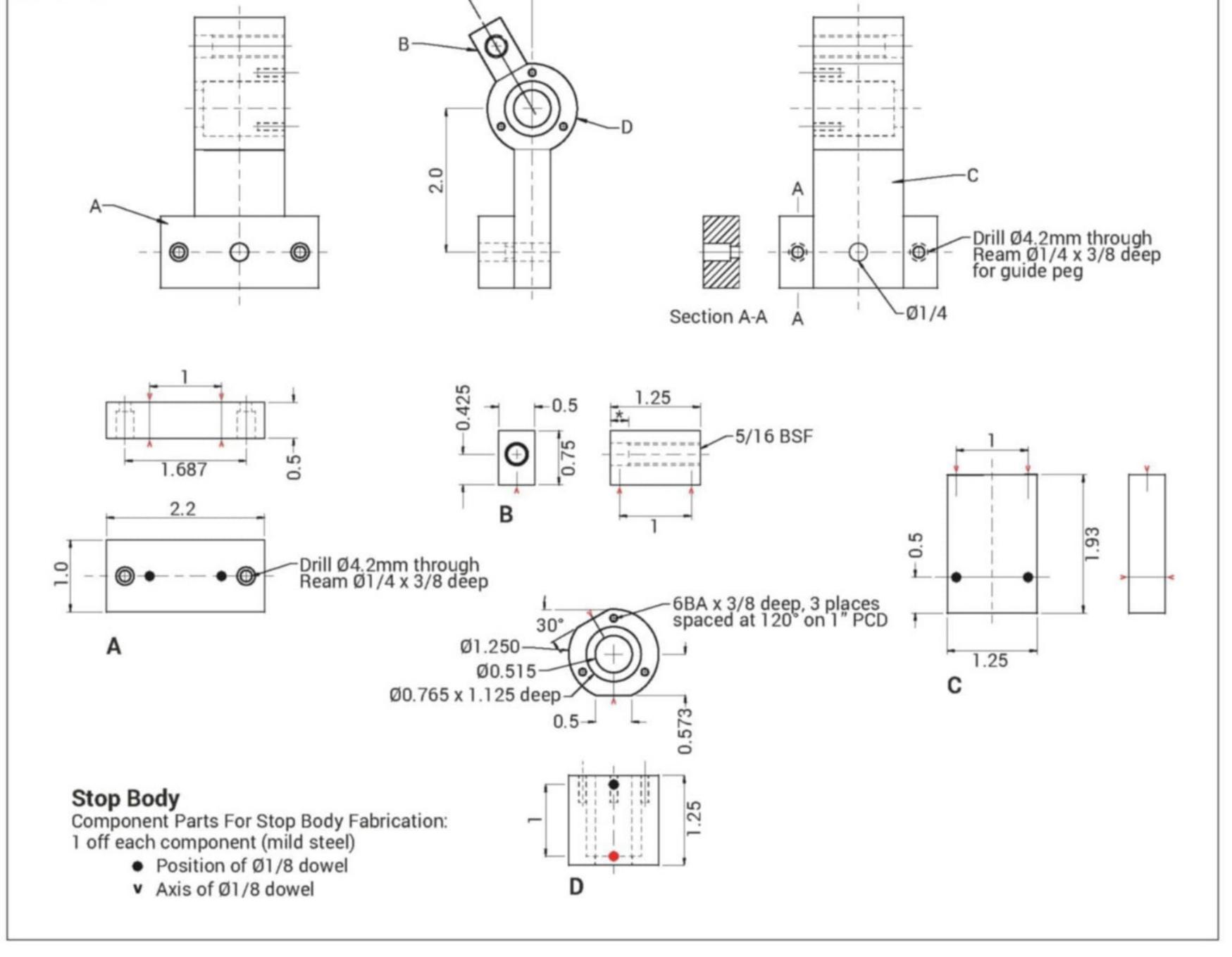
Once the component parts have been



Milling the tee-slot in the mounting bar (Paul Clark)



The component parts for the stop block before silver soldering (Paul Clark)



made, they need to be cleaned up prior to silver soldering. It is worth placing centre pop marks all over the faces to be joined, as this will provide a tiny gap for the silver solder to run into. I find that an automatic centre punch is ideal for this type of job as the punch marks will be consistent.

Photograph 22 shows the body fabrication assembled prior to silver soldering.

The assembly can now be silver solder together, ensuring that the component parts don't move as they are heated.

Stop - small parts (fig. 6)

Fig.5

Before we start making the small parts for the stop assembly it is worth showing the individual parts as in **photo 23**.

This photo is of my own, 20 year old stop assembly, and there is a detailed difference to be aware of. I made my floating bush to take a light spring to control the action of the bush in the body housing, but further thought has questioned the need for this. The drawing (6.1) shows a plain bush without the spring, which should be perfectly satisfactory. If anyone making this multi-stop feels that they would like to include the spring, then it should be no problem to modify the bush to suit your

chosen spring. Sourcing a relatively light spring will probably be the biggest problem here, as most springs available from 'our' suppliers seem to use much thicker wire as their diameter increases. My spring is made

22

The stop block assembled and ready for silver soldering (Paul Clark)

from 18 gauge wire and came from a mixed pack purchased many years ago.

6.1 Guide bush

Although there shouldn't be any misalignment if the drawings and guidelines have been followed, I have included the floating guide bush to hopefully eliminate the effect of any minor misalignment.

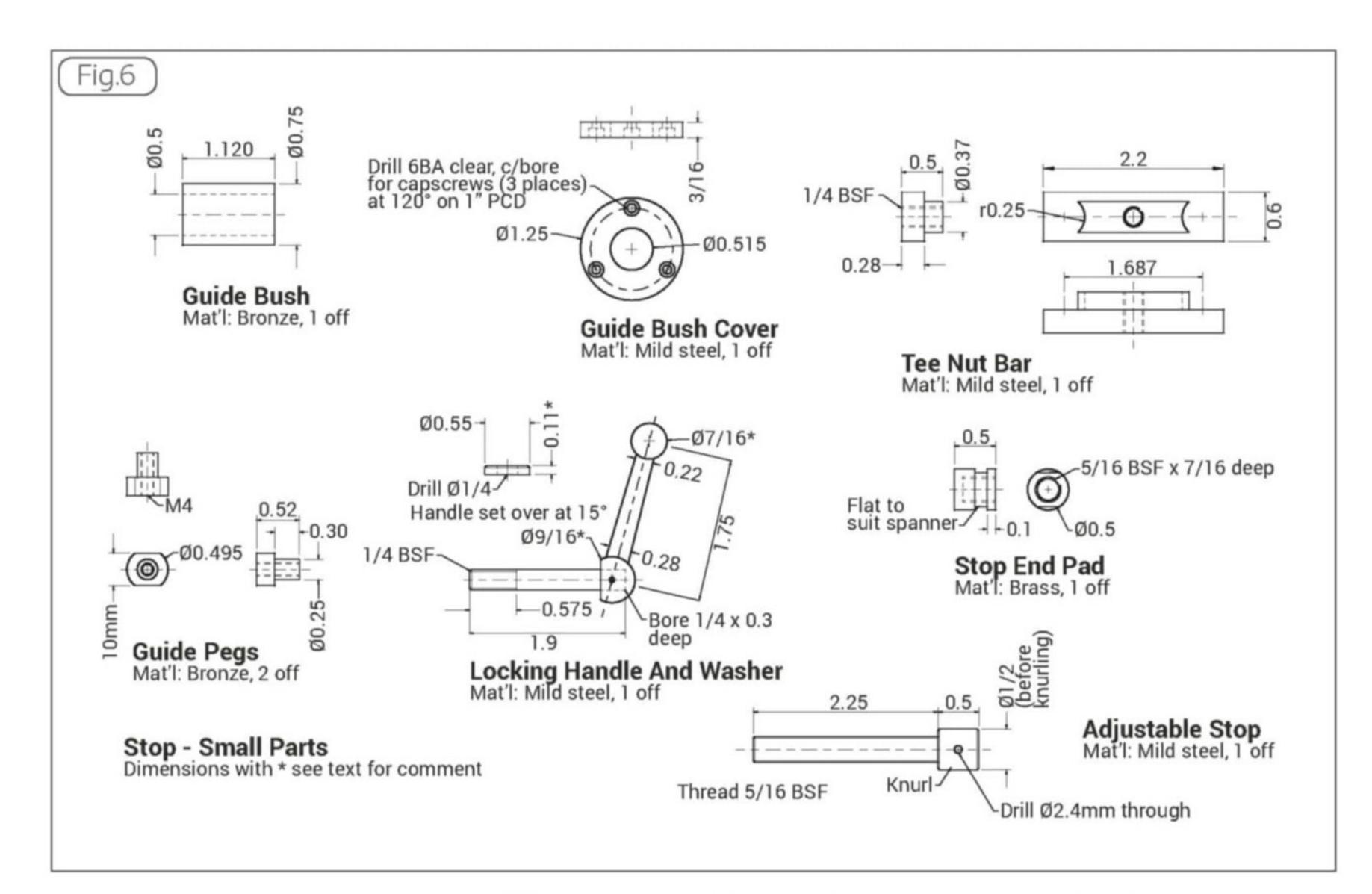
The bush has been designed to allow for a small axial movement of 0.005" in the housing, together with a radial movement of 0.007" maximum deviation from centre line. It is a straightforward turning job.

6.2 Guide bush cover

This part can either be made from steel bar or cut from a piece of 3/16" plate. I would normally make an item such as this from steel plate, with the three holes for the 6BA capscrews being drilled and counterbored to match the stop body on a 1" PCD. I would also drill the centre hole to match a standard mandrel that I have 'in stock' (I never throw these away as they can be useful) – around 3/8" would be ideal.

Now that the holes have been drilled the part can be sawn from the main steel plate and the corners trimmed using a hacksaw

•



to reduce the impact of interrupted cuts. Following on from this it can be mounted on the mandrel and the diameter cleaned up to 1.25". All that remains is to remove it from the mandrel and hold in a 3-jaw chuck to bore the central hole out to 0.515". Job done!

6.3 Tee-nut bar

Before we start milling the steps in the tee-nut we must mill the raw material to the size to give clearance within the tee-slot. For the tee-slot as drawn the material needed is 5/8" x 1/2", with the 5/8" dimension reduced to 0.60" to provide some clearance within the tee-slot.

From now on this is made just like a standard tee-nut, except that it is 2.2" long. The important point here is that the two faces which actually clamp in the tee-slot are in the same plane. This is easily achieved if the material is held in a vice and both clamping faces machined at the same depth setting without removing the material from the vice. If your vice doesn't have recesses in the jaws, then you could use parallels to achieve the same result. Photograph 24, taken for another project, shows the milling operation under way.

Before removal from the vice the central 1/4" BSF hole should be drilled and tapped to ensure that it is perfectly square to the clamping faces. This is also an opportunity to provide the recesses for the guide pegs by milling away the central part of the tee using a 1/2" end mill, as shown in **photo 25**. The tee-nut bar can now be removed form the vice and deburred.



The stop block and parts

6.4 Guide pegs

The guide pegs are made from bronze bar and are designed to locate the stop assembly in the mounting bar. This requires that they should be a close fit in both stop body and tee-slot.

To make them, chuck a length of 1/2" phosphor bronze and skim the diameter to 0.495" to provide just a slight clearance when guiding the tee-nut bar - this will locate the tee-nut bar without any binding. Now face, drill and tap for M4, and then turn the 0.250" diameter to 0.30" long. I tapped M4 because I wanted to use button head screws for neatness.

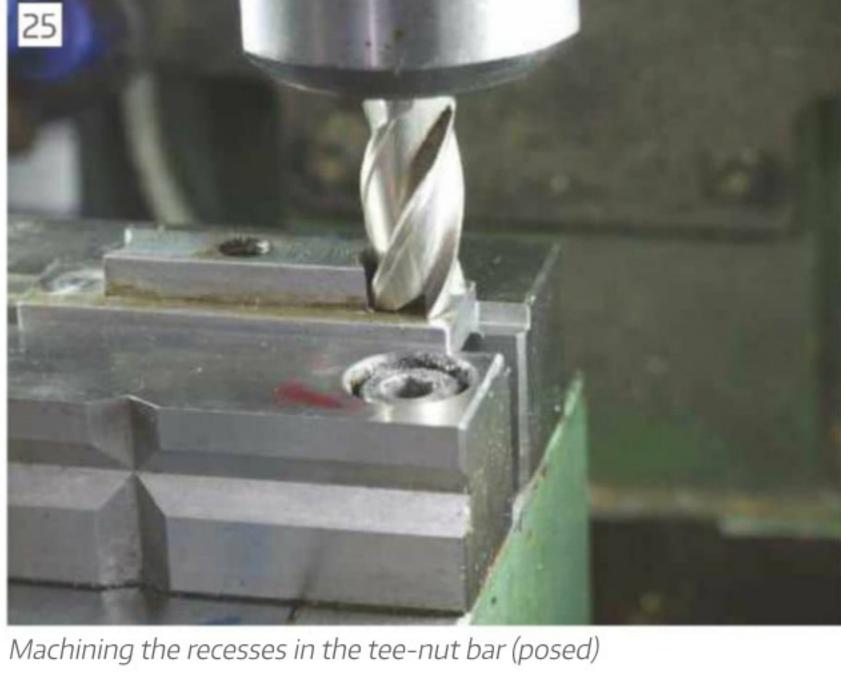
Now move the material to an indexing

head on the milling machine and machine the flats to provide a smooth sliding fit in the mounting bar slot. There should be an equal amount of material removed from each flat face. This should apply to both pegs, otherwise the stop assembly may not maintain squareness with the mounting bar. Return to the lathe and part off and then reversing in the chuck and facing back to an overall length of 0.520".

Repeat the process for the second guide peg. **photo 26** shows the guide pegs fitted into the stop body, whilst **photo 27** shows their relationship with the tee-nut bar and how they stop it from turning.



Milling the clamping faces on the tee-nut





The guide pegs have now been fitted to the stop block, shown with the tee-nut bar

6.5 Locking handle and washer

The locking handle design used is down to personal taste and ease of manufacture with the tools available. I like the look and feel of ball handles as shown on the drawing, so that's what I've specified. You can make a ball handle as shown on the drawings, a plain handle or even a commercially available locking handle.

The ball handles are made to a design by G H Thomas and are easy to make given a spherical turning tool and a set of special holders for the second operations. Full details were published in Model Engineer vol. 144 (1978) and then included in a book the entitled 'Model Engineers Workshop Manual' (1992) G H Thomas (chapter 8 - 'Ball Handles'). Please note that the ball diameters given (9/16" and 7/16") are nominal sizes and will be slightly smaller in diameter when the material has cleaned up. Any special holders need to be made to suit the reduced diameter.

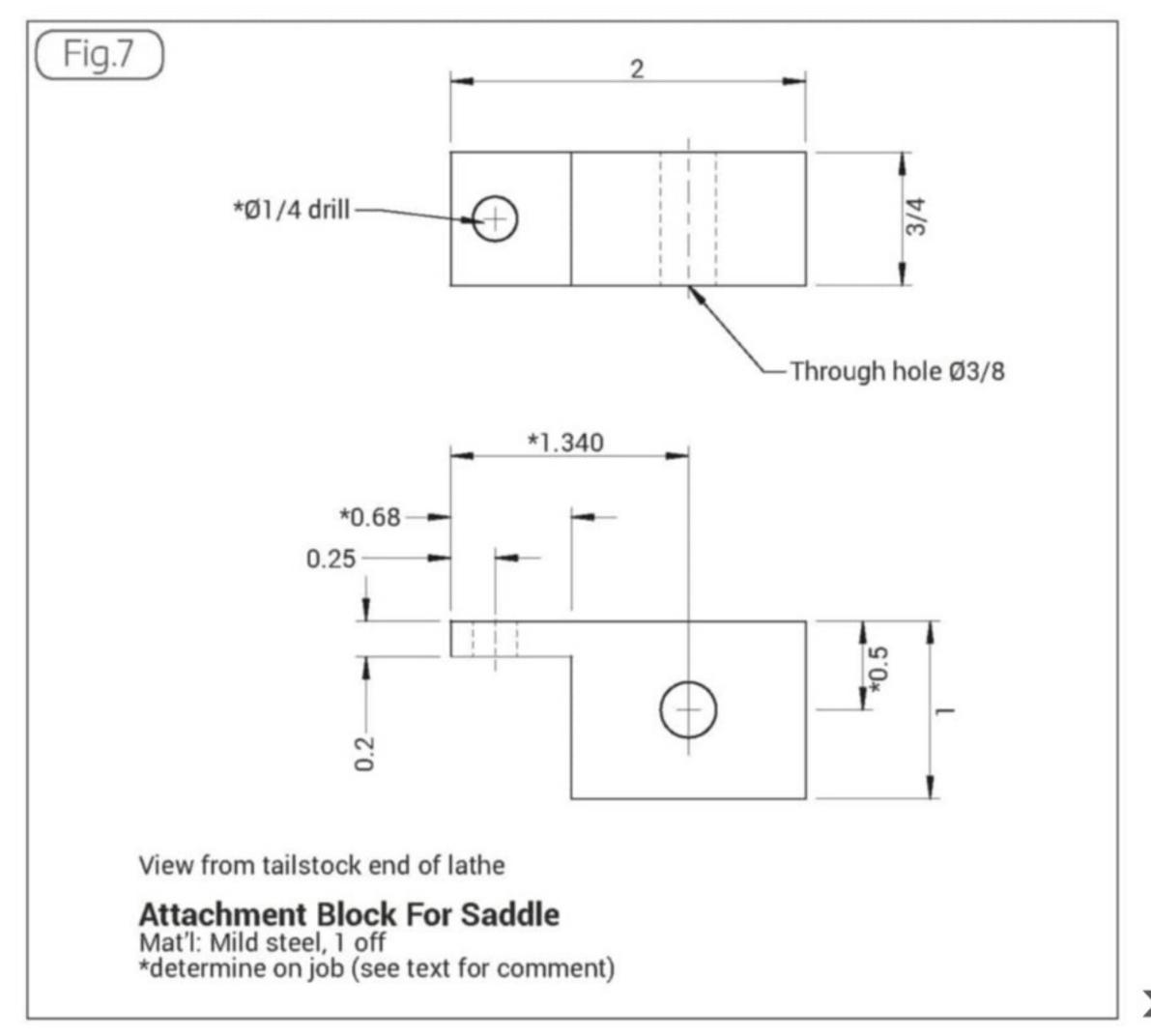
Once made, the ball handle is fitted



The tee-nut bar and ball handle have now been assembled

with a captive stud and the handle is then oriented by changing the thickness of the washer. A tip: turning the tee-nut bar through 180 degrees can help to overcome any major misalignment of the handle.

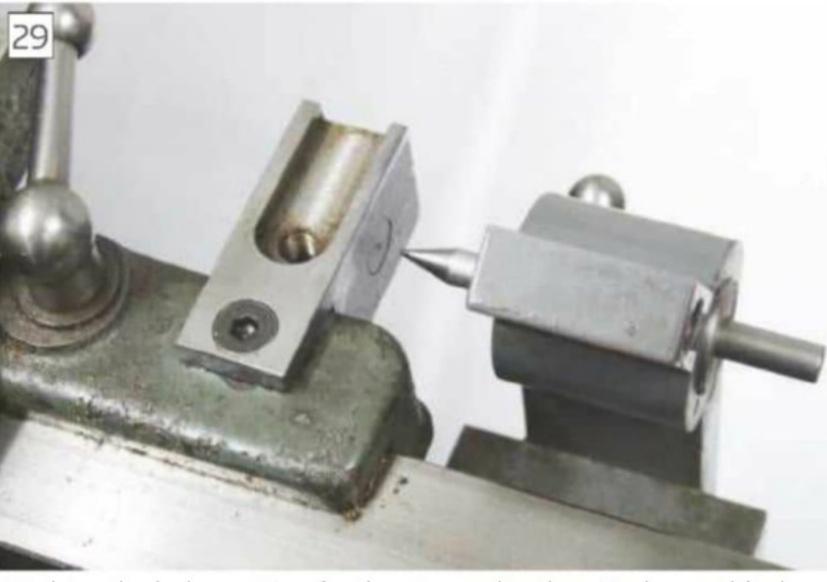
Just one further comment on ball handles. One of the problems with the Radford style ball turning tool is that as the ball being turned gets smaller the slide on the tool extends more towards the chuck, meaning that when turning a smaller ball the material has to protrude a greater distance from the chuck, which is not good practice. I made an ER32 collet chuck which is only 2" diameter rather than the 4" diameter of my 3-jaw chuck. This allows the slide to clear the body, so removing the conflict. With this arrangement there is no need for the material to protrude any more



36 www.model-engineer.co.uk 37 Model Engineers' Workshop September 2019



for the stop rod (Paul Clark)



Marking the hole position for the stop rod in the attachment block on my machine (posed photo)

than is required by the ball design.

6.6 Adjustable stop

This item is best made at the same time as the Length Screws (item 3.1) as it is identical apart from the thread length.

6.7 Stop end pad

A nice easy part to make. Chuck a length of 1/2" diameter brass and then face, drill and tap 5/16" BSF by 7/16" deep max. Now transfer to the indexing head and machine the flats to suit a spanner of your choice. (I chose a OBA spanner at 0.413" across flats measurement). Finally, transfer back to the

lathe to part off and then clean-up the flat face if necessary. That's all there is to it.

Attachment block for saddle (fig. 7)

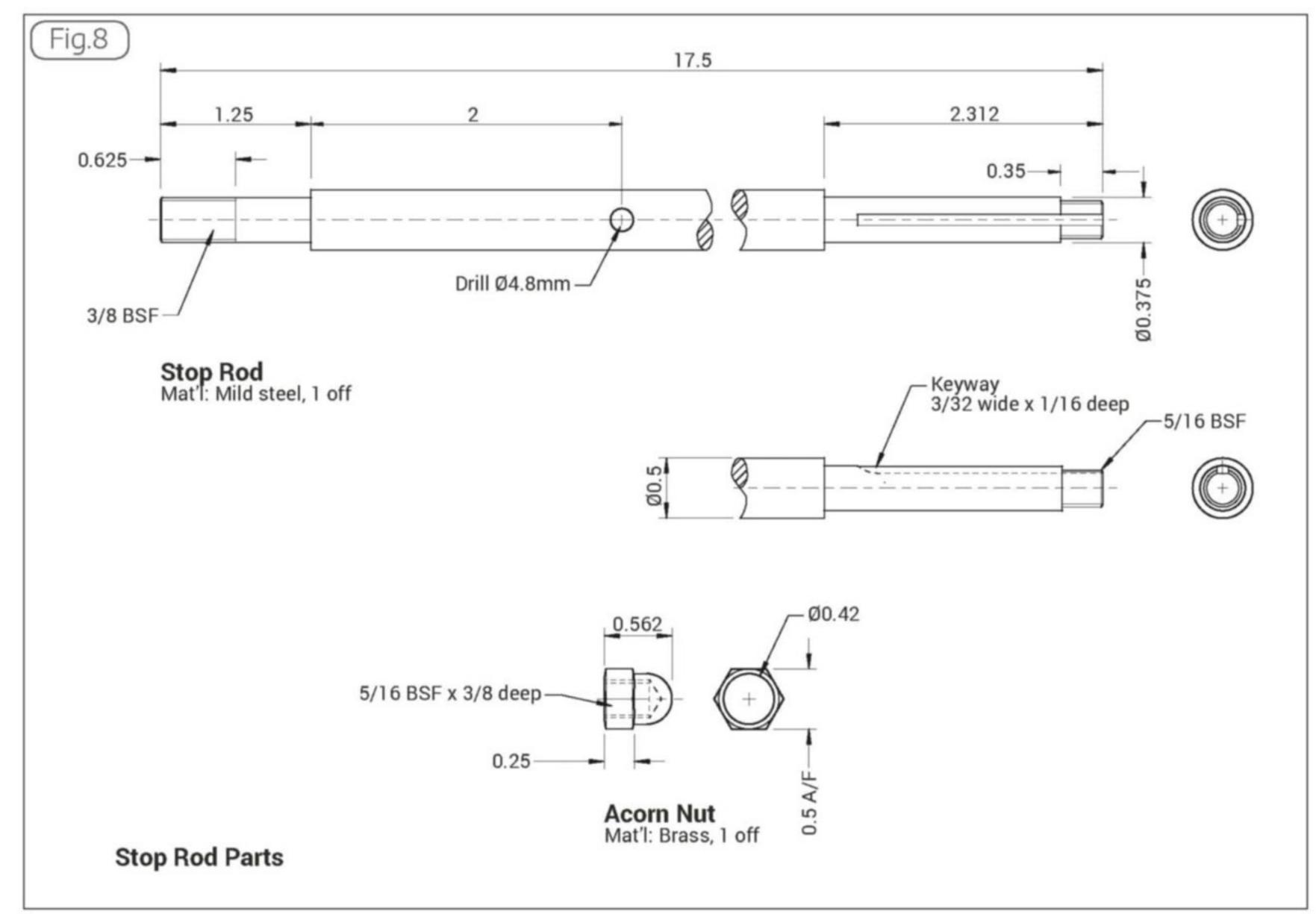
7.1 Attachment block

I made my attachment block from a 2" length of 1" x 3/4" mild steel, where you will see that Paul has used 1" x 1" section (presumably the remains of a 12" length from which he made the mounting bar). It is not that important which section you use, but you will have to compensate by increasing the length of the stop rod at the attachment end if using the larger material. The important point here is that there are

several dimensions marked with an * which will probably be unique to your particular lathe. Certainly, some of Paul's dimensions were different to mine.

When drilling the attachment block for the screw holding block to saddle casting it should be a good fit to prevent any fretting when the attachment is in use, which could cause inaccuracy. The saddle is tapped 1/4" BSF on my machine, but best to check your own.

Photograph 28 shows Paul's lathe with the attachment block fitted prior to marking the hole position for the stop rod, and you can see that he has achieved a nice





The completed stop assembly

snug fit in relation to the saddle casting.

The remaining operations on the

attachment block are to mark out and drill the hole for the stop rod. This is aided by 'spotting' the hole position using the guide bush and punch shown on the drawing **fig.**9. The guide bush and punch are shown in use in **photo 29**, where the hole position in the attachment block is spotted using the stop unit as a guide. This photograph shows a posed picture of my attachment block. You will see an open-ended slot and threaded hole on the top face of this block - this is for fixing my coolant pipe to the saddle, bearing in mind that this was the intended use for the tapped hole in the saddle.

All that remains now is to drill the hole to attach the stop rod, ensuring that the hole is square to the face of the attachment block.

Stop unit final assembly

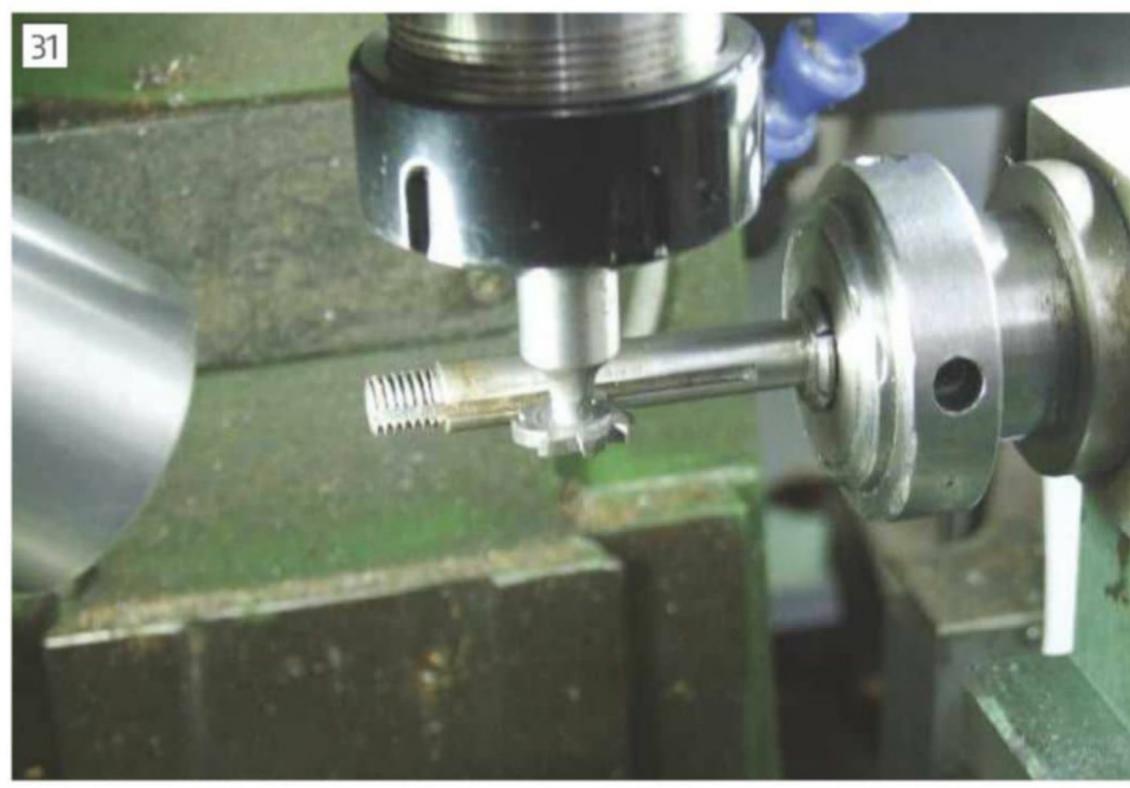
We can now complete the assembly of the stop unit by adding the guide bush, guide bush cover and adjustable stop, which is all very straightforward. The completed assembly is shown in **photo 30**.

Stop rod and details (fig. 8) 8.1 Stop rod

The stop rod is made from a length of 1/2" diameter mild steel which has reduced diameters and threaded portions at both ends for attachment to the saddle and turret.

The 'turret end' also has a keyway for the indexing hub which is best machined using a Woodruff cutter as shown in **photo 31**, where either a number 304 or 305 would be ideal. I personally don't like using small diameter slot drills as they are easily broken (and expensive). I used the indexing head to hold the stop rod for this operation, but any means of holding the rod in a true horizontal position would be acceptable.

At the saddle end the stop rod just has a plain section and a 3/8" BSF thread for a standard nut. It also has a 4.8mm hole drilled in it a couple of inches away from the reduced diameter. The position for this is not critical as it is only used for orientating the turret against the adjustable stop when installing



Milling the keyway on the stop rod using a Woodruff cutter (posed)



The completed keyway and acorn nut

the unit on the lathe. Ideally this should be in the same orientation as the keyway to make alignment of the stops easier.

8.2 Acorn nut

I made an acorn nut for the turret end of the stop rod, just to provide a little hand protection from the end of the stop rod. They are easy to make from hexagon brass bar (1/2" A/F in this case). Simply chuck the hexagon bar and face, drill and tap, following which the 'nut' can be parted off. To form the spherical form on the end of the nut it is screwed onto a simple threaded mandrel and the ball-turning attachment used to produce the form.

Photograph 32 shows the finished keyway and the acorn nut.



An alternative view of the multi-stop unit

>

Assembly and removal

Before we attach the saddle stop to the lathe, I've included one final photograph, **photo 33**, showing an alternative view of the assembled unit for reference.

To assemble the attachment onto your lathe is easy apart from locating the mounting bar on the back of the lathe bed. Here you are almost working 'blind' and may need to stand on your head. Once that has been done, we need to fit the stop unit onto the mounting bar and the attachment block onto the saddle.

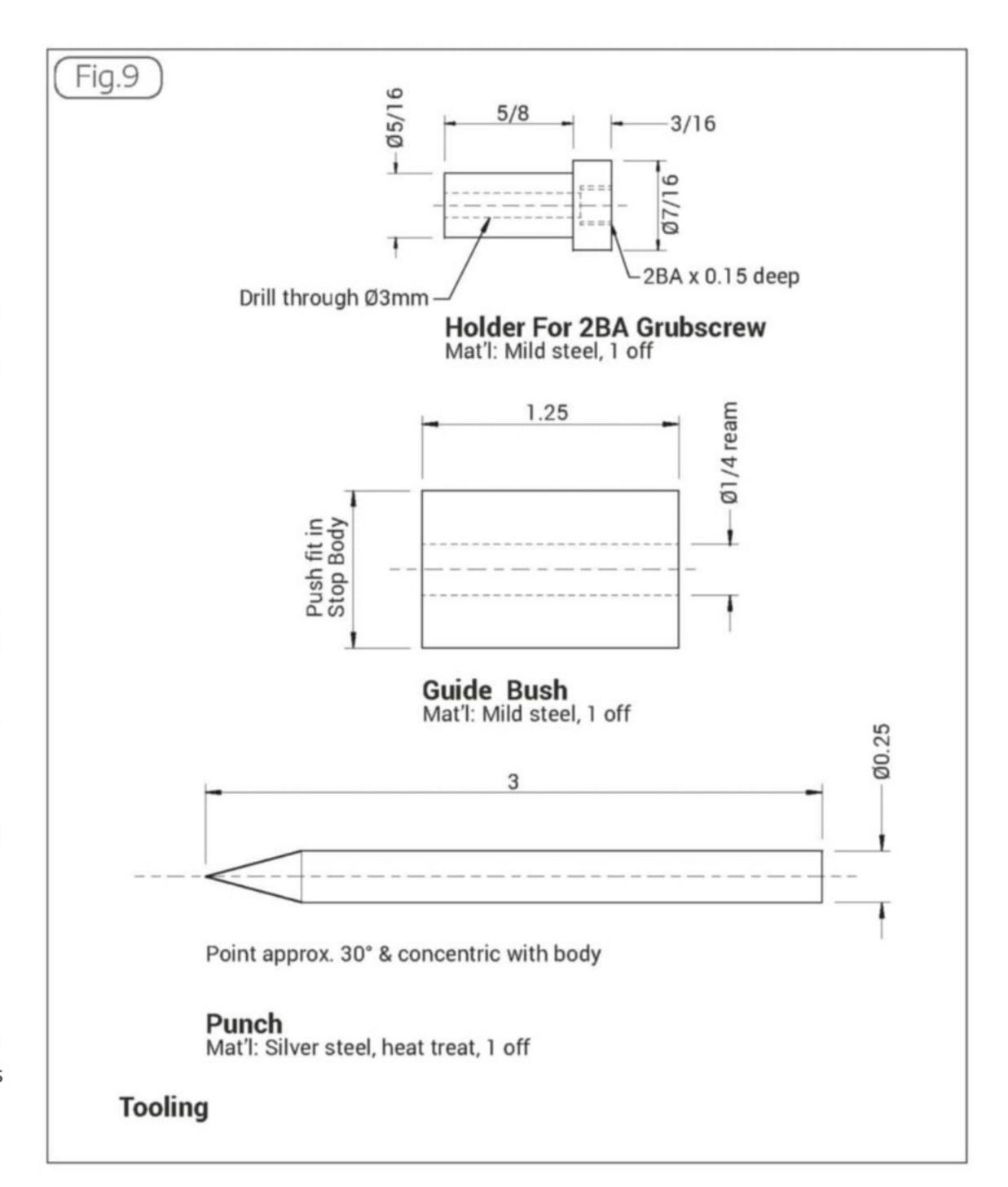
Now we can fit the turret to the righthand end of the stop bar, doing the acorn nut up fully. The stop rod is then passed through the stop assembly and the end fitted into the attachment block.

All that remains now is to orientate the length screws on the turret against the adjustable stop on the stop assembly - this is where the tommy bar hole in the stop rod comes in useful. Once you are happy with the positioning of the stops then tighten the nut at the headstock end and your new saddle stop is ready for use.

If, for any reason, you need to remove the stop unit, simply remove the screw holding the attachment block to the saddle, unclamp the stop assembly and slide the whole lot off the mounting bar. Replacing it is just as easy, sliding the stop unit onto the mounting bar and then refitting the attachment block to the lathe saddle.

Final comments

Thanks go to Paul for supplying the photos that I couldn't, such as the stop body details before fabrication, and also for suggesting some minor simplification to a couple of items and for proving the figures. ■



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Steamy Weekend

Confession time for Geoff Theasby as he tells us all about his weekend in Sheffield.

Muncaster Engine

Jason Ballamy creates a set of columns for his stationary engine.

New Lanark

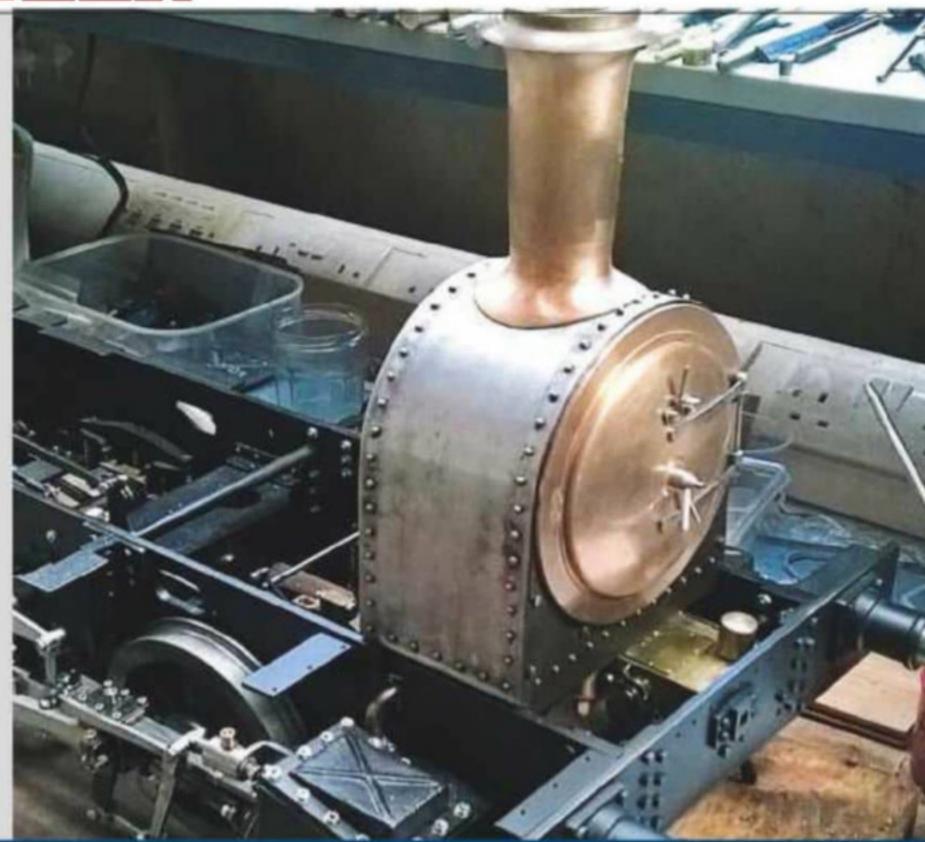
Roger Backhouse's latest Engineer's Day Out takes him to Arkwright's mill on the River Derwent.

Beam Compass

Stewart Hart needed to draw some large arcs and so made a beam compass to do the job.

Bridget

Jon Edney constructs a 7¼ inch gauge Bridget, to Ken Swan's design.



Content may be subject to change.

Triboelectric Powder Coating for the Home Workshop Part 2

Chris Gabel looks at a practical alternative to paint.

Curing the powder

Powder should come marked with the correct curing temperature. This polyester powder from Electrostatic Magic needed 10 minutes at 180 degrees C and the bag was labelled with that information. The oven was preheated. My first two samples were a sheet metal framing bracket and a mild steel ball handle, still attached to its stock material.

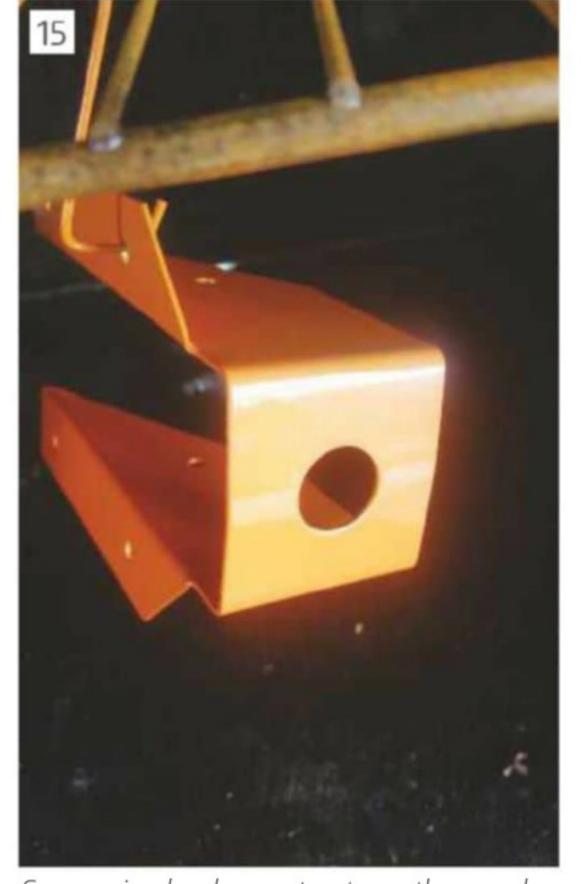
I found that the sheet metal sample quickly attained the oven temperature, but the heavier diameter 20mm piece took several additional minutes, **photos 15** & **16**. Timing starts when the coating is at 180 degrees C. This is also indicated by the powder acquiring a granulated look at about 110 degrees C as it starts to fuse.

Measuring target object temperature requires more subtlety than using the oven thermostat. The oven thermostat is situated at the right rear top of the oven cavity. This probably gives a good indication of fan circulated air, but powder coated objects of differing mass will require different times to reach the heat soak 180 degree temperature. The oven thermostat is ok as a general indicator, but it does not indicate the actual temperature of the work. For this an infrared Laser Thermometer works a treat. This is an excellent tool which reads emitted temperature at a distance. A laser pointer ensures you are reading the correct spot. From China they are around £5 with Amazon having them at £10, **photo 17**.

At the end of the required curing time, the oven is turned off and the part is allowed to cool naturally. When placed in the oven, the first fusing of the powder is obvious as it shows a textured granulated appearance. Some coatings and effects require two different powder colours, and it is suggested the work is removed at this granulated stage, the second powder is applied and then returned for full curing.

Cleaning

Powder can go everywhere. I have always been opposed to air blow guns in the workshop on safety grounds. They always had the ability to blast swarf and other bits in unpredictable directions. However, with powder it seems to be the only way to clean clothing and equipment in an efficient manner. Although the powder is not sticky, it does persist, and an air blast does dislodge it. Keep on wearing the dust respirator during cleaning too, photo 7 showed that if you have good grounding



Suspension hooks must not mar the powder coat.

and not too much air pressure, almost of the powder goes on the target object.

Compressed Air Supply

Compressor air quality and control is important. It needs to be dry and controllable. When you compress air, a characteristic of compressed air is that it can't contain the same amount of water

vapor as the ambient air if it is compressed to a smaller volume and cooled. The water is squeezed out of the air just like squeezing a sponge. The first solution is to have an in line regulator/water filter, **photo 18**. The drain is at the bottom and can be emptied while the system is pressurised. Cartridge moisture filters can be added right at the gun too. These are usually grapefruit sized pods which contain a desiccant to stop water vapor affecting the powder charge.

The powder gun I built requires air at about 5 to 6 psi. Some regulators have difficulty going that low. In order to achieve this a small valve and air flow gauge was also installed on the tail end of the powder gun, **photo 19**.

Note the red 16 gauge grounding cable with a bullet connector on the end. This enables easy disconnection to the grounding system.

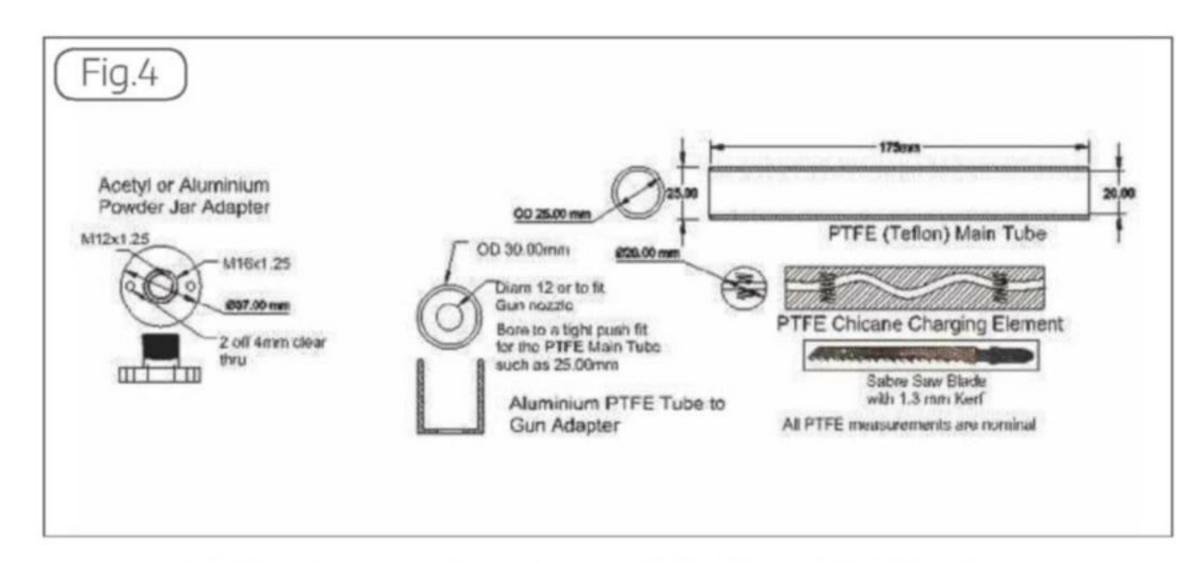
Additionally, the air quality in your workshop is important too. The whole coating process is based on static charge. Damp cold workshops or garages with high humidity let the charge leak away and powder adhesion becomes poor, so aim for a workplace with a normal 50% relative humidity.

Triboelectric Powder Gun Construction

A powder gun body with valve could be fabricated from scratch without too much trouble, but stock spray guns of the type described below are inexpensive and easy to come by. I therefore decided to modify an off the shelf spray gun. The successful



Sheet metal and low mass items cure quickly.





A Laser guided thermometer ensures proper curing.

build was based upon rebuilding an underbody coating gun, **photo 20**.

These are normally used to apply thick gooey black coatings to the underside of your car. This gun differs from regular paint guns in that it is designed to suck a viscous fluid from deep tall containers. It is a siphon feed gun with the container located underneath the gun body. The feed tube has an internal diameter of 8mm and the nozzle has an exit opening of 5mm. Modifications are simple with only two parts needing machining, in addition to the construction of the PTFE triboelectric charging section, **photo 21**.

First, the underbody can connector and dip tube need to be disassembled. The dip tube is to be reused, and the thread sizes on this connector cap needed to be measured. I found the connector cap readily unscrewed from the gun body, but the dip tube, although threaded, was held into the cap with adhesive as well. This adhesive join was broken by heating the cap and tube to about 200 degrees C. Degradation of the glue was indicated by tell-tale wisps of smoke. The tube was easily unscrewed after that treatment. The underbody can connector needs to be replaced with a connector which joins a powder coating jar lid to the gun body, photo 22.

I made mine from acetyl round, but aluminium would work as well. The acetyl connector needs a tapped thread for the feed tube and an external thread to screw into the gun. A plastic lid from the powder jar was drilled to accept the dip tube. The lid was fastened to the acetyl connector with two M4 screws. The tube was cut to length after bending it in a slight arc so the powder



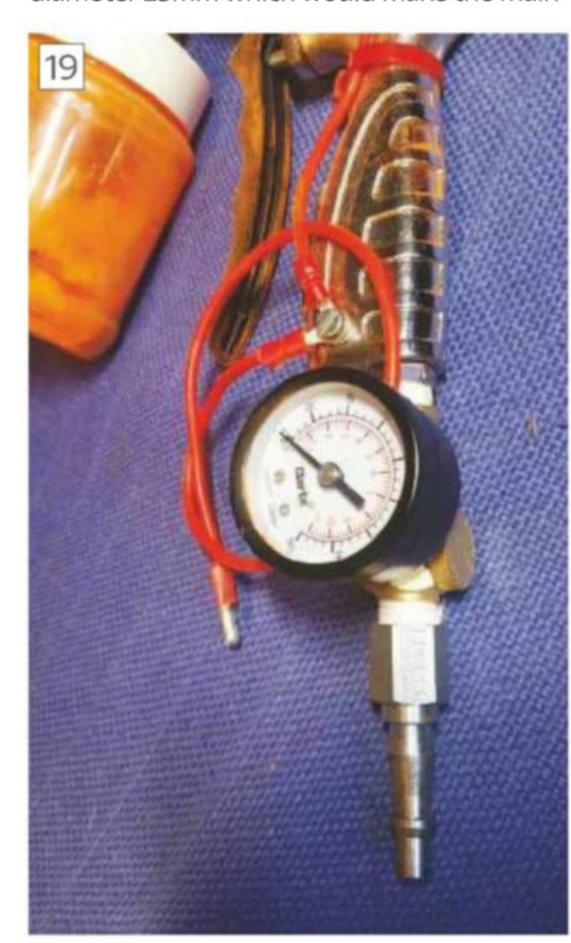
A wall mounted air regulator and moisture trap.

would be siphoned from the corners of the powder jar. Very little clearance is needed between the end of the tube and the bottom of the powder jar. The second part was an aluminium cup connector which attaches the PTFE section to the nozzle end of the gun, **photo 23**.

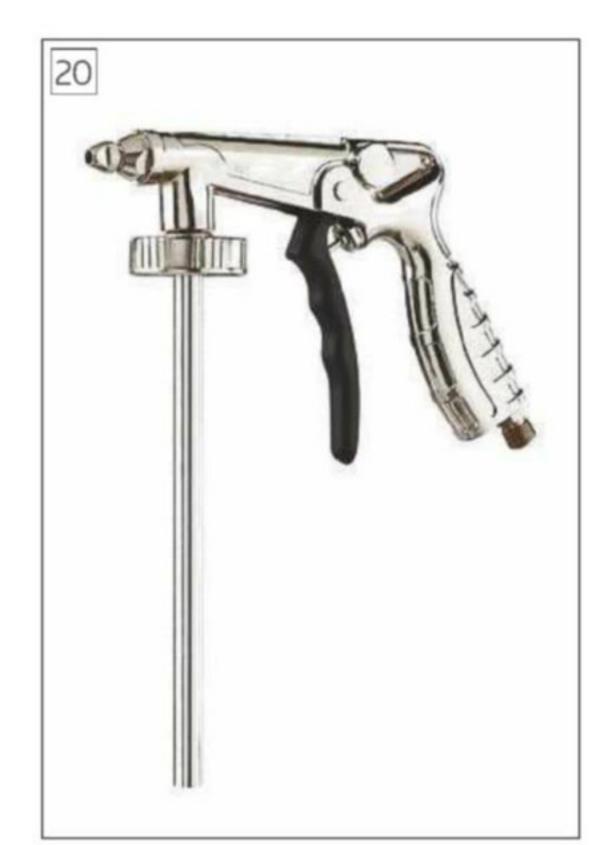
This needs to be aluminium, as it serves as the grounding pathway for the PTFE section as well. The dimensions for this are dependent on the diameter of the PTFE main tube. I wanted this to be a press-fit for the tube, to enable disassembly for easy cleaning. Machining PTFE is different. It is highly compressible and can change dimensions after machining. It also changes with temperature. An easy fit in the cold workshop became a difficult fit in the warm house. So "cut and try" works better than trying to machine to .01 of a millimetre. The material is also soft. Placing roller bearings on my steady rest stopped marking the surface. An adjustable reamer worked well in arriving at the internal bore diameter.

The PTFE/Teflon material is what imparts the charge to the polyester coating powder. The powder needs to pass close by PTFE surfaces at the correct velocity. Looking at the original patents, and YouTube videos of DIY triboelectric powder guns, it is apparent that forcing the powder down a narrow gap between two adjacent PTFE surfaces is the preferred method. Indeed, it appears that two thin sheets of PTFE with a concertina fold pattern seems to do the job and is used in many commercial designs.

My approach was different. I set out to make the whole charging unit out of PTFE round stock. I purchased two lengths of PTFE, one of 20mm diameter, which would make the charging elements, and one of diameter 25mm which would make the main



A Gun mounted flow control and bullet ground connector.



An underbody coating gun.

tube and would hold the element.

The core charging element would have a dimension of 20 x 120mm long. This was chosen on economic grounds. The chicane or concertina shaped path needed to be cut through the length of the PTFE section. I originally tried using a 2mm sintered abrasive tile cutting blade, the kind held in a saw frame. This gave an unacceptable rough cut. The second method was to use an electric hand jigsaw (sabre saw). The blade was 6mm wide and had a kerf of 1.3mm. The blade was new and razor sharp. The PTFE stock was held in the vice. A Sharpie was used to mark a suggested cutting line. This worked well giving a surprisingly even cut. Irregularities were carved away using a Dremel cone shaped bur.

The springs are 7.5 diameter by 15. The hole in which to seat the spring was Diameter 7mm by 8 deep. The spring can



Components for the siphon feed powder gun.



Powder Jar connector detail.



Main connector for PTFE tube.



Suggested chicane cutting path drawn on PTFE stock.

be screwed into the hole and is held quite firmly. The two halves could then be placed into the main PTFE tube. The springs created a tight fit and maintained the powder gap.

The main PTFE tube was bored on the lathe. The steady-rest with bearings worked well, **photo 26**. The PTFE is flexible as well as soft. The inner bore was finished to size using an adjustable reamer.

The Aluminium cup which is to hold the PTFE tube and charging element was bored just undersize to hold the PTFE unit by a tight hand press fit. The cup is held in place by the nozzle part screwing into the gun body. PTFE rod is irregular, so measure and machine to fit.

The gun was assembled with its charging element and the powder jar was filled to about a third full. The results were highly gratifying, with the powder exiting the gun and flowing to the target object with excellent attraction and good thickness buildup.

The scale of the objects being coated made little difference. Tiny items as well more massive shapes all coated well, **photo 27**.

In conclusion, I consider this a welcome addition to my workshop kit. I find the powder coating easier to use than paint. The lack of solvents and a short processing time are a plus. Keeping painted work dust free while drying is no longer a problem. I was surprised to find the process still worked in wintry conditions and look forward to assessing the technique in the dry hot days of summer.

Further work

My original idea was to use a low pressure high volume spraygun, **photo 28**.

This is quite a complex gun and will probably be appropriate, but considerable experimentation is yet needed to get powder flow and air distribution modified for use with powder.

It is hoped to produce a gun with an acetyl tube, and radial charging element, but with non-destructive modification which would enable the gun to easily be restored to normal use.

Suppliers

Triboelectric Systems and Powder:

- Electrostatic Magic, Nottingham.
- Nordvic Pulver, Denmark Eastwood "Hotcoat" Corona System:
- UK distributor Frost Restoration, Warrington (Note that Triboelectric and Corona powders are not necessarily interchangeable).

Plastic Acetyl and PTFE stock:

- Available form a number of our advertisers. 250 or 300ml PET jars with lids used for siphon powder jars
- The Plastic Bottles Company, Ulverston

Kapton Tape:

Easily found online, also from Electrostatic Magic



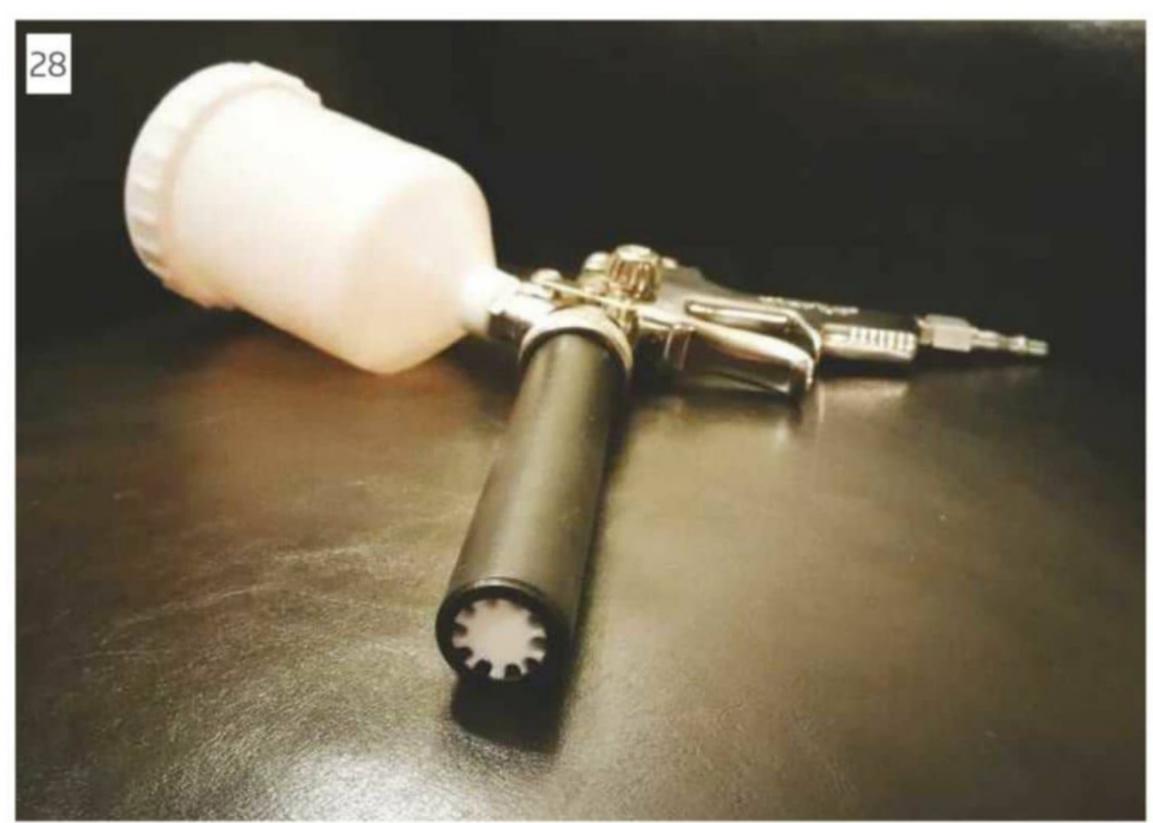
Completed charging elements with springs.



A steady-rest with bearings is helpful.



Small parts coat well with this process.



Gravity spray gun, a work in progress.

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Lathework for Beginners

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PART 13 - TURNING

This ongoing series will build into a complete guide to using an engineering lathe. This month Neil Wyatt looks at some random advice for those developing their turning skills.





2 POLER POLER

Polycarbonate safety shield.

Be Not Afraid

When I switched on my first lathe and took my first cut, I was really nervous. I'd never used one in school and the teachers had put off curious minds by telling us how dangerous they were. The more you use your machine, and the more experience you get the more confident you will become and the results you get will improve. Recently a forum user

showed results he got by sharpening some carbide tools. The results were very good in contrast to those he got when he started out with the same tools a year ago. The parting examples in **photo 1**, were done on a mini lathe, the bar at right is 1" in diameter and the parting tool was 3mm wide HSS one. The secret is not fancy tooling or a rear toolpost, but a well-set up lathe, cutting fluid and the confidence to

make a proper cut rather than 'prodding' the work.

Obviously use common sense and don't just plunge tools into the work willy-nilly, but do remember that carbide tooling of all kinds needs to be made to work – "keep up the feedrate", as Tubal Cain used to say!

Familiarity Breeds Contempt

The flip side of this is that, hopefully, every



Ear defenders and ear plugs.



Standard goggles can be used over spectacles.

Lathework for Beginners



UVEX produce many lightweight but effective designs of goggles.

time you use your lathe nothing dramatic or dangerous happens. Unfortunately, the consequence of this is that is we can become complacent, but MEW doesn't want to lose readers, any more than you want to lose fingers or eyes... so no apologies for a few reminders about safety:

Chuck guards are chiefly there to stop you starting the lathe with a key in the chuck, rather than protecting you from rotating work. In fact they are typically removable so you can attach large work and accessories like faceplates. But do get in the habit of replacing them afterwards.

So what about guarding the work and protecting yourself from spraying chips and coolant? Let you remind you of my simple solution, a sheet of polycarbonate attached to a magnetic base – it's the easy to use guard that gets used and can serve for lathe or mill, **photo 2**.



Centre drills, the bane of many a workshop.

Noise isn't normally an issue for turning, but sometimes a hollow tube or similar can ring like a bell (or even shriek...) Often a change of speed can help, but if not use earplugs or ear defenders, **photo 3**.

Most importantly, protect your eyes, especially important when working copper alloys as those chips get everywhere and being non-magnetic are a huge challenge to get out of eyes. My workshop contains half a dozen pairs of ordinary safety glasses, **photo 4**, so there's always one handy. But if you aren't a spectacle wearer and want something more comfortable, consider something like the Uvex sportstyle range, **photo 5**.

Centres and Centres

Bear in mind that centre drills are mean for putting in specially shaped holes to accept centre, that long thin, snappable protrusion

is just there to create an oil reservoir and stop the tip of the centre from bottoming out, photo 6. If you have a rotating centre, consider grinding the protusion back to a stub so it's less likely to snap. For starting holes, proper spotting drills or 'stub centring drills' are much better, **photo 7**.

Make a Bed Protector

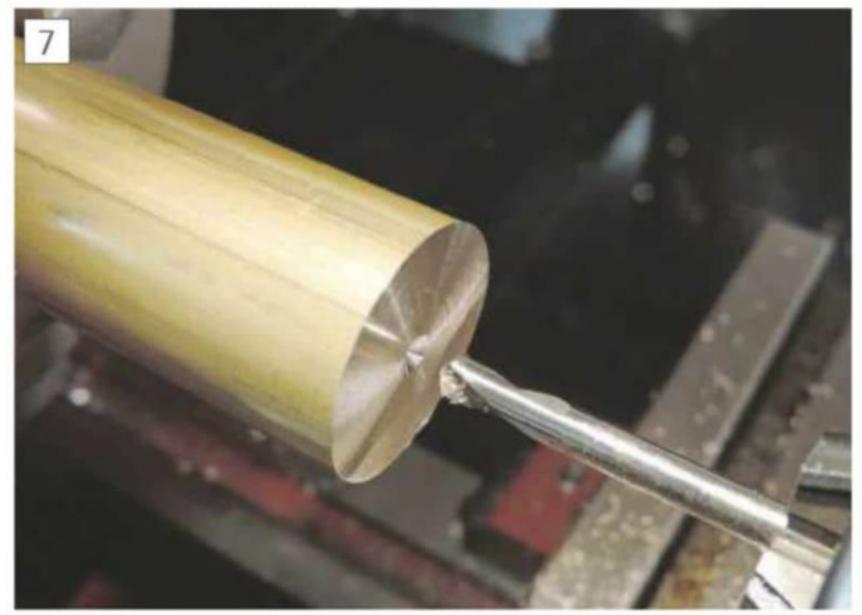
No apologies for mentioning this again! The effort involved in screwing a short section of square timber to the back of a flat bit of wood is minimal, yet over the life of your lathe it only needs to stop a heavy chuck bashing into the bed once to have earned its keep, **photo 8**.

Keep Sharp

If you use HSS tools, always watch out for your tools losing their edge. The little 'credit card' diamond sharpener, photo 9, is always worth keeping to hand. A few strokes on the cutting face of a tool can restore the edge.

Quick Alignment

Most lathes allow you to offset the tailstock for taper turning or simply to achieve the greatest accuracy. If you are turning longer objects and need taper-free results then you will need to put in the effort to adjust the tailstock spot-on, refer back to the setting up aid I showed in part 6 of this series, **photo 10**. For quick and dirty adjustment, line up two opposed centres by eye, **photo 11**. If you want a slightly better alignment, drill a clean hole through a flat



A stub centre drill or spotting drill.



Lathe bed protector, worth it's weight in wood.



The credit card diamond sharpener.



Tailstock setting bar, used between centres with a dial indicator in the toolpost.



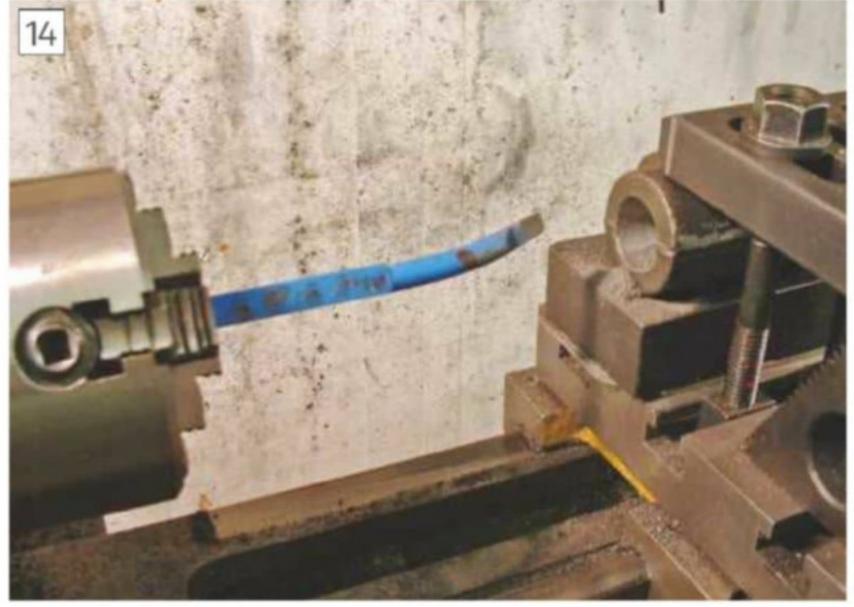
The simplest way to set the tailstock in a hurry.



A little more effort gives a result good enough for most work.



Turning a balanced handle with thumb and forefinger.



Improvised boring bar.



Improvised running down tool.

bar. Adjusted so it's perpendicular to the lathe axis, as in **photo 12**, it will be good enough for everyday non-critical work.

Balanced Handles

Have you ever wondered why so many lathe handles have a little ball opposite the handle? These 'balanced' handles are not balanced by weight, but to allow you to use your hands to apply a 'balanced couple' to both ends of the handle as in photo 13. Practice this technique as it lets you turn a handle more smoothly to get a better finish when hand-feeding.

Be Inventive

Don't be afraid to try out interesting solutions to awkward problems, here are a few examples

Another challenge was boring out a long hole in an iron casting for a Potts Spindle. To get the required dimensional accuracy demanded boring it with the work on the cross slide and using the lathe as a boring machine. But the castings had a horrible, hard skin, even in the cored hole. Back then I didn't have a carbide boring bar, so I improvise the solution in **photo 14**, using the 4-jaw chuck let me offset the tool. Obviously with such an overhang the tool vibrated and finish was horrible, but I got under the skin and was able to finish the task with a hefty HSS boring bar.

One challenge I faced some time ago was making a lot of 10BA studding. I



Adaptor requiring shortening.

had some TIG welding rods that took a passable thread from a die, but only if it was reduced in diameter. This promised to be a long job as I could only turn down short section at a time before it 'rolled over' the top of even a very sharp tool. The solution was a bar in the toolpost with a hole for the rod. The challenge then became aligning and securing the cutting tool, but fortunately the exact diameter wasn't critical as the thread would be formed by the die, photo 15. A permanent and more elegant solution would be a proper running down toolholder with an adjustable tool and interchangeable bushes for different diameter rods.

Recently I offered to shorten an adaptor for someone, but neither of us had realised it was threaded internally

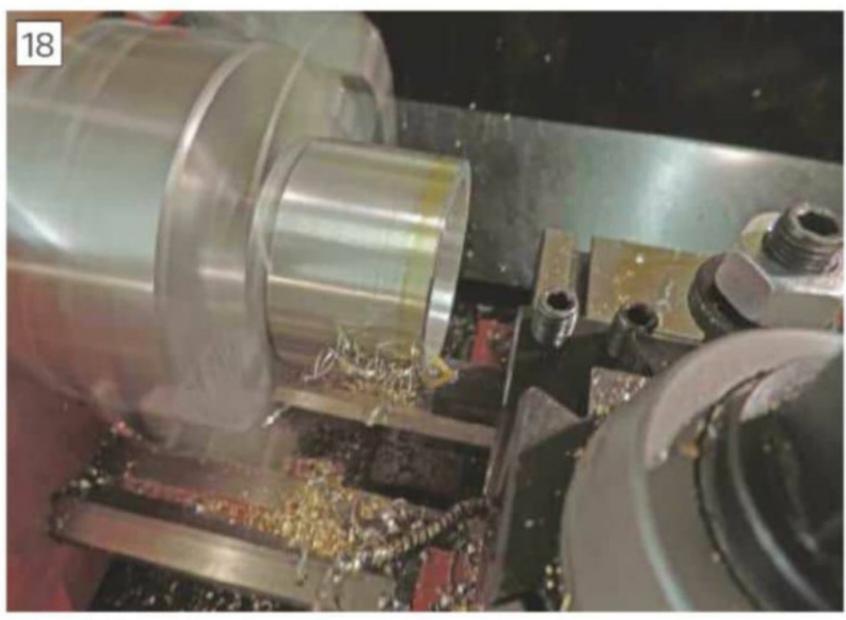


Parting the end off the adaptor, thread protected by a screwed ring.

as well as externally - meaning that I couldn't hold it easily by the threaded end. Merely wrapping a soft shim around the external thread was an option but wouldn't guarantee security for a heavy parting operation on the overhung part. I could have made a hefty threaded mandrel, but I had an aluminium tube just the right size to make a threaded ring that fitted securely and could be held in the chuck, **photos 16**, **17**.

Tools Don't Need to be on Centre Height

Don't get me wrong, most tools work best at, or near, to centre height, but there are times when you can break the rules. When I needed to chamfer and face the adaptor, it was an obvious task for a 90-degree TCT insert tool aligned with the axis of



Chamfering the end.



Various tiny toolbits from HSS.

the lathe, **photo 18**. But in practice, the internal chafer wasn't possible because the base of the tool fouled the work. One solution would be to grind away part of the toolholder, but I wasn't quite ready to mess up the tool for one quick job. The simple solution was to raise the toolholder about 10mm in the QCTP, **photo 19**. The tool was now not set optimally, but quite capable of giving a decent finish to a light chamfer.

HSS is Your Friend

I am a fervent convert to indexable carbide tools, but I am not blind to the big advantage of HSS – flexibility! HSS is available in many sizes, typically square or round, and readily ground to make different tools. Those broken centre drills are also a ready source of small bits of HSS...

Photograph 20 shows a selection of 1/8" (3.2mm) square HSS toolbits, these were all ground to allow me to turn the rather critical internal shape of an ER25 closing nut. All used in a 3/8" boring bar, A is a square ended grooving too, B and C are right and left hand internal knife tools and D is a screwcutting tool. I wouldn't repeat the exercise, having found how cheap it is to buy the ready made nuts!

The tool in **photo 21** is an internal threading tool ground on the end of some 3/16" hss. It may look crude but this is my go-too tool for creating 1mm and 0.7mm pitch threads.

Solid as a Rock

A recent forum query asked about Tubal



Internal chamfer with tool raised well above centre height.



Tiny internal threading tool.

22

A smaller alternative to the Gibraltar Toolpost – perhaps the 'St. Michael's Mount' version?

Cain's 'Gibraltar Toolpost', a massive replacement for the standard compound slide on his Super 7 lathe to give extra rigidity for tasks such as parting and using form tools. For most lathes a simple alternative is a simple block of cast iron or steel, about 50mm square. This needs to be fitted with a suitable stud for mounting the toolpost and a suitable arrangement for attaching it to the cross-slide. My version in photograph 22 has the additional refinement of a hardened detent for indexing a four-way toolpost.

And finally...

Never throw anything away! Photograph 23 shows some of my collection of small mandrels, each of these is marked with a dot opposite number 1 jaw, so they can be re used, a huge timesaver and a good use for offcuts. I can always turn a new one up when I need perfect concentricity.

Arc Euro Trade

The various accessories featured in this series including a wide range of toolposts for mini lathes and the featured Arc SC4-500 lathe are available from Arc Euro Trade.



A random collection of mandrels.

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Don't Let Broken Fasteners Break Your Heart



Howard Jennings offers some advice for lovelorn engineers...

Stud Extractors

of centre drill I find necessary to find the

centre of the broken fastener will almost

fooled by the thread as you only see part

of it and this can make it appear that the

centre of the broken fastener is where it

certainly be needed. Remember you can be

isn't! This can easily result in drilling into the

thread and so things get worse. When you

have drilled the right size hole for your stud

extractor, insert the right size, I tap them in

with a hammer and gingerly start to try and

turn it anti clockwise. If luck and the gods

icture the scene – you are tightening or more likely trying to undo a screw, stud or bolt and that dread hits your stomach as the torque suddenly changes, it all gets easier and the head or stud just comes away. Horror! It always happens with an assembly/job that is near completion or has a great deal of time/money invested in it. This has happened to me personally quite a few times. In recent years dealing with vintage cars (1930's) I have been asked many times if I can remove bolts/studs that have broken into old castings etc. There is unfortunately no definitive solution to this sort of problem. I have found that each one is a special. However, I thought penning this article would assist newcomers and maybe there would be some ideas for the more experienced to carry away in the 'techniques to pull me out of the mire' toolbox you carry in your head.

Where to start?

So, it has happened, you have had the expletives session now what? My first advice is, if possible, come away from the job! Have a cuppa, gain thinking time, if possible, sleep on it. Hard personal experience has shown me that rushing at this sort of problem almost always makes things worse. If you have access to Electro Discharge Machining (EDM) and the cost/time warrants it, wonderful you are home and dry! I have no such access, so I have had to resort to some more crude approaches using the machines I have.

Off the shelf tools

The first tool that has to get a mention is the stud extractor, **photo 1**. As you can see, I have a decent SKF set. However, I cannot remember one occasion when I have had success with this sort of tool. I don't know why I have stuck to the rules drilled the correct size hole, but they never seem to deliver. My main experience here is to pay close attention to how you drill the hole. The broken end of the fastener will be uneven, if you can, set up on a milling machine or make up a drill guide. Then carefully drill in starting with a centre drill if at all possible. Some 'dragging' around

There is unfortunately no definitive solution to this sort of problem. I have found that each one is special.

of engineering are with you the broken fastener starts to turn and you breathe a sigh of relief, you chuck the offending bit of thread in the scrap bin and move on.

So, it hasn't worked, what next? A few years ago, I noticed that Tracy Tools (no connection) were selling some left hand fluted drills. I bought some as an add on to an order. I put them away and nearly forgot all about them. Then two broken stud jobs just appeared from nowhere. You will have noticed, photo 2, the left hand fluting on the stud extractors the left hand fluted drills work in same way. But the big difference is that they drill in and cut left handed so if your broken fastener wants to move it just unscrews itself trying to resist the torque of the cutting action. Of course, your machine has to run in 'reverse'. This is so much easier these days with electronic control. If you are struggling on a broken fastener on a job that has to be done away from the workshop then the high torque battery powered gun drill is a god send as they always run in reverse. I cannot over emphasise again how important careful centring of the drilling is and the use of a drill guide to get the drill to go in straight.

I have had very good and satisfying results with the above left hand drill technique. Usually the broken bit of fastener releases suddenly unscrewing itself a bit like a flag going up telling you 'you have won'!



Sometimes the head of the fastener breaks off and leaves a part of the original fastener sticking up proud of the face. This to me is good news and my favourite broken fastener removal technique swings into action. However, in the past with this scenario I have resorted to using grips or cutting screwdriver slots to try and unscrew the remaining fastener. In my experience this rarely works! Worse still you can be left with nothing to grip on to with a remaining fastener ripped up and 'rounded' off. Thinking about the situation, fasteners jam for a reason. Likely causes of jamming are corrosion or sometimes galling where metal surfaces sliding on each other stick or friction weld themselves together. Aluminium is the favourite for this kind of adhesive/ friction welding type action. Galling is the situation most likely when tightening fasteners on assembly and a prudent



Left hand fluted drills



External Stud extractors

precaution is to use some copper based grease. But this is 'shutting the door after the horse has bolted' so to speak.

So what's to be done? This may sound drastic, but my favourite technique is to arc weld on another piece of metal! I usually drill a counter sunk hole in a piece of flat bar slip it over the remaining fastener and depending on the size of the fastener and amount of metal involved use the maximum welding current I can get away with. The countersink acts as a weld prep. The remaining fastener is heated to red hot before the heat is conducted away. You don't need to be that good at welding for this to work, but practice first! The heating expands the fastener in the hole and with luck crushed/ loosened any corrosion. It is pretty brutal but usually works. Of course, we are talking steel fasteners – I can see a sort of soldering equivalent working with brass or even aluminium fasteners it all depends on the heat the job can stand. Fortunately, such fasteners are rare and in my experience don't often cause such

trouble - do they?

My favourite story on this approach was the day my daughter was replacing the exhaust on her car. All was well most of the exhaust came off no problem. I was

doing something else at the time, on hand for advice. Then the call came, a fastener had broken off on the cast iron exhaust manifold attached to the engine. One look told me that taking the manifold off the cylinder head and drilling out the fastener was a nonstarter the bolts looked well corroded. As space was tight and a bit of the fastener was sticking out, we tried stud extractors, photo 3, that fit over studs, to no avail. So out came the arc welder I drilled a hole in a square block of steel, counter sunk it, then slipped over the remains of the stud and welded it on at full power. I think we were dealing with an M8 size fastener. The remaining bit of fastener and the block went red hot for a few seconds. I left it to cool then gingerly applied an adjustable spanner to the now welded on block and... it began to turn. Out came the broken piece of fastener, block welded on, the thread in the casting was undamaged, daughter amazed, the day was saved!

More recently another daughter needed a bicycle for a new job. I had an old bike to hand, it was from a jumble sale awaiting



Bottom Bracket

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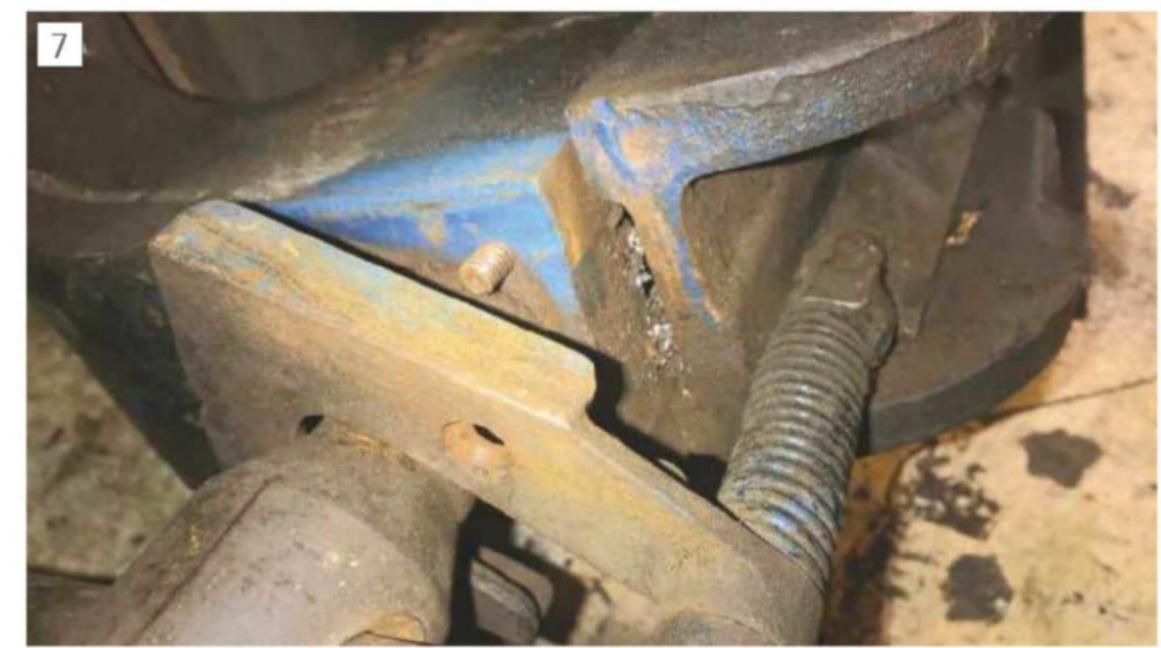
Opposite bearing

stripping for parts. I got the bike going it was 'rideable' but it wasn't long before we discovered the reason for its appearance at the jumble sale. The bottom bracket, **photo 4**, bearings for the pedals were 'rough' and constantly 'loose'. I unscrewed the bearing cup and the horrors were there to see. The bottom bracket bearings, where the pedal axle runs, were a mess the bearing cage had broken up and condition of the bearing cups was very poor. I looked on the internet and found a complete replacement set was quite inexpensive. However, removing the other bearing cup, **photo 5** was a nightmare, it just would not move. Even clamping the flats on the cup into a six inch vice and using the frame as a lever would not budge it. So, as you can see in photo 6, my favourite removal technique swung into action. I welded on a steel bar, this was risky as the thread in the aluminium of the frame could have thrown in the towel and fallen to bits. As

I got the bike going. it was 'rideable' but it wasn't long before we discovered the reason for its appearance at the jumble sale.



Cup removed by welding a bar on it



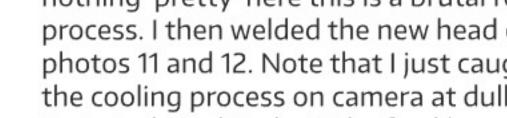
Broken Screw in Vice

A few years ago, I picked up an old vice at a scrap yard. The corrosion didn't look too bad but when O got it home, I found it was solid, nothing moved.

you can see the gods of engineering were with me and the cup came out relatively easily once the cup had cooled from the welding, photo 6. I suspect in this case the zinc plating on the cup had become almost soldered together with the aluminium of the thread in the frame the expansion and contraction broke the 'joint'. The new components went in OK, job was a good un!



A few years ago, I picked up an old vice at a scrap yard. The corrosion didn't look to bad but when I got it home, I found it was solid, nothing moved. I just gunged penetrating oil into it and left it. Months later still the same. I tried to dismantle it, but to no avail and annoyingly one of the fasteners on the quick release mounting plate sheared off, **photo 7**. As you can see a significant part of the fastener thread remained above the casting surface. At this point it was tempting to put some grips on the thread and try to unscrew it. However, I know this situation of old! This approach can easily result in the remaining thread shearing off leaving nothing to 'get hold of' forcing a drilling out session. As you can imagine setting up this vice to drill out the fastener would be a right pain! So I opted for the weld on head approach, photo 7 shows the broken screw. Photographs 8, 9 and 10 show a piece



nothing 'pretty' here this is a brutal rough process. I then welded the new head on photos 11 and 12. Note that I just caught the cooling process on camera at dull red, it started at white hot! The final 'coup de grâce' I could now use grips to remove

of bar drilled to slide on the thread and a

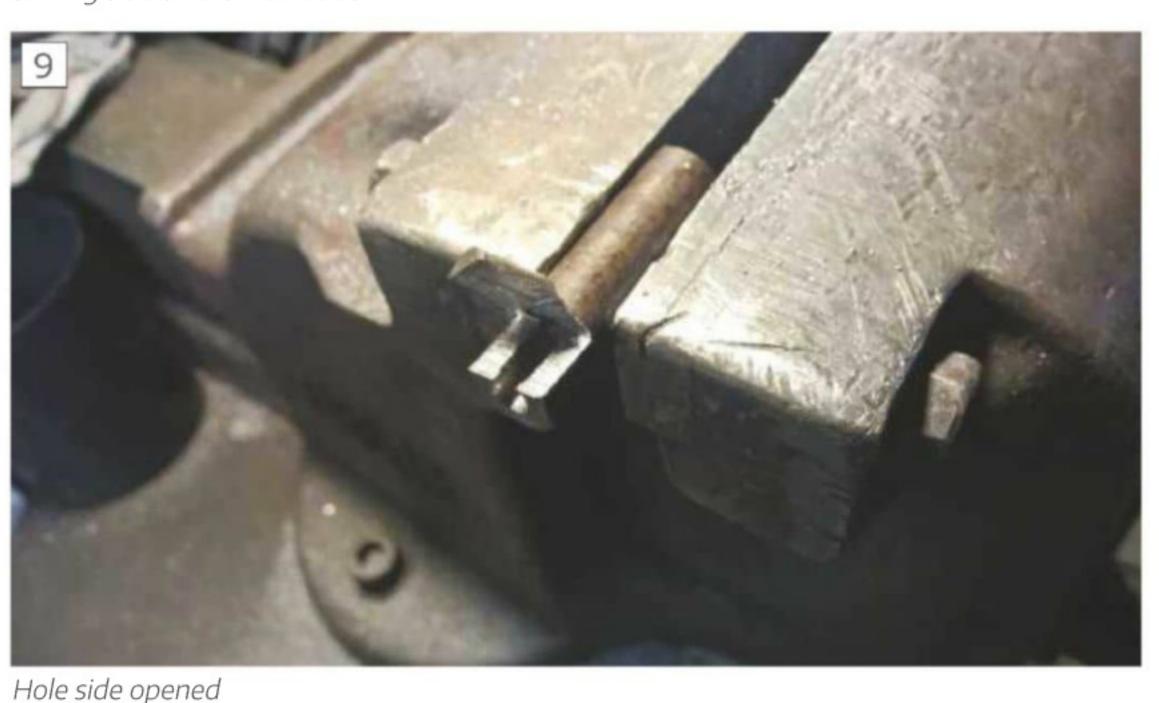
the broken screw after cooling, photo13. Photograph 14 shows the fastener removed on the way to the scrap bin.



Well here's an old chestnut. I am stretching the 'fastener' bit of my title, but I hope you find my bit of experience here useful. The horrible crack sound of the tap failing has



Sawing side off a drilled out bar



section cut out from the side and two flats added to aid the final removal. There is



Weld on head prepared



Weld on head ready for welding



Welded on head red hot

happened. If luck is with you the tap itself shatters and with a bit of patience the bits can be 'juggled out with a scriber. I find a old HSS hack saw blade ground back to a long thin strip with hook ground on the end useful here, **photo 15**. You can slide this tool down the tap flutes and depending on how broken up it is drag bits out.

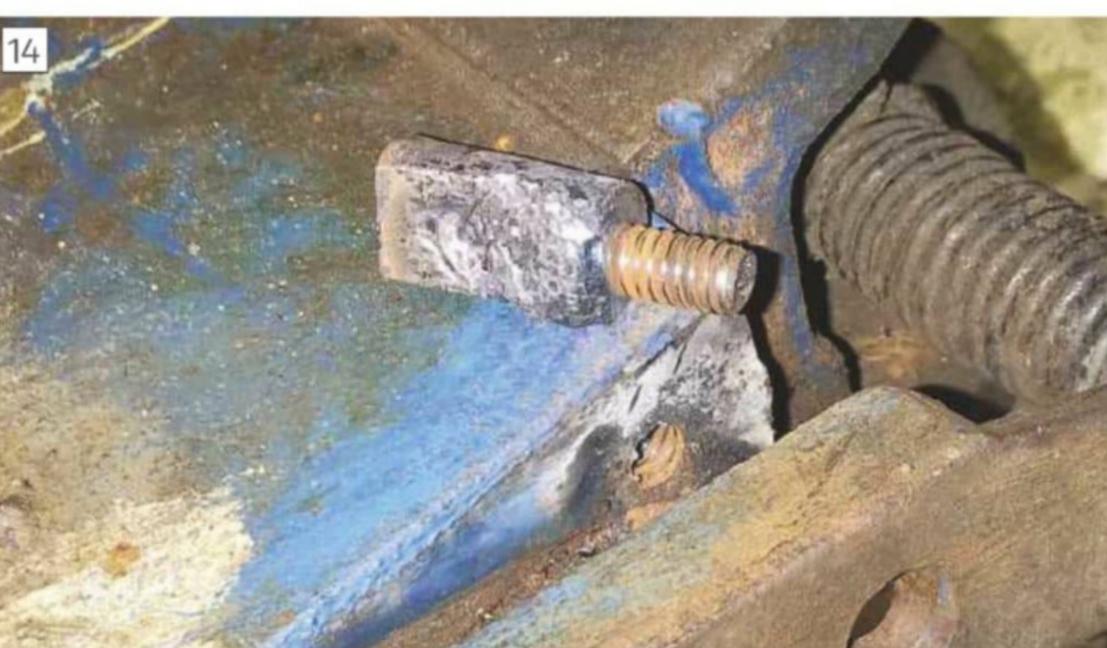
What's to be done if the remaining tap is still one piece? Well in such a case my approach is to break up the tap by grinding away the tap centre with a diamond burr. These are relatively cheap and the long pointed ones that you see in sets for machines like a Dremel can with care cut into the HHS or hardened steel of a tap. Then you are back to 'picking' it out or with luck you can get enough torque on it to unscrew it using a screwdriver.

Adhesives etc

I have had some experience using adhesives for drills stuck in holes, namely thread locking type adhesives. Some years ago, a friend suddenly appeared at my door to say he had a drill trapped in a deep hole. He had been drilling a very long hole about 300-400 mm deep and his extended drill had come apart and the drill trapped down the hole. On examination the shaft had been attached to the drill by a spigot joint where the drill shank had been turned down and fitted



Removing screw with welded on head using grips



Screw removed and on its way to the scrap bin

in to a drilling in a steel shaft. It looked like a silver soldered joint that had not run properly and the joint had failed due to the drilling torque. I had some thread locking adhesive to hand and based on anything was better than nothing I coated the inside of the spigot with the adhesive and carefully inserted the shaft down the hole feeling for the shaft to fit onto the drill. It was left over night to set. To my amazement I got a phone call next day to say the drill had released when he turned

the machine on, day saved.

A little bit of speculation here. My thought (I have not tried this) is that if a suitably deep hole can be drilled into a broken fastener and a good adhesive joint made with a really good epoxy onto a close fitting sort of plug with a head (turned down bolt say) it might just save the day. This might offer a way out of a broken fastener problem where heat e.g. welding is just not going to be possible.

One other thought, if you find a fastener is broken flush with the face the welding technique might be possible. I haven't come up against such a problem however, it seems reasonable to speculate that a block could be prepared with a smaller hole that the broken fastener and countersunk. With careful welding (a MIG might be good) a head could be welded on that will enable the removal of the broken piece.

Well there it is some experience that may help with those pesky broken fastener problems that arise from time to time. This article is a bit like an insurance policy something you keep to hand hoping you never need it. If you remember nothing else from my words here keep this. The first rule with these problems' is don't rush to a solution. ■



Hacksaw pick

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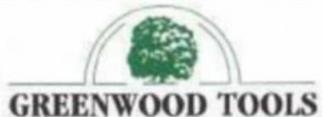
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Dragon's Den or Dream Workshop?



We all have our own idea of what the 'perfect' workshop would be to meet our needs. Des Bromilow made his dream workshop a reality and documented the build for readers. Let's make a start!

his article outlines the design, planning, construction, and internal fit out of a shed at my property in Australia. I work in a varied range of interests including machining, welding, casting, robotics (CNC, electronics), woodwork, and composites. Over the years, I have "made do" with storing my tools in garden sheds, and working either on the veranda, or in the driveway. When we moved and purchased our property, one of the selection criteria was a decent sized backyard to permit a dedicated shed for me to work in. We moved into the property over seven years ago, and the last photos in this article were only taken a few weeks ago. I've tried to keep the concepts outlined in this article fairly general in their direction, so it will fall upon anyone looking to copy design elements to tailor them to your local conditions and regulations.

Shed Design

The shed design started with determining what space I had available on my house block, and the constraints of shed construction outlined by the local council and planning regulations. I then started modelling shed layouts using gridline paper, and some small-scale footprints of the machines I expect to use (milling machine, lathe, shaper, drill press, bench for desktop machines).

A number of layouts were considered and the one settled on was based on a long narrow shed with metalworking tools along one side, and woodwork and general work on the other side. The metalwork side was also designed so that long stock coming out of the lathe headstock would pass over the shaper and drill press area. Another feature designed into this layout is that all grinding works (bench grinder, T&C grinder, etc.) are located far from the slides of the big lathe and milling machine and separated from the slides of the desktop machines by a partition wall. **Photograph** 1 outlines the design sketches used to determine the floor plan.

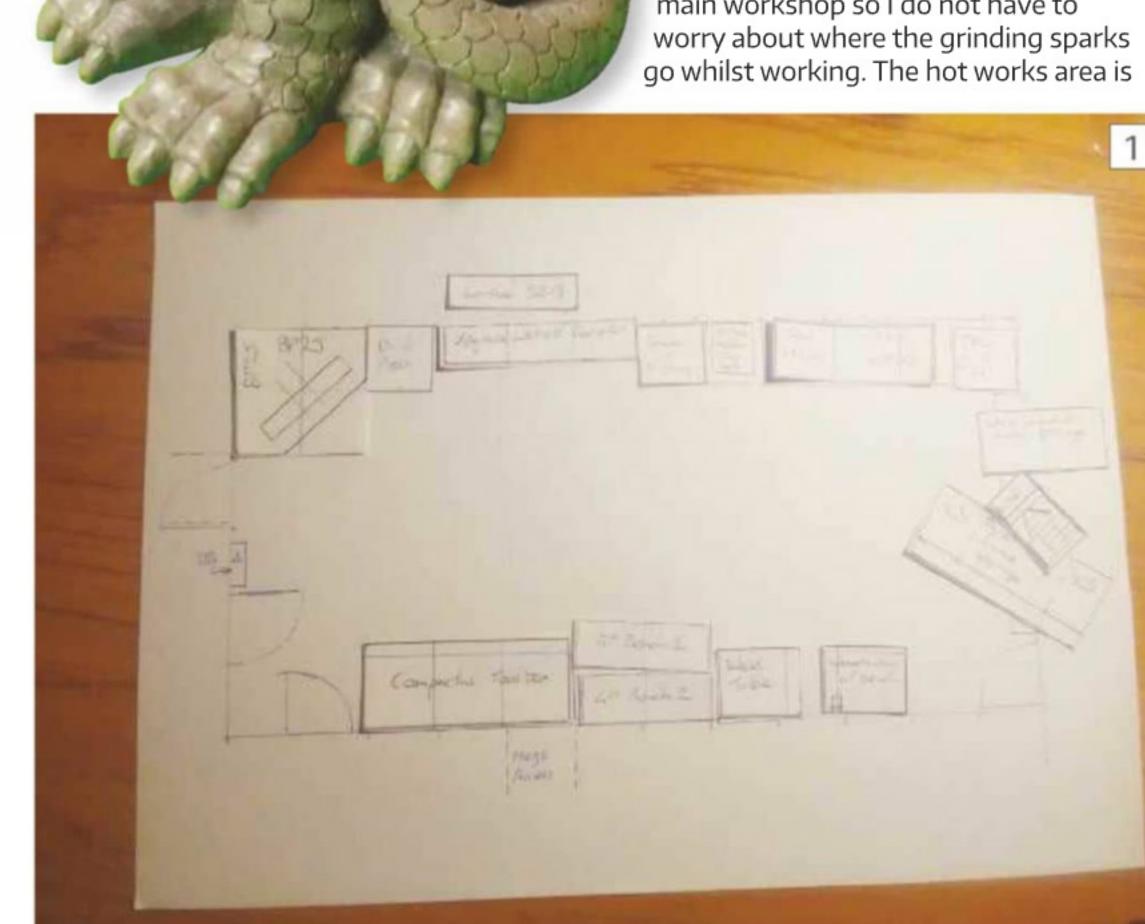
I do dabble in electronics (microprocessors, robotics and CNC), so an area to work on that was needed. The available space loaned itself to creating an office or clean room area separated from the main workshop area. This was designed to capitalise on the space which was left over after the rainwater tank was designed in.

The 'office' is nominally 3m x 4m and has a stud wall between itself and the remainder of the workshop. A door

reduces debris from the main workshop from entering the room, thereby reducing the chances of metal filings getting into any electrical projects.

Since I do a reasonable amount of "hot works" - namely welding, forging, and casting I tried to make sure that my shed design had an area designed to minimise fire risk, whilst providing storage and working space. This area is known as a "hot works area", "welding bay", or "Ronson's cave" - Ronson is the name of the baby dragon which is the resident mascot for hot works, and is named after the Canadian WWII armoured vehicle.

The hot works area is outside the main workshop so I do not have to worry about where the grinding sparks



Planning the layout

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6m x 4m with a concrete floor, and a roof above that. That bay is designed for use for welding and forge work. I have never been able to accurately estimate the effect of rising heat from my furnace, so I planned the casting area to not have a roof over the top, and for the floor to be suitable for use around molten metal. Given that concrete will explode (spall) when exposed to heat, I chose to pave the casting area floor with fired clay-based pavers instead of cementitious based flooring materials. This means that the clay pavers should not spall when exposed to heat, but if they are cracked, replacement is a simple case of levering up the damaged paver and replacing it. The paved hotworks area is shown in photo 2.

I did consider a cinder floor as an option but given that the hot works area



Paved area for hot work



Mezzanine

forms part of the entrance to the main workshop, I was concerned about being able to drive heavy vehicles into the workshop. The absence of a roof over this floor meant that rain falling on a floor made of compacted material would deteriorate and fail in a short time and require constant maintenance.

With the main areas of the shed planned based on expected usage, the issue then was storing the various materials, partially completed projects, and other things I seem to accumulate.

Looking at comparative pricing for sheds, and the constraint I had for my available footprint, I looked at a few designs based on wall mounted shelving, mezzanines, and other storage options above the main floor. There was a marginal increase in costs between a high wall shed with shelves above the work area, and a shed with a proper rated mezzanine floor, **photo 3**. The higher roofline brought other benefits including natural cooling during the Australian summers, no foreseeable height restrictions on moving machines within the shed, and implications for the design of the rainwater tank. Those benefits outweighed the slight cost increase.

A rainwater tank was designed (part of

the energy efficiency rating scheme used in my council), and I designed the tank stand to provide a storage enclosure underneath it - **photo 4**. This gives me a decent head pressure for the collected water, and allows me a storage option for gases, flammables and other materials I may wish to store outside my main workshop.

The basic design was settled, then

proposed to the council planning authority for endorsement. Once endorsed, the design sketches were passed through an engineering company for design and certification. The certified design was then submitted for building approval and I arranged detailed fabrication design and quoting by a number of manufacturers.

The final design had a wall height of 4m, with a ridge height of 4.6m. The main works area is 12m long, and 6m wide, and the hot works bay is 4m long, by the same 6m wide. The roller door between the workshop and the hot works bay is 3.4m high and can comfortably allow entry of a 4T hiab truck. The office located at the other end of the workshop is 3m wide, and 4m deep.

The engineering design took into account the other elements including slab design, ground considerations (active soil) and various loading forces.

Pad and Slab

The area where I live has soil containing some clay, and this means that the ground type had to be factored into the engineering design of the shed floor.

When I gave my sketches to the engineer, I indicated that the main floor was to be 100mm thick everywhere, except where



Water tank

the machines (milling machine, lathe, etc) would be - those areas were to be made 150mm thick. That thickness was taken from the bolt down instructions for the Bridgeport milling machine. I have seen too many sheds with cracked floors when the floors were only 75mm thick and machines or large vehicles brought in. The engineer suggested that concrete was relatively cheap, and that having steps or level changes in the floor would aggravate the concreter more than the cost of extra concrete - I ran the models of the concrete volume/cost, and decided to make the floor a uniform 150mm thick, and not have to worry about where things were put in the future.

The engineer then designed the various thickened beams which add stability and strength to the shed, and the floor design was complete.

A Few Features in the Floor.

The biggest feature of the floor is the inclusion of a number of "Elephant foot ferrules" in the floor, **photo 5**. Originally designed for creating threaded holes in cast panels for tilt up construction, these ferrules were cast in the floor on a grid pattern of 2 x 2m. Each ferrule is able to take the load of a M16 grade 5.5 bolt in shear and tension. I can use the points in the floor to pull a disabled car into the workshop, pull a chassis straight, anchor a lifting frame, or whatever I want. Each ferrule added \$10 AUD to the cost of the shed - another small investment to add considerable versatility to the shed. I also added a few ferrules near the roller door for locking the roller door in place (increased security) and in two locations added nest of M12 ferrules in a 200x200mm square arrangement. These nests, photo 6, will be used for anchoring floor mounted tools such as pipe benders, or vices. In Australia, the ferrules are available through Reid (reid. com.au) and they can supply the ferrules, chairs, caps and reinforcing bars needed, **photo 7**. All up the ferrules added \$200 AUD to the cost of my shed, whereas the



Ferrules in floor

after-market roller door locking option would cost \$140 AUD each, so the small investment has already paid off.

To Pour the Floor

The shed project had been progressing for several years. Each step in a sequence leading towards pouring the slab for the shed.

I cleared the land - removed all the overgrown native garden the previous owners had left, and then removed the underground reticulation pipes in the area. As part of the fencing rebuild, I put in a retaining wall which allowed the area to be levelled properly.

Once the ground was level, I then marked out the borders of the shed slab, and had the topsoil removed. Typically this is only done to a depth of 100mm in my area, but due to the clay soil underneath, and my intent of making the footing work easier, I removed all soils to a depth of 300mm (500mm in the tank stand area) and had the soil replaced with compacted yellow brickies sand. This sand is clean of any organic materials and forms the pad under the slab.

Prior to placing the sand, a pest control treatment was done to protect against

termites. This treatment was repeated again just before the plastic sheeting was installed for the concrete pour.

With the pad prepared, the concreting contractor then dug the footing beams, installed the formwork, laid down the moisture barrier (200-micron plastic sheet), reinforcing mesh, and I installed the elephant foot ferrules, **photo 8**.

Another termite treatment spray was performed, and the concrete was poured in over the top.

The slab was sized so there is a gap between the edge of the slab, and the back of the overlapping cladding. This is a deliberate design choice and prevents the cladding sheets touching the concrete. Many people erect the shed including cladding, then pour the slab to the wall sheets using the wall sheets as formwork for the slab. This is a cheaper option, but the alkali concrete corrodes the cladding where they touch, and in approximately 10 years time, the owner is replacing the bottom of their cladding sheets. By designing a gap (typically 5mm) the corrosion risk is removed. The resulting gap caused by this is later closed with bitumen impregnated foam, and flashing tape to







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stop vermin or snakes entering the shed under the cladding.

The concreting contractor was consulted regarding the finish of the concrete for the floor. I was particularly concerned about having slip hazards. The main workshop, and office area has a tooled burnished finish - as typically used in house slabs. This means that I can roll machines around easily, and do a good job sweeping the floor. Whereas the hot work area has a trowelled finish - slightly rougher, and non slip when wet. I can sweep it easily, but there is always a slight residue of dust due to the surface. I had considered what is called "broomed finish" but determined that it would be too rough to sweep easily, and would make moving the furnace harder. My furnace weighs over 700kg and moves on four wheels - two of which have steel tyres, so floor "roughness" is noticeable.

Some other features of the floor are centred around the floor of the tank stand shed, and the drainage around it. Once the tank-stand was in place, I cast the mass footings, then added some electrical conduit between the inside of the tank shed and the main shed. This conduit was sized (40mm) so electrical and alarm cables can be ran between the buildings. The floor and drains of the tank shed and interposing space (pavements) were all cast as one piece. The pavement has a cast in drain channel, and all surfaces slope to direct water away from the shed foundations, and into drains which take the water away from the structure, and into the stormwater piping.

Once the main shed slab had been poured and cured, work was completed on the stormwater piping, and other conduits in the trench which go to the shed. This trench contains the main stormwater pipe which takes excess stormwater away from the shed, 2 x 50mm communications conduits, and a 50mm HD electrical conduit (containing the 16mm2 three phase electrical submain cable), **photo 9**.

The communications conduits are designed so network cables (fibre and copper), alarm cables, and other ELV cables can be ran between the house and the shed. This means all bends are "sweep bend" type, which maintain a radius which is suitable for fibre optic cables and makes pulling cables through easier.

All conduits are trenched in at the appropriate depths and separation distances as dictated by the relevant electrical standards. This compliance to standards also includes underground marker tape, mechanical securing, armouring at above-ground locations, and suitability of bedding sands.

Shed Erection

The shed erection was a task which involved marking out the slab for the chemset anchors, drilling and setting those, craning into position the columns, attaching the rafters, and tying the portal frames back into the other frames via the



Almost ready to pour.



Trench for power supply

purlins and girts.

In my case, this shed was too big for me to erect by myself, so I engaged a local contractor to assist me. Several small issues were found during the erection, and those were fixed "on the fly" - often by cutting and welding, and in other cases by simply adding additional members to the structure.

Whilst the frame was being put up, a few extra elements were added, including a folded mesh cable ladder up each side of the main workshop, **photo 10**, mounting girts for the switchboard, and some headers in the welding bay. These headers are to add some additional shade in the open bay, but with minimal impact on ventilation or heat loss.

Once the frame was erected, a layer of sarking was installed on all walls to act as an anti-condensation layer. The sarking



Cable ladder

reduces the condensation a little via its small insulation effect, but mostly serves to direct any condensation between the cladding sheet and the sarking, keeping the girts dry, and preventing water coming into contact with the internal lining. The sheets of sarking were covered by the external cladding which was screwed to the framing as per normal practise, **photo 11**.

A tip - manhandling pieces of sarking, and 4m long pieces of cladding can be difficult - by using a number of magnets, it was possible to hold the sarking in place, and then affix the cladding without having the sarking move. We used old hard disk magnets, with lengths of survey tape added for increased visibility as shown in **photo 12**.

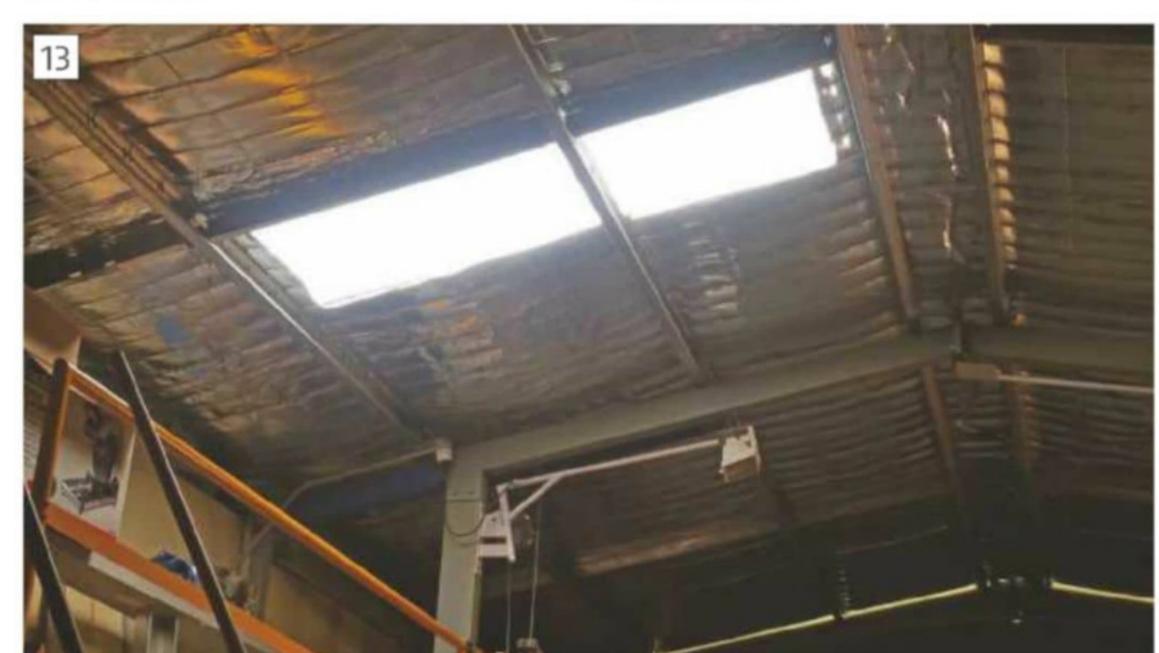
A note about the cladding. Consultation with my neighbours as part of the planning process included asking about colours and visual impacts. My nearest neighbour



Fixing cladding



Tagged magnet



Skylight

requested that the wall facing them was matched to their fence and roof - easy - nearly every fence and roof in the district is that same green colour. I was concerned about the one wall facing my own house. At 12m long, and 4m high, a solid block of green would be visually intimidating, and make the distance between the house and shed seem smaller. It is accepted that light colours visually "open up" a space, so I made that wall a cream colour - as much to visually alter the space, but also to help with the sun exposure (this wall faces north).

Another tip regarding sun exposure came with the roofing. A lot of people will fit a translucent panel in their roof as a way of getting natural light into the shed. In my case I placed one sheet of fibreglass sheeting in the roof - specifically in the south facing side. Had I placed it in the north facing roof side, I would have had

direct sun, along with the increase in heat. By placing it in the south, I still get sufficient sunlight to work without lights, but a considerable reduction in heat. I added a short sheet of roofing metal under the fibreglass sheet where the mezzanine passes underneath - this reduces the amount of light slightly, but means a person walking up on the mezzanine is reduced to less heat being in close proximity, and it reduces fading of things stored on the mezzanine. This skylight (measuring 2,000x 700mm) lights up the entire workshop floor(12m x 6m) for walking around and non detail work. The skylight is shown in **photo 13**. I have talked about north and south based on my home being in the southern hemisphere... if I was building this same shed in the northern hemisphere, I would place the translucent sheets in the roof on the northern side to reduce heating effects

(we northern hemisphere types should be so lucky! - Ed.)

It is becoming a common practise in industry to place translucent sheets in the walls rather than the roof to achieve a similar effect of increasing lighting without heat. Lining the shed walls makes this option unsuitable.

Once the walls were clad, safety mesh was wired into the roof area, and the insulation was rolled on as each pair of sheets was lifted up and screwed down. After the roof sheets, it was ridge-capping and flashings, doors, gutters, etc which were added to complete the weather sealing.

The roller door was fitted into position, and the personal access doors fitted in place. This was the minimum to get the shed lockable, and further security has been added including strengthening to the doors and fitting better locking to the doors. The door openings were flashed in as part of the cladding work.

Flashings were needed on the underside of the roof where the welding bay wall joins the workshop to prevent birds entering the shed. A Christmas laser projector was screwed to the wall in the welding bay projecting against the roof and roller door to prevent the invading swallow population from trying to roost or nest in the bay. This projector runs for 3 hours each evening covering dusk, and the hour afterwards, and has proven very effective at deterring the winged vermin without endangering our own native birds. As shown in **photo**14, the laser can cover a fair bit of the welding bay.

Finally, the shed was erected, weather tight and lockable.

Shed Lining

A lot of sheds are not lined - and for many this is not an issue. Given that my neighbours are reasonably close, and I live in a place with noticeable Australian summers, I looked at lining and insulating my shed as part of the project. I also knew that if I didn't insulate the shed during construction, I would find it difficult to "get around to it" once machines, power, etc had been installed.

The first thing to do was insulate the north wall with the same insulation type



Laser for bird deterrent

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used on the roof. Care was taken to keep the insulation out of the cable ladder (now within the wall profile) so it did not create a significant de-rating issue for the cables once installed.

What do you line a shed with?

I had several options to consider including plasterboard, plywood, particleboard, and others. Each had their pros and cons... so I looked at other builds and asked on a few forums for advice. Cost did play a factor in the final decision.

Criteria in the decision:

- something I could work with for the construction - not needing specialised tools, or skills I didn't already have, or could get quickly
- ability to hang things off the walls once lined (shelves, electrical fittings, etc)
- moderate impact resistance no one wants damage to walls, but a lengthy repair afterwards is insult to injury)
- able to be painted easily to make the walls lighter, cover stains, etc
- construction with 1-2 people only and minor scaffolding if at all
- 6. cost and availability
- 7. sound deadening nice to have

Options considered:

Plasterboard (gyprock) with stud walls - easy to build, moderate cost, strong walls provided you hang things off the studs. Synopsis - meets 1, 4,5 and 6 easily, and 2 and 3 with some restrictions

Plywood - based on thickness and grade, the walls met all criteria except 6. Plywood with thicknesses below 15mm were cheaper but needed a stud wall for strength which took the cost higher than plasterboard. 15, 18 and 21mm plywood were prohibitively expensive. Synopsis - meets 1, 2,3,4,5 and 7 - cost was high.

Particleboard - most grades of particleboard were similar to plywood for cost and constraints, however the particleboard used for flooring showed a lot of promise. It handled the spans I was using without a stud wall and allowed me to



Installing wall lining

affix things to the wall anywhere. There was one side which took paint well (the other being wax treated for water resilience), and I received some very competitive pricing options for this product. Synopsis - meets 1, 2,3,4,5,6, and 7.

Sheet metal - I did consider lining the inside of the shed with sheet metal in the form of galvanised sheets, or colourbond sign sheets. The pricing was comparable to plasterboard, and still needed a studframe to address the issue of spanning the distance between wall girts. I was concerned that the sheet metal would act like a drum skin with respect to quietening noise in the shed. Synopsis - meets 1, 4, and 5, and 2, 3 and 6 with some restrictions

I chose particleboard and ordered the required number of sheets to floor my mezzanines, line my walls, and build a few workbenches as well. Overall the order came out to nearly 100 sheets of 3.6m x 0.8m at 19mm thick. The calculations for the sheets showed that I would end up with a number of offcuts too short to use for lining the walls. These remainders were subsequently reserved for building shelving.

The only places stud frames were needed was for creating partition walls, and in two

places where the girts were of differing depths (door frames). These frames were built and secured in position, and the lining commenced

The walls were prepared by ensuring that there was a girt or attachment rail every 1200mm or less. This meant adding lengths of studding off brackets in some areas where the fascia purlin was not suitable to attach the lining due to being in a different plane than the girts. I also added a length of 30x30x3 Angle Iron (aka equal angle (EA)) above and below each cable ladder to provide a rigid steel strip for attaching the cable ladder covers. These pieces of EA were installed at the same time as the cable ladder - before the external cladding was applied.

Temporary flooring sheets were placed, and clamped, on the mezzanine joists so the upper sheets were lifted into position and screwed in place. The sheets were supported from the bottom on a pair of temporary stands which were moved along the wall as the work progressed as shown in **photo 15**.

Once the high section of the wall lining was in place, the temporary flooring on the mezzanines was removed and replaced with permanent flooring for all internal mezzanines. The external mezzanine (welding bay) was floored with decking timber for any rain which blew in could drain off the flooring easier. The treated decking timber was later sealed with marine varnish to provide a low maintenance floor surface.

The low lining sheet was packed up off the floor by steel packers, then screwed to the girts and cable ladder covers with the appropriate tek screws. Care was taken during the lining to keep joints tight, and the cable ladder opening as level as possible to aid with the future placement of covers. **Photograph 16** shows the completed higher and lower wall panels installed on the North stud wall.



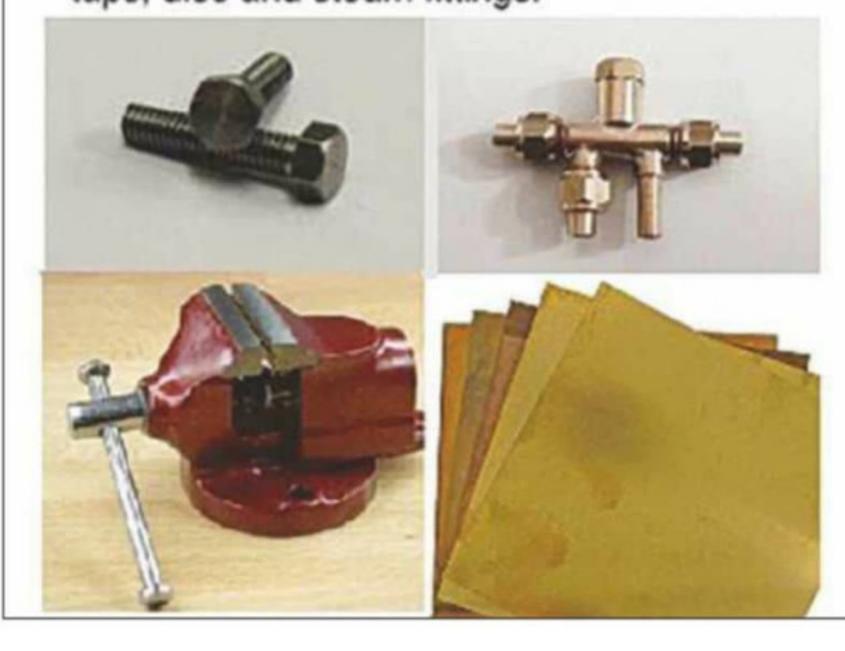
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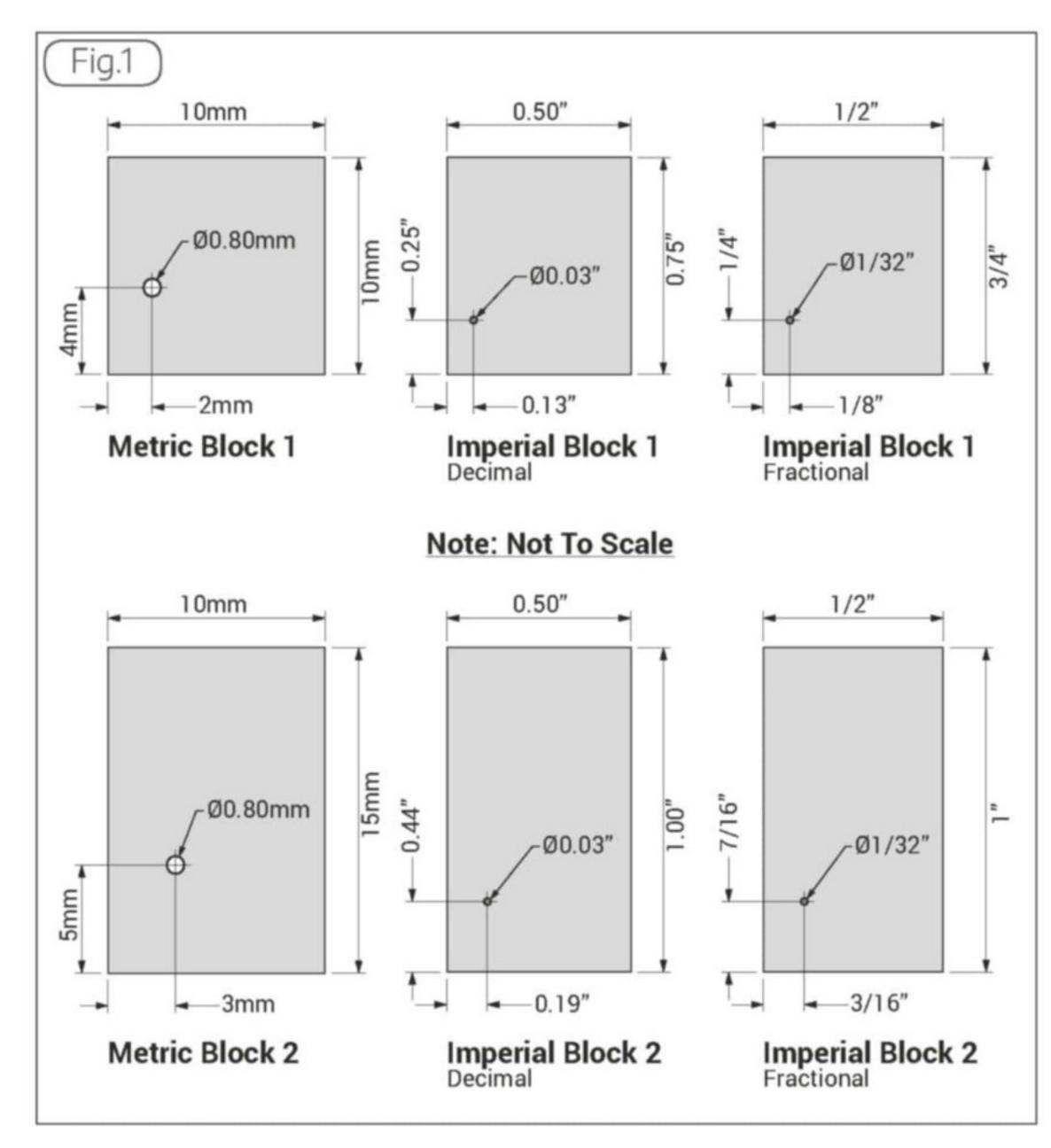
Simple Multipurpose Scribing Blocks for the Beginner

Despite aiming this article at beginners, Derrick Marsh's scribing blocks deserve a place as a timesaver in any workshop.

should like to present a very simple project for the beginner although it is possible to take this project much further should one desire. First a disclaimer, this is not my idea (I wish it were). I will take credit for the metric version, but the original is from somewhere else. When I first started work in the early 1980's it was decided to send me away from the nice safe electronics lab to the engineering department to learn some practical skills. I was young, knew everything and was certainly not interested in metalwork - hindsight is a wonderful thing, if only I could have another go. The engineer who looked after me had officially retired but came in on a part time basis to 'train' us youngsters. In his toolbox he had lots of tools and aids he had made himself over the years.

Zoom forward to the present and after many years of looking at my dad's copies of MEW every month and being envious of some of the marvellous creations that appear, I decided to have a go myself (if this is printed it will be the first he has heard of it! By the way, your workshop was like that when I got there honestly!) I wanted to start with a simple project requiring minimal tools resulting in something useful and would help to learn some new skills. Bringing these two ideas together I remembered a handy gadget the ever patient Ray (I think that was his name) once showed me. It was a set of two blocks that could be used to quickly scribe various heights without having to measure. I asked on the MEW forum if anybody had any information about these blocks and although lots of valuable and interesting information was forthcoming nobody had information about this particular design. There is a similar tool in the world of woodworking and diy called the Simplescribe (https://www. **simplescribe.com/**) but it is not what I saw all those years ago.

In a fit of nostalgia, I went hunting for the only successful item made during my training (a set of engineers' finger clamps). Wrapped around the clamps was a very



tatty piece of oil stained paper with the dimensions of the blocks written on it. The original design is in imperial and allows for differing heights in steps of 1/16 inch from 1/8 to 11/2 inch. After some head scratching I managed to work out a way of making the blocks in metric with steps of 1mm from 2mm to 23mm but with gaps at 9, 11, 22. I have included the drawings for both versions in **fig. 1** (the imperial is decimal and fractional).

To make the blocks requires short lengths

of steel. My lengths were 60mm because that was a) the approximate length of an eraser I find comfortable to use and b) slightly shorter than the length of metal I had been very kindly given. The metric version requires one piece of 10 mm x 10 mm and one piece of 10 mm x 15 mm. The imperial requires one piece of 1/2 x 3/4 inch and one piece of $1/2 \times 1$ inch. The exact type of metal will be personal preference or whatever is in the scrap bin. To get the metal to these sizes requires filing (so the

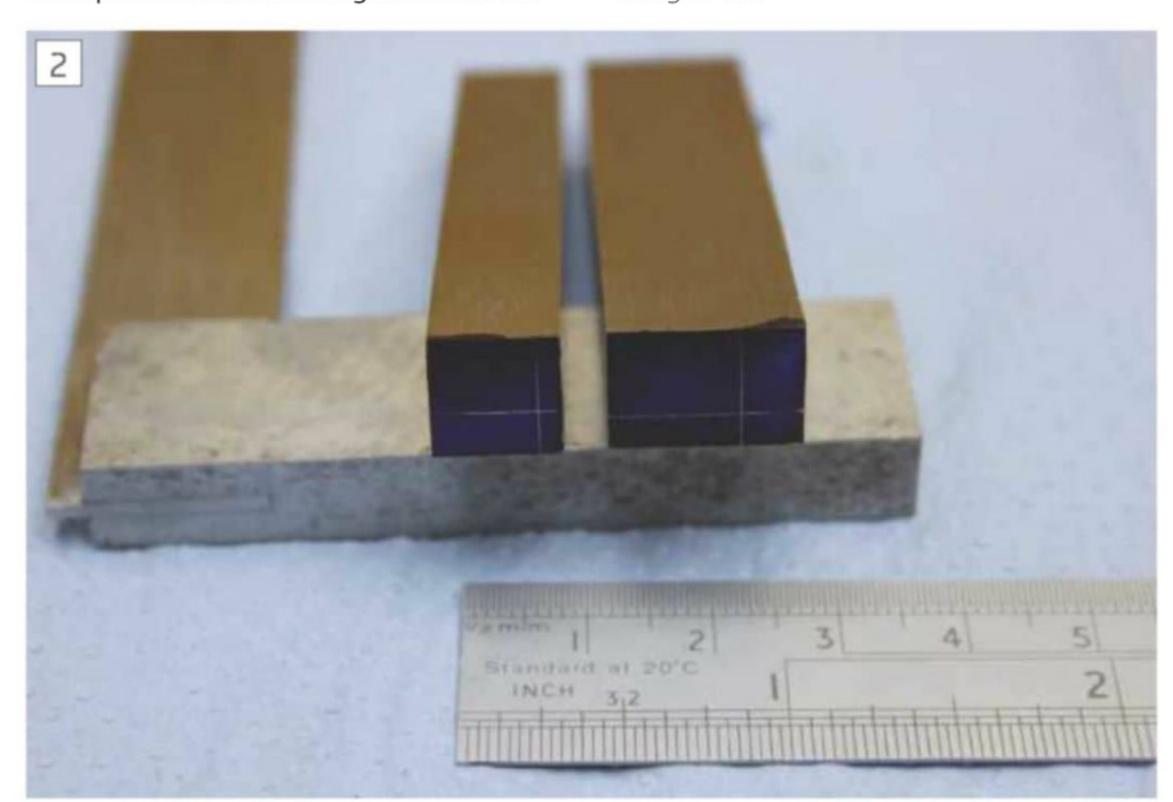
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tools required are a file and vice to hold the piece being worked on). The better equipped shop may choose to simply mill the metal to size but remember that this is meant for beginners. In order to protect the sides of the metal from damage in the vice one can use soft jaws or the beginner (me) can use a little piece of copper from an old copper pipe to act as soft jaws, photo 1. After many days of filing the pieces should be coming to size. It is important to keep the sides of the material parallel as these form the datum for each measurement. Once mine were almost to size I moved away from filing and on to sanding. Using a piece of glass that was one a display cabinet sliding door (approximately 3 – 4 mm thick) I placed a piece of wet and dry paper on the surface and used this to lap the sides flat (checking regularly that things remained parallel). Once the pieces are to size and the ends flattened too, the selected ends were painted with marking blue and the



Filing in vice



Marking out completed

scribing points marked, **photo 2**. For my simple beginners' version, I used a set square ruler and scribe to draw the lines. The point was centre marked (hammer and centre pop or automatic centre pop). Drilling of the holes is the next part and quite possible the most scary part.

For the actual scribing tool, I used a hand sewing needle with a diameter of approximately 0.8 mm. Once again this was chosen because it is what was to hand. The needles are tough, readily available and cheap to replace (thanks to my darling wife who has not yet noticed the shortfall in her sewing box ... yet). Various needle sizes can be found here at **www.jjneedles.com**.

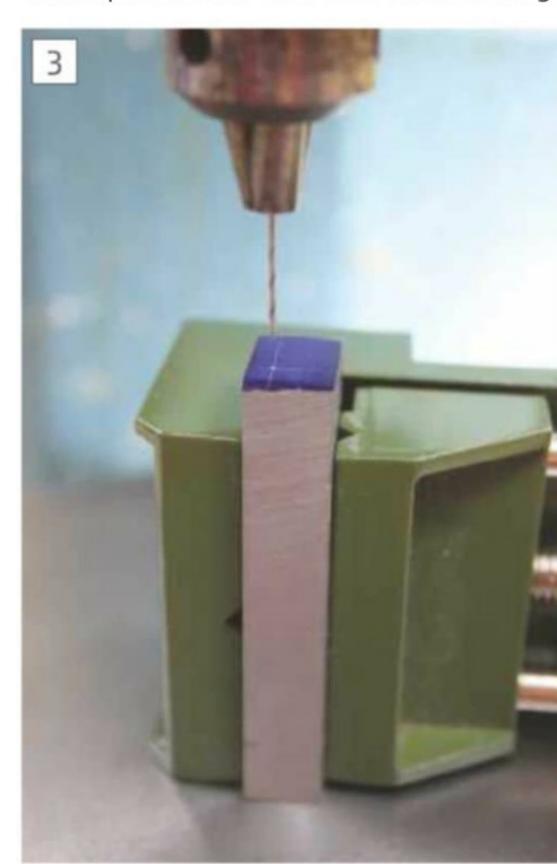
The drilling was done using very small pecking plunges, removing only a little material at each plunge, **photo 3**. If one were to use proper replaceable carbide scribing tips, the tips are slightly larger

but might be a little close to the corner of the smaller block and definitely more expensive than my solution. As said at the beginning, this project can be taken to any extreme the reader is wanting to go. The depth of my holes was 10 mm which was a nerve racking depth and would probably not be repeated.

Once the holes were drilled the needles were cut. These are very tough and were cut by filing (I was beginning to miss that) with a triangular file. Once the needle was deeply scored it could be snapped off quite easily with a pair of pliers. My needles were cut to a length of 15 mm in order to allow for a 5 mm protrusion. After a test fitting the needle shafts were roughed a little with wet and dry paper to provide a key for the adhesive, **photo**4. Loctite 603 Retaining Compound was used to hold the scribing points in place, **photo** 5. Some replaceable carbide

scribing tips are threaded and so the reader would have to adapt the plans as appropriate for them. Stamping numbers on the blocks helps to identify which size one is scribing. I stamped the height so that the number was visible uppermost when being used. This means that when the tip is 2mm from the surface the top of the block reads 2mm. Having finally put all the parts together and cleaned up it is time to calibrate the scribing blocks. Using a rule and a hammer or pliers the tip of the scribe can be moved or tapped to the correct level. One could go to extremes with accuracy and calibration, **photo 6**, but the project is intended to be a basic skill refresher with the bonus of a hand gadget at the end.

Once completed the blocks alone would provide the user with the following



Ready to drill



Blocks almost complete

quick and readily available scribing measurements:

Metric block A alone would give 2, 4, 6, 8 mm Metric block B alone would give 3, 5, 7, 10 mm

Other heights available are: 12 mm (10mm side of block B and 2mm of block A)

13mm (10mm side of block A and 3mm of block B)

14mm (10mm side of block B and 4mm of block A)

15mm (10mm side of block A and 5mm of block B)

16mm (10mm side of block B and 6mm of block A)

17mm (10mm side of block A and 7mm of block B)

18mm (10mm side of block B and 8mm of block A)

19mm (15mm side of block B and 4mm of block A)

20mm (10mm side of block A and 10mm of block B)

21mm (15mm side of block B and 6mm of block A)

23mm (15mm side of block B and 8mm of block A)

The missing sizes could be achieved by the use of a 1mm slip gauge of homemade slip of 1mm (more filing). The blocks could be even more useful if combined with a set of 1-2-3 (3-2-1) blocks or other variations of the idea.

The imperial blocks give a range from 1/8 to 11/2 inch:

Imperial block A alone would give 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, 1/2 inch

Imperial block B alone would give 3/16", 5/16, 7/16, 9/16 inch



Blocks complete

Other heights available are: 5/8inch (1/2inch side of block B and 1/8inch of block A)

11/16inch (1/2inch side of block A and 3/16inch of block B)

3/4inch (1/2inch side of block B and 1/4inch of block A)

13/16inch (1/2inch side if block A and 5/16inch of block B)

7/8inch (1/2inch of block B and 3/8inch of block A)

15/16inch (1/2inch side of block A and 7/16 of block B or 3/4inch side of block A and 3/16inch of block B)

1 inch (1/2inch side of block B and 1/2inch of block A)

11/16inch (3/4 inch side of block A and 9/6inch of block B)

11/8inch (1 inch side of block B and 1/8inch of block A)

13/16inch (3/4inch side of block A and 7/16inch of block B)

11/4inch (1 inch side of block B and 1/4inch of block A)

15/16inch (3/4inch side of block A and 9/16inch of block B)

13/8inch (1 inch side of block B and 3/8inch of block A)

11/2inch (1 inch side of block B and 1/2inch of block A)

Again, the addition of a 1/16inch slip would open up more possibilities as would using the 1-2-3 (3-2-1) blocks.

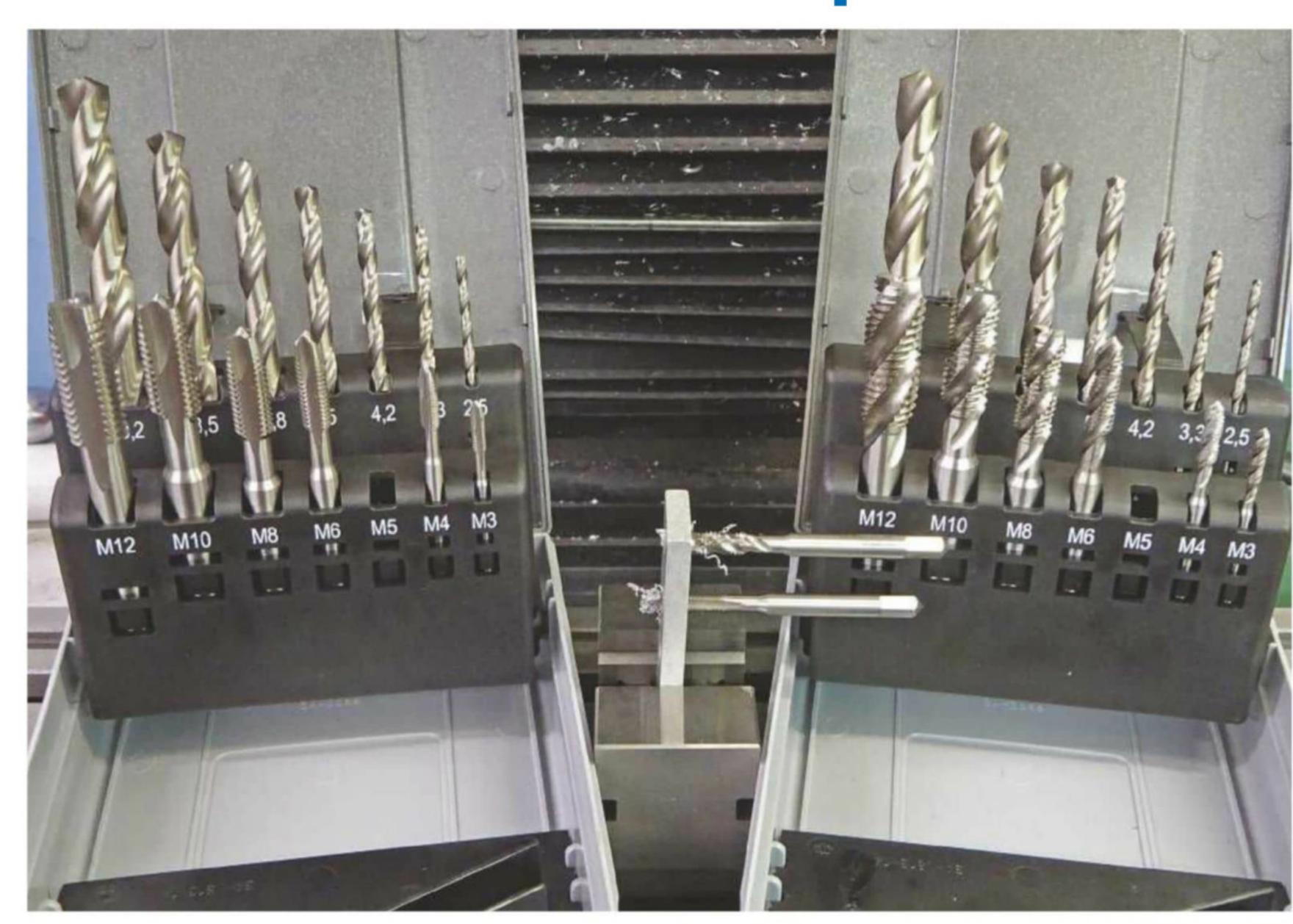
The imperial blocks have nice range and no gaps, but I think that the metric ones are just as useful (even with the gaps). In making this project I have learned / refreshed a lot of skills long since forgotten. I also think that the project fulfils the brief of being a simple project for beginners a handy toolbox gadget and provides plenty of opportunity for further development. Thanks to my dad for his workshop and to Ray for his patience all those years ago.



Calibration tool

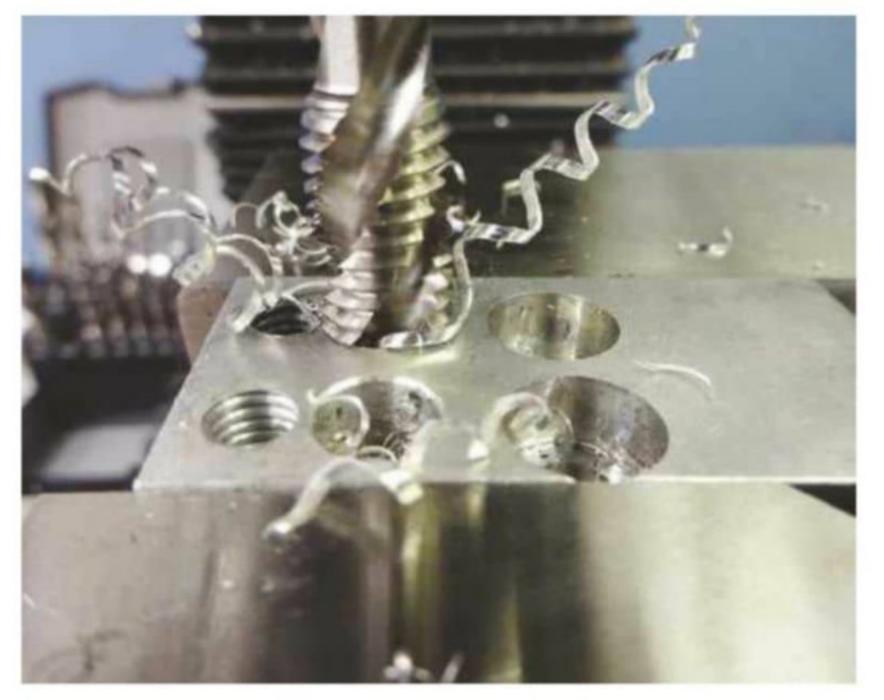
On the NEWS from the World of Hobby Engineering

New Arc Euro Trade Taps and Dies



Those that regularly visit the forum will no doubt have noticed the adverts for Arc Euro Trade's new range of taps and dies that have recently been added to their extensive portfolio of items. As well as the traditional style of HSS taper, second & bottom taps in both Metric fine and metric coarse series they also now do the same sizes in Spiral flute and spiral point "machine" taps made from the more durable HSS-Co5, a high-speed steel with 5% added cobalt. The main advantage of these machine taps (which can also be used by hand) is the shape of the flutes and point that make them better for tapping under power as the swarf is ejected from the hole.

In the case of Spiral flute taps they as the name suggest have flutes that are shaped in a helix much like a milling cutter or drill bit and will allow the swarf to be pushed up out of the hole in long spirals so they do not need to be backed of every turn to break the swarf. This works best with materials that are ductile such as steel and aluminium but I have found they also work well on brass and aluminium producing a pile of fine swarf around the hole. The spiral flute taps are ideal for blind holes as the swarf won't build up in the hole allowing them to tap right to the bottom, but are Ok to use in



through holes unless particularly deep.

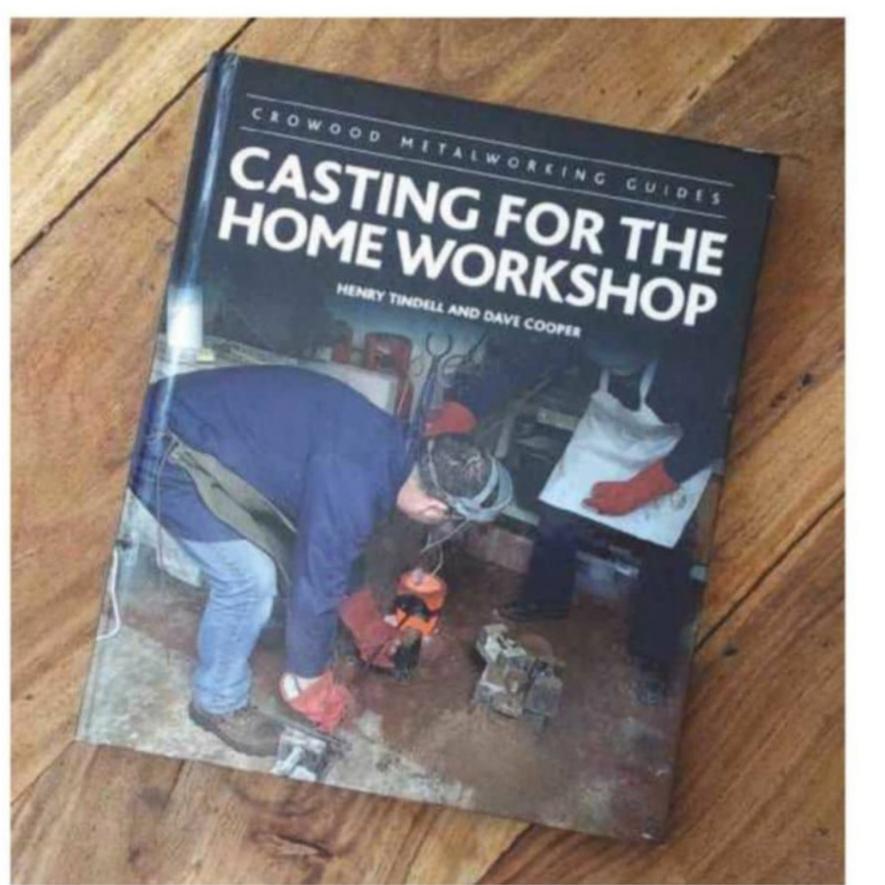
The spiral point taps have an angled leading edge to each flute which works in the opposite way to the spiral Flute design and pushes the swarf forwards of the cutter. This makes them best suited to through holes where the swarf will exit on the far side of the hole, they can be used for blind holes if the hole is a lot deeper than the thread length required but you may end up with curls of swarf in the bottom of the hole that will be hard to get out.

As well as selling individual taps ARC also do sets shown in the accompanying photo which contain a tapping size drill and matching tap across the range of M3 to M12, you only need one tap of any size rather than the traditional three as the lead in taper is very short particularly on the spiral flute ones. I have tried these on a number of materials and found them to work well with even the M12 Spiral flute being able to power tap mild steel using the SX2.7's tapping function. Next months Milling For Beginners will cover their use in more detail.

To complement the new taps which also include BSP sizes there are solid dies again in both Metric coarse and fine or complete tap & die sets with wrenches and stocks included. Together with the existing range of individual tap wrenches and dies stocks.

Jason Ballamy





Casting for the Home Workshop

This latest addition to the Crowood Metalworking Guides series has been written as a joint effort by Henry Tindall, a chartered engineer with experience of orthopaedic implants, and Dave Cooper, who trained as a coremaker and has worked at both ferrous and nonferrous foundries. Both authors are also hobby engineers, and this book draws on their wealth of experience to give a a comprehensive guide to all aspects of casting in the home workshop. The book itself is a well-produced 178 page hardback consistent with other titles in the series.

The book covers everything from the fundamentals of casting through to the treatment of finished castings, covering everything on the path between, including designing and making castings and the use of different materials. It also has some useful appendices covering safety, casting data and a comprehensive glossary. It has many excellent photographs and particularly clear diagrams. My only criticism is that some of the index entries are a page out. More importantly, it's a good read, and comes highly recommended.

Casting for the Home Workshop is published by Crowood Press and has a cover price of £14.99.

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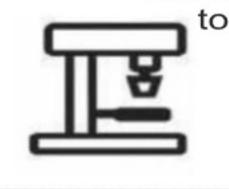


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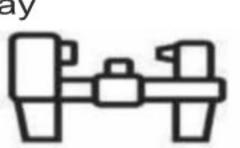


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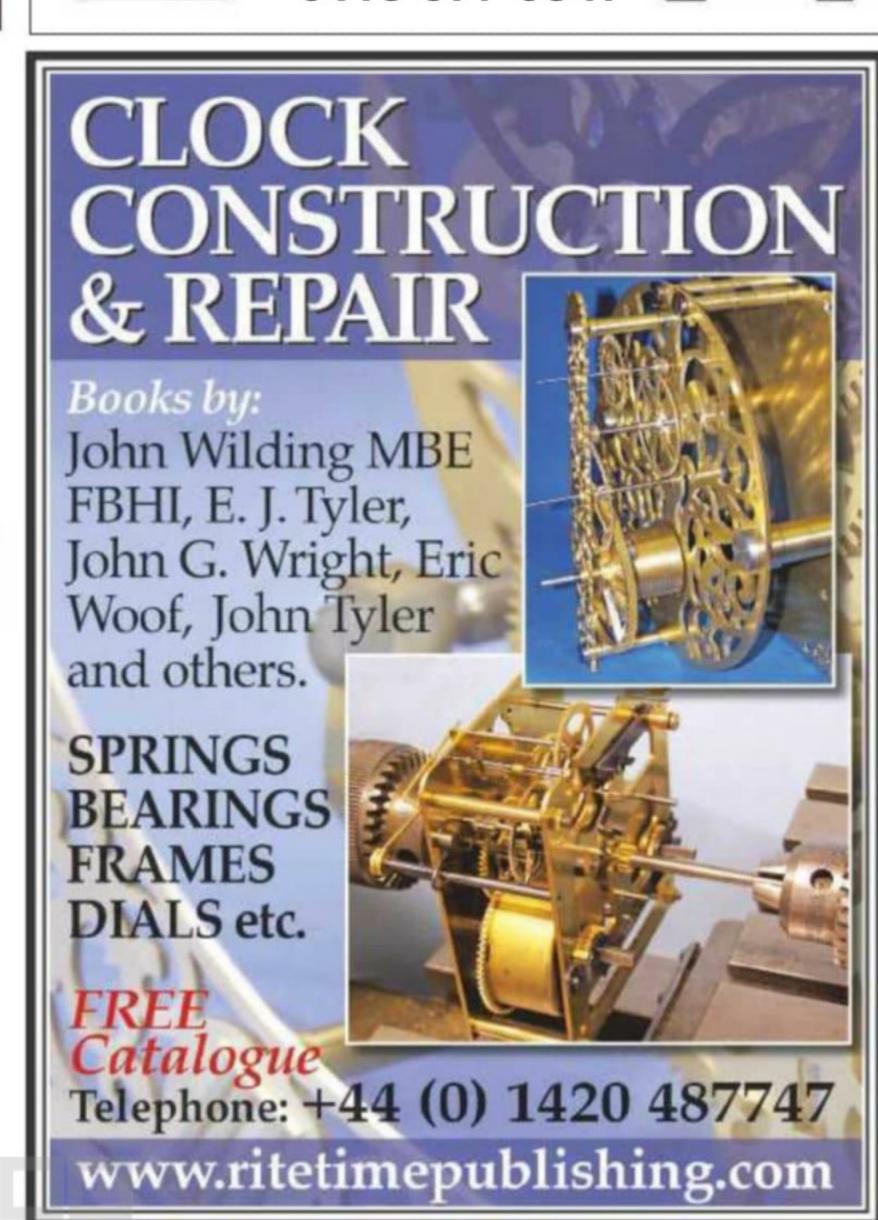
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