SPECIAL REPORT: Inside Taiwan, today’s tool-making giant

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WOOD

THE WORLD’S LEADING WOODWORKING MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 1997 ISSUE NO. 99
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MIDSIZED PLUNGE ROUTERS
See which ones measure up
Page 58

BIG PROJECTS
- MISSION FUTON CHAIR AND OTTOMAN
- MOBILE SANDING CENTER
- KIDS’ SPORTS LOCKER
- WALNUT TEA CART

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THE THINGS YOU BUILD WILL BE STANDING LONG AFTER YOU DIE. LEAVE A GOOD MARK.

Artists sign the bottom of the canvas. Athletes set records. Yours is a more subtle signature. But if you do it right, your legacy won't fade. And it will never be broken.

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AND THEN THERE WERE PENGUINS!

Not having been blessed with much artistic ability myself, I've always been fascinated by the talents of people who can design things well. They make it appear so easy to do.

In my travels for WOOD® magazine over the years, I've encountered quite a few talented project designers, and the staff and I have brought many of their creations to you on these pages. One of the most gifted individuals, George Hans, I met by accident.

I was exiting the freeway on my way to work one morning, and I spied a pair of George's now-famous reindeer in the window of an antique store. I was taken immediately by their beauty, so I hurried to work and brought Jim Downing, WOOD magazine's design editor, to the store for a look. Jim was impressed, too, so he contacted George, a retired art teacher, and made arrangements to purchase the publication rights.

Shortly after that, we ran plans for the foyer- and tabletop-sized reindeers in the magazine and prepared plans for the full-sized ones. The designs proved overwhelmingly popular with you, our readers. The results have been legendary. Before and during the holidays, these woodland creatures seemingly are everywhere. You've no doubt seen them in your area of the country, too.

Now, after a hiatus of several years, we can all look forward to seeing more of George's refreshing designs in future issues of this magazine. I can't wait!

Marlen Kemmet, WOOD magazine's How-To Editor/ WOOD PLAN® coordinator (left), and George Hans admire George's latest creations.

Note in the photograph above that George's reindeer now has three penguin pals to hang out with. As you can see, these little guys have some of the same graceful lines that made their predecessors such a hit.

You'll find scaled-down plans for the penguins in an upcoming issue of the magazine. But if you want to make the full-sized versions and get them out in your front yard in time for the holidays, please call 1-800-572-9350 to find out how to order a set of plans.

A big thanks to George and to all of the other talented people who continue to share the results of their creative labor with me and the entire WOOD magazine family. We appreciate it.
Mechanical reinforcement tip

In the article “Secrets to Clamping Success” in the January 1997 issue, you suggest using mechanical reinforcements in edge-glued joints. Can you give me some guidelines on this?

—David Fudge, Palm Beach, Fla.

Dowel pins, splines, and biscuits all reinforce edge-glued joints, David. But, we prefer splines and biscuits, especially when aligning boards that vary in thickness and have some warp.

Edge-joining with either intermittent splines or biscuits ensures that the face surfaces align flush during assembly and clamping. Further, using intermittent splines or biscuits makes it possible to dry-clamp before assembly. The intermittent spline technique, as shown below, also eliminates the need for a biscuit joiner. Instead, you can use a slot cutting bit in your router.

To use a router-mounted slot cutting bit, index the cutter from the face side of the workpieces. A band-aid router will follow any bowing in the board, making alignment possible.

Mechanical reinforcements become most important in end-grain to end-grain, or end-grain to edge-grain joints. Using reinforcements in these joints both increases the glue area and allows for some "with the grain" orientation. We prefer to use biscuits or splines wherever possible, such as the mitered corner below.

But, for workpieces too narrow to accept a biscuit or spline, such as in the rail and stile frame shown below, dowel pins work well.

How to reach us
We welcome comments, criticisms, suggestions, and even compliments. We'll do our best to respond, perhaps even on this page! You can "talk back":

* Via mail. Send your letter to Talking Back, WOOD Magazine, 1912 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309-3379.

* Via computer. Send e-mail to: woodmail@woodmagazine.com

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**INTERMITTENT SPLINE TECHNIQUE**

1/4" x 15/16" x 3" hardboard splines

---

**MITERED CORNER WITH BISCUIT**

---

**RAIL AND STILE WITH DOWEL PIN REINFORCEMENT**

Continued on page 6
What is it?
Our new line of Teflon® coated blades, TCS, short for a new industrial coating by DuPont® that makes our blades run super fast, super smooth and super cool.

How?
- The coating makes these blades more resistant to friction and heat buildup. The blade stays up to 50% cooler than non-coated blades. This helps the wood glide by the blade with a lot less effort compared to conventional blades. So, you get some major benefits.

- This puts less stress on the blade. Studies by DuPont tell us that TCS coated blades last up to 50% longer than conventional blades before sharpening.

- It also causes less pull on the saw, 38% to be exact. Which translates into over 1/3 more cutting power. And as a bonus, the smoother cutting action means less wear and tear on the motor.

- TCS blades won’t bind like conventional blades. The self-lubricating, non-stick finish sheds sappy wood residue before it builds up. So you will get a smoother, more professional cut with TCS blades.

- Clean up with these blades is also easy. Pitch and resins just don’t stick well to the industrial Teflon. So, even after extensive use, simply wipe clean with hot water.

- Don’t be concerned about cleaning the blades with water. The Teflon coating makes the blade rust resistant, in fact, you don’t need oils, greases or rust-preventatives.

The industrial Teflon coating gives you a lot of great benefits, but remember that under the Teflon coating is a Freud blade.

For Catalog Call 1-800-472-7307 or E-Mail freudinc@aol.com

Red is a trademark of Freud USA, Inc.
Information courtesy of DuPont Industrial Coatings®.
Court case ends confusion over two brands of CMT router bits

As discussed in the Talking Back sections in the October and November 1996 issues of WOOD magazine, the existence of two different lines of orange router bits—both with the CMT name—has created some confusion in the woodworking marketplace. Now, a jury has handed down a decision in the case.

CMT USA of Greensboro, North Carolina retains the CMT name and orange color for its Italian-made bits. For the CMT USA dealer nearest you, call the company toll-free at 888/268-2487.

The former CMT Tools is now Jesada Tools. The jury awarded it $1.7 million for promoting the CMT name in the United States (CMT USA has filed a motion to set aside the monetary award.) Jesada retains its orange fruit logo. Jesada’s owner, Carlo Venditto, assures us that Jesada bits will be unchanged from the bits he manufactured before except for a new white coating. (Look for a performance test of Jesada bits in a future issue.) Meanwhile, you can request a Jesada catalog or order bits directly from the Oldsmar, Florida-based manufacturer by calling 800/531-5559.

—Bill Krier, Assistant Managing Editor

Delta’s soon-to-be-universal tenoning jig

I purchased a Delta model 34-182 tenoning jig that was reviewed in the December 1996 issue, and I’m having trouble setting it up on my Sears tablesaw. When I put the jig in the left-hand miter slot of my saw, with the vertical fence of the jig against the saw blade, the jig’s measuring scale should read zero, but it doesn’t.

Do different brands of tablesaws have different measurements between the miter gauge slots and the blade? And, how can I adjust the jig to use it on my tablesaw?

—Paul Foster, Chatham, Ont.

Paul, no industry standard exists for the distance between a tablesaw miter-gauge slot and the saw blade. For example, in our shop, the Delta jig zeroes out perfectly on the Delta Unisaw, with a distance of 4 9/16". But, the blade-to-slot distance on our Powermatic 66 tablesaw, at 5 5/32", allows the vertical face of the jig to get no closer than 1 3/8" from the blade. The problem also occurs with the newer Craftsman models, with a blade-to-slot distance of 5 1/8".

Because of these variations, you will have a problem not only with zeroing the scale, but also with getting close enough to the blade to make the necessary cuts. However, there are solutions to both of these problems. First, you can replace and reposition the measuring rule on the jig. To get a replacement rule for $1.75, call Delta at 800/223-7278 and ask for part #134564.

If you can’t get the vertical face close enough to the blade to make the necessary cut, you will need to drill new holes in the jig’s base plate (see illustration left) to reposition the miter gauge guide. Because the new holes must be parallel with the original bolt holes, use a drill press at a low rpm and a Black & Decker Bullet bit to drill the holes. The pilot point of the Bullet bit reduces wandering when boring into metal or cast iron.

Delta is now looking at ways to make its jig more universal. Some of the possible options include drilling a series of holes into the base plate to allow you to reposition the miter gauge guide without drilling new holes. Also, Delta may stop applying the measuring scale at the factory, allowing you to apply it yourself.AppBar
"Most powerful saw we tested; built like a battleship, virtually vibration-free..."
"The Powermatic was unstoppable in our cutting test..."

"A peek under the hood reveals that Powermatic's trunnions, arbor and motor mount assembly are heavier than those on other saws..."

"Powermatic gets our Editors' Choice award as best cabinet saw of the bunch."
American Woodworker, Dec. 1995

REGARDING ARBOR ASSEMBLIES...
"All in all, the Powermatic impressed us more than the other saws in this area. One reason it has almost no runout is its thick, accurately machined inner and outer blade flanges. And, the Powermatic is the only machine with a 3/4"- diameter arbor shaft (milled to 5/8" at the threaded end to accept blades with 5/8" bores). The other machines have 5/8" arbors supported by 5/8" bearings..."

"The biggest, baddest, best-made machine in this test."
WOOD®, Aug. 1997

The above quotes from two of the most respected woodworking magazines in the country clearly demonstrate the superiority of the Powermatic 66 Table Saw when comparisons are made with any other table saw in its class. No mention was made of the left tilt saw blade that Powermatic developed and has used for over forty years, (and is only now being introduced by the other guys as one of their main features). Certainly, the left tilt saw blade makes cleaner cuts and is safer, but the experts who conduct comparative saw tests realize that performance comes from the **inner** structure of a saw. This is where the 66 is way ahead of the pack because the basic requirement of any table saw is its ability to hold the blade accurately in position during the cutting operation.

In support of this, the 66 weighs an average 189 lbs. more than the competition. Most of that poundage can be found in the Powermatic trunnion. This one-piece, heavy cast iron body delivers rock-solid, vibration-free performance. And don't be fooled by the competition saying they use three belts to drive their machines and Powermatic uses only two—a fact we readily admit. Do you know why we only use two belts? Because the two 3VX belts we use are a much higher grade than the competitions, transmit more horsepower, and run much cooler which in turn is easier on the arbor and bearings. Team up the 66 with the all new ACCU-FENCE® by Powermatic, and you have the best saw system in America!

Enough said? Not by a long shot! Go to your local dealer and get all the facts on the 66 Table Saw, and while you're there, get in on the great savings, including a $200.00 savings bond, offered by Powermatic.

**SAVE**

**$575.00**

*OFFER EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1997*

Includes: $200.00 Savings Bond and $375.00 worth of FREE options.
*Motor cover (not shown)*
*26" x 36" Extension table*
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*Dado insert*
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Made in the U.S.A.
With all the wonderful entries you WOOD® magazine readers entered in our 1996 Build-A-Toy® contest, it’s a wonder that the judges ever managed to pick winners. See the photos on these pages and try to imagine what they went through!

There were trucks (as always), tractors (you bet), airplanes, riding toys, rocking horses, puzzles, doll toys, pull toys (some great ones), scaled-down woodworking machines (nifty), some remarkable models, and you name it. Unfortunately, every entry couldn’t claim a prize, but every one of them did help make a child

Frank Ryan’s maple, 16-piece “Imagine-A-Toy” won Best Toy Entry. With it, a child could build at least a dozen toys.

Home hobbyist Larry Weaver entered a magnificently crafted tractor and disc that captured Grand Prize in his division.

Jack Dalton won First Prize in Home Hobbyist with his 30”-long 1934 Chevy pickup.

The brightly painted fire truck by home hobbyist Bob Schnare earned him Second Prize.
happy at Christmas. That’s because at the Crafted for Joy toy auction last November, the entries raised enough cash to buy nearly $20,000 in new toys for donation to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots drive. (See the list of top auction money raisers on page 82.)

Of course, there were some readers who had entered before—like pros Mike Jagielo, Neil Seely, and Dee Cook, plus home hobbyists Larry Weaver, Jack Dalton, and George Cole—and chanced up more wins this year. But it was first-time entrant Frank Ryan, of Eugene, Oregon, who captured the contest’s top prize with his creative and finely crafted “Imagine-A-Toy” as shown, far left, opposite page.

The budding woodworkers in the Junior Craftsman division (new for 1996) did a great job, too. Just look at Kentuckian Elton Eby’s heavy-duty, working crane shown in the photo below right. And then there was that woodshop class from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania’s Intermediate School—their little trains indicated fine young talent at work.

In case you’re curious about how the judges selected winners (see the complete list on page 82), here’s the Build-A-Toy criteria: originality, durability, craftsmanship, kid appeal, safety, and finish. Meeting them always presents quite a challenge. Those that don’t lose points.

As you can see, it takes all kinds of entries to make a great contest.

So why not give it a whirl? You’ve still got time to enter the 1997 version of Build-A-Toy. The deadline for entries is September 1. And you’ll have the chance to win over $22,000 in woodworking tools and supplies. Plus, your entry automatically makes you eligible for a bonus prize drawing. (See the October 1996 issue of WOOD magazine for rules, entry form, and prize details. Or write Build-A-Toy, WOOD Magazine, 1912 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309-3379 for all you need to enter. Fax 515/284-2115.)

To all who entered the 1996 Build-A-Toy contest, we at WOOD offer a round of applause. To those thinking of entering for 1997, we urge you on (and get started soon).
What is resawing?
Woodworkers routinely perform two sawing operations when sizing stock—ripping, which reduces a board’s width, and crosscutting, which reduces its length. But there’s a third way to cut stock down to size—resawing, which reduces its thickness, shown below left. Though less commonly practiced, resawing is just as useful as ripping or crosscutting. You can resaw standard ¾" or ½"-thick boards into ⅛", ⅜", or even thinner stock for small projects.

Which saw for resawing?
At first glance, the bandsaw would seem best suited to slicing edgewise through a board. But a tablesaw equipped with a resawing jig like the one shown in use above offers several advantages, even when cutting wide stock. The table saw’s biggest plus is its rigid, true-running blade. It doesn’t wander through the wood, as even a wide bandsaw blade will. Though the tablesaw cuts a wider kerf than the bandsaw, it leaves a much smoother surface. (We found that a 24-tooth, carbide-tipped rip blade does the best job.) You probably would plane or sand away almost as much wood making the bandsawn stock ready for use. And, less planing and sanding means the job goes faster and easier.

The trick to resawing on a tablesaw is, of course, safely guiding stock that’s standing on its narrowest surface past the blade. A simple jig will help you do this without twisting or tilting the stock, which would cause binding, burning, and kickback.

Here’s how to build the jig
The resawing jig has two main assemblies, the base and the fence, shown in the Exploded View drawing on page 12.

Build the base first. Cut a flush-fitting wood insert (A) for your tablesaw’s throat. Next, cut the jig table (B) to fit between the miter-gauge slots on your saw. Lower the blade all the way, then lay the insert into the saw throat and clamp the jig table in position on the saw table.

Continued on page 12
FLIP THE SAW. NOT THE WORK.

Now, you don’t have to pick up your material and flip it around to make the bevel cut you need. The new DW708 Sliding Compound Miter Saw bevels both left and right. And, to end frustration with out-of-square corners, the DW708 bevels beyond 45° to 48° in both directions. With unmatched vertical and horizontal capacity, the DW708 makes cuts other miter saws can’t. The tall fence allows you to cut molding up to 5-1/4” standing vertically against the fence. And, the saw glides smoothly on dual vertical rails utilizing a linear ball bearing and bronze guides to easily cut stock up to 12” wide. The easy-to-see stainless steel miter scale has eleven positive stops and an unprecedented cam-action miter locking system. It’s not just a miter saw. It’s a DEWALT. For more information, call 1-800-4-DEWALT.
Start the saw, and elevate the blade to full height, cutting a kerf through A and B. Shut off the saw, and screw the jig table to the insert. With a handsaw, lengthen the kerf behind the blade to accept the splitter (C). Draw lines to extend the kerf in front of the blade, and drill a 1/8" hole between them for the guide pin (D). Cut out the splitter and a piece of 1/4" dowel for the guide pin. Chamfer the leading edge of the splitter, and glue it in place.

Cut fence parts E, F, and G from 3/4" plywood. Cut the slots and the rabbet where shown on part F, and round the upper corners. Glue and screw E and F together at exactly 90°. Glue and screw the braces (G) in place.

Cut the upper guide parts (H and I) and the 1/8" and 1/16" spacers (J) to size. Chamfer the leading edge of part H. Drill and countersink two holes through part H, spaced to match the slots in part F. Epoxy-glue a pair of 1/4"x2 1/2" flathead machine screws into the holes, and glue part I over the heads. Notch the spacers (J) to match the slot spacing.

Drill and countersink two holes where shown in part F. Epoxy 1/4"x2 1/2" flathead machine screws into the holes for spacer storage.

Resawing with the jig

Place the base assembly on your saw table, and raise the blade to about 1 1/2" above the surface. Select a spacer or combination of spacers equal to the thickness you want for the resawn stock. To allow extra thickness for final surfacing, add a thin plastic or cardboard spacer (about 1/16").

Sandwich the spacers between the fence and the saw blade, as shown right. Ensure that the fence stands at 90° to the base; if it doesn’t, shim it. Clamp the fence in place, and remove the spacers from behind the blade.

Insert the spacers between the upper guide and the fence, and tighten the wing nuts. Remove the guide pin from the base.

Set up a feather board as shown. Lower the saw blade to 1/8" above the surface (it needs to be higher than the top of the splitter), and make the first cut. Feed the stock with a pushstick.

For the next cut, flip the stock end for end, keeping the same face against the fence. Bring the upper guide down to engage the kerf in the stock. (The upper guide holds the top of the sawn stock against the fence.) Saw the next pass, then install the guide pin in the base. (This helps prevent saw gougcs on the end of the stock.) Continue cutting alternate edges, raising the blade for each succeeding pass.

Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine; Lorna Johnson Photographs: Dean Tanner

WOOD MAGAZINE OCTOBER 1997
IN ADDITION TO FURNITURE AND CABINETRY, IT'S ALSO QUITE GOOD AT BUILDING REPUTATIONS.

The Craftsman Plunge Router. It has a 3 1/2 HP Soft-Start Motor to eliminate jumpping. Infinite depth settings. Electronic speed control to adjust to wood hardness. And handle-mounted fingertips controls. Add to that a selection of over 200 different router bits and accessories and you won't just be working wood, you'll be working miracles.

Craftsman
Exclusively at Sears and Sears Hardware Stores
ONE SOUPED-UP BANDSAW

Dust control from down under

When building WOOD magazine projects, we make each tool work extra hard. To make our bandsaw more efficient, we mounted a Sears outlet switch (part no. 60382, Division 9, source no. 113) and connected a three-outlet adapter to one end as shown in the photo at right. By just flipping the one switch, we can turn the bandsaw, light, and vacuum all at one time on or off.

For dust control, we've fitted the base cavity of our Delta 14" bandsaw stand with a Sears Craftsman Portable Wet/Dry Vacuum (cat. no. 113.177571) as shown below right. Then, we connected it to our bandsaw dust port with 2 1/4" flexible hose (we cut the 10'-long hose to 3') and adapters (cat. no. 16909). Although not necessary, we enclosed the vacuum to make it less noticeable and reduce the noise. If your bandsaw base doesn't have room for a vacuum, set the vacuum alongside and still make use of the switch and three-saw adapter.

Project Design: Chuck Hedlund; Erv Roberts  Illustration: Lorna Johnson; Kim Downing  Photographs: Studio Au
2-HP MOTOR. CAST-IRON BODY. RAZOR-SHARP TEETH. IT'S ENOUGH TO TURN MIGHTY OAKS INTO WEEPING WILLOWS.

FOR QUICK, REPETITIVE CUTS, PUT THE POWER OF A CRAFTSMAN CONTRACTOR SERIES COMPOUND SLIDE MITER SAW TO WORK FOR YOU. IT'S BUILT RUGGED WITH A DIRECT-DRIVE MOTOR. AN ELECTRIC BRAKE THAT STOPS THE BLADE IN SECONDS.

AND WITH MITER STOPS AT 0°, 22.5° AND 45°, IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH SAW TO MAKE ANYONE HAPPY. UNLESS,

OF COURSE, YOU HAPPEN TO BE A TREE.

CRAFTSMAN EXCLUSIVELY AT SEARS AND SEARS HARDWARE STORES
Transfer patterns with lacquer thinner

When I first started chip carving, I enjoyed every aspect except one—transferring the detailed pattern to the workpiece. I tried “ironing” a photocopy onto the wood, but I didn’t like the results. So, I came up with my own method that works great for both detailed and simple patterns.

First, I wipe down the workpiece lightly with a rag dipped in lacquer thinner. Then, I immediately press a photocopy of the pattern face down on the damp surface. The lacquer thinner slightly dissolves the photo-copy’s toner, leaving a crisp outline of the pattern on the wood.

On patterns with lettering, you need to make an intermediate pattern or the letters will come out backwards. I make this “reverse” pattern first on a sheet of acetate film used with overhead projectors. Then, I put this acetate copy upside down in the copier, and make a paper photocopy of it. When I apply this copy to the workpiece, the lettering transfers correctly. If your copier has a manual setting, I’ve also found that “light” copies transfer better than “dark” ones.

—Paul W. Tidwell, Huntsville, Texas

Sign-out board solves missing tool mysteries

I’m more than happy to loan tools to a friend or family member. But sometimes, I have trouble remembering who’s borrowed what when it comes time to reclaim a tool for one of my projects. To solve such mysteries, I hung a clipboard with a sign-out sheet next to the door of my shop. Before a tool goes out the door, the name of the borrower, and the date borrowed, goes on the sheet so I know who to call when I need it back.

—Denny Feller, Strasburg, Ohio

Continued on page 18
THE NEW RYOBI DETAIL BISCUIT JOINER

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WOODWORKING AND WOODNOTWORKING.

Staples, dowels, and glue won't do. Standard-size biscuits won't fit.

So how can you make neat, tight, professional joints even in small stock? With Ryobi's new Detail Biscuit Joiner, that's how.

Standard biscuits stick out of small joints, and the mis-match shows, even after you trim the excess.

The new Ryobi Detail Biscuit Joiner uses miniature "Accu-biscuits" for neat, tight, professional joints.

This compact powerhouse cuts smaller slots and uses miniature "Accu-biscuits™" to fit where standard biscuits don't. And its price is as small as its biscuits. But the Detail Biscuit Joiner is big on performance, from its beefy motor to its die-cast base and see-through fence. So see the new Ryobi Detail Biscuit Joiner at your local home center. It'll get your wood working like never before.

Ryobi "Accu-biscuits" (actual size).

The Ryobi Detail Biscuit Joiner does everything that a bigger tool does, and fits in small joints where a bigger tool won't.

Exceed Your Expectations™

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RYOBI'S FULL LINE OF AFFORDABLE, PRO-FEATURE WOODWORKING TOOLS, CALL 1-800-525-2579 • TWO-YEAR WARRANTY • MADE IN USA
© 1986 Ryobi America Corp.
Chamfer holes to seat screw hole buttons

I often use Shaker pegs and screw hole buttons, and always have trouble getting them to seat firmly on the board. Now, I use a countersink bit to slightly chamfer each hole, which creates a void for glue squeeze-out and helps the buttons seat properly.

—Donald Daily, Paragon, Ind.

Shop vacuum exhaust helps clean, too

When I built my router cabinet, I made the compartment right under the router airtight except for an inlet in the side of the cabinet and the router bit port. Using an extra piece of hose, I connected the exhaust port of my shop vacuum to the cabinet inlet so the exhaust air blows up and out through the router bit port. The extra boost from the exhaust forces wood chips toward the collection hose, which attaches to the fence by the router bit, and helps keep the worktop clean.

—Robert Field, Springfield, Ohio
Smooth & Easy. The Way Clear Finishes & Saturdays Ought To Be.

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Warning system halts loose bits
Imagine my surprise when a 1" rotary carving burr—spinning at 18,000 rpm—escaped the collet of my carving tool and went “on tour” around my workshop. Lucky for me, it wasn’t hungry for meat. That moment inspired me to come up with a warning system. I use a red felt-tip marker to color the portion of the shank normally covered by the collet. If that color appears while I’m carving, I know the bit has worked itself loose. I immediately shut off the tool—while leaving the burr against the wood—before disaster strikes.

—Dick Chenoweth, Conyers, Ga.

TIPS FROM YOUR SHOP (AND OURS)
Continued from page 18

Use holesaw near edge to give sawdust an escape route
I’ve used a holesaw many times in the past to cut out wheels for toys. And almost always, sawdust would clog the saw, the wood would burn, and smoke would fill my shop.

Now, I position the holesaw right at the edge of the stock, creating an escape path for the sawdust. No more clogging, no more smoke.

—John Santoro, Billerica, Mass.

The edge of holesaw should extend just past the edge of the board to provide an exit for sawdust.

—Dick Chenoweth, Conyers, Ga.

Continued on page 22
HELP WANTED: Strong, hardworking, dependable worker to assist in numerous large projects, including, but not limited to sawing, planing, sanding, ripping, routing and cutting. Must be able to press up to 350 lbs. Days, evenings, nights, weekends and holidays. No wimps, please.

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RV table brackets useful for a variety of shop applications

Pegboard and hooks work fine for holding individual tools, but when I wanted to mount some removable parts boxes and racks, I turned to my local recreational vehicle supply outlet. Many RV’s come equipped with tables that mount on a track system that allows you to lift the table off and convert the dining booth into a sleeping berth.

I mounted the track to the wall and box, as shown below, so the box simply lifts off and goes with me to my jobsite. I also installed the track on the end of my workbench to make expanding the worksurface a snap.

—Denny Feller, Strasburg, Ohio

Screw track to wall or cabinet.

Parts box

RV table bracket

Extension

Extension support block

Continued from page 20

Continued on page 24
THE RIGHT ADVANTAGE

45° Bevel Left and RIGHT

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IT'S ALL THE POWER YOU NEED.
Use clamp-on edge guide for straight-edged rip cuts

I tried several methods for ripping rough-edged boards on my tablesaw, with mixed success. Then, while I was using a clamp-on aluminum edge guide and my circular saw to cut up some plywood, it occurred to me that the answer to my ripping dilemma was right in front of me.

Now, to rip a straight edge on a board, I first clamp the edge guide to the workpiece so it overhangs the edge of the board slightly. With the edge-guide lined up firmly against the tablesaw fence, I get straight-edged rips everytime.

By the way, I have a 48"-long Tru-Grip Clamp 'N Tool Guide, available through many woodworking catalog companies. The guide also comes in 24" and 36" lengths.

—Glenn Sperry, Vista, Calif.
The recline of civilization.

A wide stance does more than just make the all-new Dakota look athletic. It increases stability.

We code many of the new Dakota's plastic parts for the day they can be recycled. Because, like you, we think the world of the environment.

You'll find all sorts of happy little surprises in this roomiest-in-class interior. For example, hidden beneath the Club Cab rear seat are storage bins.

We gave the all-new Dodge Dakota quick-ratio, variable-assist power steering, for speedy response and a solid feel.

The front outboard shoulder belts feature five different height adjustments. It's a little convenience that turns into a very big convenience on long trips.

You can opt for a premium Infinity® stereo system with cassette and CD player in the new Dodge Dakota. Eight speakers in six locations kick out some real concert-quality sound.

The new Dakota is the first truck in its class with standard dual airbags. No surprise there.

A dedication to safety is something you've come to expect from Dodge.

We cater to your individual needs ... by offering a driver seat that does, too. Note, for instance, the adjustable lumbar support.

The new Dakota Club Cab's seats can be reclined 27°. So kick back.

You get a genuine forward-facing rear seat in Dakota Club Cab, with enough hip room to seat three across. Your passengers will be beside themselves with comfort.

CDs, cell phones and other everyday necessities can be conveniently stowed away in the new Dakota's optional mini business console.

For more surprising facts, call 1-800-4-A-DODGE, or visit our Web site at http://www.4adodge.com

*Always wear your seat belt for a fully effective airbag. Rearward-facing child seats cannot be used in standard cab models.

The New Dodge Dakota It's full of surprises.
Wrenches make quick, accurate calipers

Rather than constantly readjust my calipers when making small turnings, I keep a set of open-end wrenches at my lathe. The jaws of the wrenches fit into most spots and save me from resetting my calipers, particularly when I do repetitive spindle work.

—Marvin Feldman, Amherst, NY

Free-wheeling floor nozzle keeps on moving

It's great to have a powerful shop vacuum, but I often battled with mine to keep it from sucking the floor nozzle tightly to the shop floor. I solved the problem by mounting a set of small plywood wheels to the underside of the nozzle, as shown below. The wheels roll easily across the floor, even through debris, and keep the nozzle from attaching to the floor.

—Wilbur Rath, Sbiacon, Wis.

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Foam kneeling pad keeps benchtop clear

I recently found something among my gardening tools that works great for organizing workbench clutter. I mounted a foam kneeling pad on the wall above my workbench, as shown below. Files, metal rules, scissors, and other tools slip conveniently into the pad’s hollow tubes.

— Sarah Philips, Houghton, NY.

A FEW MORE TIPS FROM OUR WOODWORKING PROS

• A formal serving tray like the one in our tea cart’s top often comes in handy. If you don’t need the whole tea cart, you can build just the tray from the directions on page 78.
• Oak wainscoting, available at most homecenters, can be used to make beautiful furniture panels, as demonstrated on the futon recliner, page 66.
• See how we designed a special safety latch for our sports locker on page 49. Your child can lock it from the outside, but it easily opens from the inside, even when padlocked.
Making music with a propane torch

I'm in the process of building a fretted dulcimer, and I need to find out how to bend the sides to fit the hourglass shape. Can you help me on this?

—Ralph Lawton, Huntington, W.Va.

That's a tall order, Ralph, but we can help. To make the relatively sharp bends required on the dulcimer sides, you will need to soften the wood fibers. Traditionally, luthiers (stringed instrument makers) bend the sides by applying heat and moisture to the wood while bending the stock with a bending iron.

To do this, set up a bending iron like that shown in the drawing at right. First, sand the coating off of a 6"-long piece of 2" black pipe (not galvanized) and secure it horizontally in a machinist's vise. Next, place the business end of a propane torch inside the pipe so that the flame strikes the bottom. Placing the flame against the bottom generates enough heat on the top side for bending, without making it so hot that you scorch the wood.

Use a wet cloth or sponge to dampen the section of the workpiece you want to bend. Place the wet area against the bending iron, moving slowly from one end of the bend to the other. Apply light downward pressure as you move the side across the iron. The iron will turn the water to steam, allowing you to bend the wood. Add moisture and continue bending until the piece matches the plan.

For an hourglass-shaped dulcimer, like the one shown above, complete the inside bends before moving on to the bends for the upper and lower bouts (wide areas of the body). This method will make the side easier to fit to the pattern as you bend it to shape.

From almost perfect to the perfect finish

I make wooden gameboards, which I finish-sand with 220-grit sandpaper. Then, I wipe down the surface with a tack cloth before applying a water-based polyurethane finish. The finish dries glossy and quite smooth, except for a few bits of matter that mar the surface. What can I use to remove these blemishes and end up with a perfect finish?

—Christopher Clark, Grover Beach, Calif.

Chris, we suggest that you follow your finish sanding by dampening the wood surface with a wet rag. This will raise any grain "feathers" left over from the initial sanding. Follow this by resanding the board with 220-grit sandpaper.

Strain your water-based finish through a filter to remove any globules of cured finish that may cause bumps. Then, apply the finish according to the manufacturer's directions, and allow it to cure.

Smooth the surface with 600-grit wet-or-dry sandpaper, using water as a lubricant. Finally, polish the finish with rottenstone or a commercial polishing compound such as 3M Finesse-It (available from auto-body supply shops) to get that unblemished luster.

Continued on page 30
Split turning solves a problem

I would like to know how to replace a crank handle on an old brace. I can turn a handle on the lathe, but how can I disassemble the brace to put the handle on?

—Muril H. Moss, Fort Washington, Md.

You probably can’t disassemble the old brace Muril. Many of these have a shaft that’s a single piece of steel. Instead, we suggest that you use the split-turning approach to making a replacement handle. Here’s how to do it:

1. Cut two pieces of ¾” stock, 1½” wide by the length of the handle plus 1”.
2. Glue these blocks together with a piece of brown wrapping paper between the faces.
3. Drill the hole for the brace shaft in the center of this lamination.
4. Turn the handle to shape on the lathe. If necessary, reinforce the tailstock end of the block with tape to prevent the lamination from splitting.
5. Separate the two halves at the glue/paper line using a putty knife. Remove the residue of the brown paper by flat-sanding the faces.
6. Place the handle halves on the brace shaft to check the fit. When the fit is right, glue the two halves together on the brace. Sand and finish.
More on dust-collection system grounding

I recently reworked my PVC-pipe dust-collection system while renovating my shop. Being concerned with the build-up of static electricity in this system, I reread the various articles in WOODmagazine on this subject. I still have some questions:

1. How does the grounding of the system work should a "shock" or static spark happen?
2. Do you have to ground the wire at both ends of the system?
3. Can I ground my system to the machinery?

—Pat Leash, Victoria, B.C., Canada

Pat, the grounding system draws off the static electricity. This prevents the kind of "shock" that happens when you kiss your wife after walking across the carpet in your stocking feet.

Static electricity does not require a closed circuit like the electricity we use to run our machines. You just need one point to drain it from the dust-collection system.

Like the telephone and cable companies, we prefer to use a metal waterpipe as a ground. We know the waterpipe passes directly into the earth, where it discharges the static charge.

Power tools don't offer such a clean and simple grounding system. First, to be a good grounding source, the tool must be connected to the ground wire in its power cord. This cord requires a three-prong plug which connects to a three-hole outlet. This in turn must be connected to a three-wire cable or a conduit. Finally, the cable or conduit must be connected to the grounded electrical box.

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<th>BIT STYLE</th>
<th>RAISED PANEL LRG. DIA.</th>
<th>SET PRICE</th>
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Just as salt and freshly ground pepper accent food, our turned pepper mill and salt shaker will enhance your table setting.

Project prep
Lathe equipment: spur or cup drive center, live tail center, 3-4" faceplate.
Turning tools: ¾" roughing gouge, ¾" or ¼" spindle gouge, ½" or ¼" skew.
Stock: 2¼" square stock (we used walnut). The peppermill calls for two pieces, one 5½" long and one 3¼" long. Turn the salt shaker from a piece 6½" long.

Size the stock to start
Cut the stock for the pepper mill and salt shaker. Select your stock for the best possible grain match between the pepper mill's body and top as well as the best color match among all three pieces.

On each part, locate the center on each end by drawing diagonal lines. Mark the centers with an awl or center punch. Install a drive center on your lathe's headstock and a rotating (live) center in the tailstock.

Mount the 5½"-long blank between centers. Round it to about 2½" diameter. (Leaving some flats on the cylinder doesn't pose a problem right now; in fact, those flats can help you during the drilling operation later.)

Mark two lines on the turning, the first one ¾" from the headstock end and the other 5½" from the same end. This defines a section 4¾" long, which will be the pepper mill's body.

About ¾" outside the line at each end of the body, turn the workpiece to ¾" diameter. Then, with a skew chisel or spindle gouge, make a clean cut to the line at each end. Sand the end-grain with 220- and 400-grit sandpaper. Determine which end will be the top of the pepper mill, and dismount the workpiece.

Continued
Dining-Table Duo

Hold the pepper mill blank with a hand-screw clamp as you bore the center hole. Line up the bit with the center mark on the tenon.

The bottom of the blank fits over the tenon on the jam chuck (right). The plug (left) fits into the bottom hole for mounting the bored blank.

Bore the pepper mill blank
Clamp a piece of 3/4"-thick scrapwood to your drill-press table. Bore 1/2" deep into it with a 3/4" Forstner bit.

Now, insert the tenon on the top end of the turning into the hole. Clamp a handscrew onto the body to hold it stationary, as shown above. Chuck a 13/8" Forstner bit into your drill press. Verify that the center of the bit coincides with the center mark on the turning, then bore into the pepper mill body, cutting away the tenon and going 3/8" deep into the body.

Without moving the blank, change to a 1" bit. On the same center as before, bore about halfway through the length of the body. Invert the body, and drill into it from the other end until the holes meet. To drill concentrically, align the bit with the lathe center mark on the end of the remaining tenon.

Complete the mill's body
Remount the bored-out blank on the lathe. To do this, you'll need to construct a jam chuck for the headstock. Here's how.

Bandsaw a disc of 1 1/2-2"-thick scrapwood the same size as your 3-4" lathe faceplate. Attach the disc to the faceplate, mount the faceplate on the lathe, and true the disc's edge and face. Turn a 13/8"-diameter tenon 3/8" long on the disc, as shown at right in the photo above. This tenon must fit snugly into the hole in the bottom of the pepper mill body, so test-fit it as you work.

Mount the workpiece by fitting the large hole in the bottom over the tenon. Engage the live tail center into the 1" hole at the other end. (A conical tail center should hold the end without wobble. If your center doesn't, turn an adapter like the one shown at left in the photo to support the end.)

With the parting tool, cut in to 2 1/4" diameter at several points along the body. Turn the body to 2 1/4" diameter. When measuring finished diameters with calipers, shut off the lathe—pushing the calipers over a spinning workpiece can burnish a line on the turning that will take lots of sanding to remove. Then, referring to the Pepper Mill Full-Sized pattern opposite page, lay out the details on the turning.

Cut in with the tip of a skew to set the depth and width of the two beads near the base and the one at the top. Form the beads with the skew or a gouge.

Cut in with the parting tool to 1 3/4" diameter 3/4" from the top of the body. Then, shape the long curve along the side. Curve the side into the lower beads.

Sand the body. To minimize cross-grain scratches, turn off the lathe and sand along the grain with 220- and 400-grit sandpaper. Apply an oil finish.

Now, turn the top
Mount the 3 1/4"-long blank on the lathe. Place the end that will be the bottom of the part toward the tailstock. Round the stock to about 2 1/4".

Draw a line around the workpiece 1/2" from each end. Slightly outside each line, cut in to 1 1/8" diameter with the parting tool. Turn a 1 1/8" tenon out to each end.

At the top (headstock end), turn the tenon down to 3/4" diameter, to fit the drill-press fixture. Dismount the workpiece, and fit the tenon into the hole in the fixture. Chuck a 1/2" bit into the drill press. Making sure the bit lines up over the center mark on the tenon, drill through the piece.

Remount the workpiece, engaging the tailstock center in the hole in the bottom tenon. If your drive center doesn't hold the drilled blank firmly enough, change to a jaw chuck or construct a jam chuck for the headstock.

Round the piece to 2 3/4" diameter. Referring to the template, lay
out the details where shown on the turning. Shape the side profile, working as far over the top as possible. (You can undercut the tenon, but don't part it off yet.)

Turn the bottom tenon to 1" diameter. The tenon must make a sliding fit in the 1" hole through the body, without being sloppy. (It's safer here to err toward being a smidgen too large. At assembly time if you can't turn the top freely in the body, you can sand the tenon to loosen it.)

With a skew chisel or spindle gouge, cut the tenon shoulder to the line. Sand the end grain with 220- and 400-grit sandpaper.

Rechuck the top
To complete the top, construct a jam chuck to receive the 1" tenon on the bottom of the part. To do

Continued
so, cut a disc of 1-2″-thick scrapwood the same size as your 3–4″ lathe faceplate, and attach it to the faceplate. Mount the assembly on the lathe, and true the disc’s edge and face. Scribe a centered 1″ circle on the disc, and bore a hole inside the circle with a gouge. The top’s bottom tenon must fit snugly into the hole.

Mount the workpiece, and part off the tenon on top. Enlarge the hole to 3/16″ diameter 3/16″ deep to accept the shank of the knob that screws onto the mill shaft. With the tip of a skew, form a 3/16″ rabbet 3/16″ deep around the hole to allow the knob to fit down into the top. (The rabbet will form a 15/32″ counterbore 1/16″ deep around the knob hole.)

Finish-sand the top. Finish the top to match the grinder body.

Assemble the pepper mill
Lay the retaining strap across the bottom of the body, as shown above. Mark around the ends of the strap where the body must be relieved for the strap to fit into the counterbore.

Form the reliefs for the strap ends with a 1/8″ Forstner bit chucked in a drill press. (Or, you can carve the notches with a 1/8″ no. 11 carving gouge.) Lay the strap in place, and drill 3/16″ pilot holes 1/2″ deep through the holes for the mounting screws.

Press the mill housing onto the bottom of the body, aligning the screw slots with the reliefs in the body. Insert the shaft, with the spring in place, through the center hole from the bottom, as shown above. Install the retaining strap with the screws provided.

Attach the drive plate with the square hole to the bottom of the top’s tenon, using the screws furnished. Then, slide the top over the shaft, and screw on the knob. In use, you can adjust the grinder’s coarseness with the knob—tighten it for a finer grind, loosen it for larger chunks of fresh-ground pepper.

A shaker completes the set
Mount the 6″/4″-long piece of stock between centers, and round it down to 2 1/2″. Mark the turning 3/8″ and 6″ from the headstock end. Just outside each line, part in to 3/4″ diameter. Form a tenon on the top—the headstock end—to fit the drill press fixture. True the bottom to the line.

Dismount the turning, and place the top tenon in the drill press fixture. Grip the blank with a hand-screw clamp. Chuck a 13/8″ Forstner bit in the drill press, and center it over the blank. Cut away the bottom tenon with the bit, and bore 1/8″ deep into the blank. Change to a 1″ spade bit, and bore an additional 4 1/2″ into the piece.

Remount the workpiece, engaging the tail center into the hole. Form the profile, referring to the full-sized template on the previous page. Shape the contour as far over the top as possible. Dismount the turning.

Remount the 1 3/8″-tenon jam chuck. Cut into the face of the fixture to lengthen the tenon to 1″. Then, turn it to 1″ diameter to fit snugly into the shaker opening. Mount the turning on the tenon, and shape the top, as shown in the illustration previous page.

Refer to the Shaker Holes drawing, and lay out the pattern for the holes on top of the shaker. Drill the holes with a drill press. Sand and finish, then install the plug.

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**Buying Guide**

**Pepper mill, shaker plug.** Complete pepper mill unit and rubber plug for salt shaker. Item no. WMP700, $7.95 ppd. in U.S. Craft Supplies USA, 1287 E. 1120 S., Provo, Utah 84606, or call 800/551-8876.

Project Design: Thomas Moore
Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson
Photographs: Dean Tanner
Written by Larry Johnston
Beware of snipers.

Practical as they are, most portable planers are notorious snipers. If you're looking to minimize sniping without sacrificing portability, check out Delta's new 12½" Portable Planer (Model 22-560), with its exclusive snipe control lock. Call toll free for the name of your nearest Delta dealer. Delta International Machinery Corp., 800-438-2486. In Canada, 519-836-2486.

http://www.deltawoodworking.com/delta
Food-Safe Finishes

Wondering what type of finish to safely use on bowls, cutting boards, or toys? Nowadays, practically any type does the job. Here, though, is the how-to lowdown on applying the clear, penetrating oil type touted as food-safe.

It's a frequently asked question: What wood finishes are safe for food contact and for children's toys? Unless a finish, including paint, contains lead, practically all of them prove nontoxic when completely cured. But with the heightened concern about the toxicity of wood finishes—and their airborne vapors—it's reassuring to know that there are several clear oil finishes specially formulated (and advertised) to be food-safe, with natural ingredients certified as such by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Behlen Salad Bowl Finish, Preserve Wood Finish, and Butcher Block Oil are three such products that spell relief for woodworkers fearful of making the wrong finishing choice. These clear finishes are proprietary (that means secret) mixtures of nut oils, natural driers, and mineral spirits. Of course, you can't drink them in liquid form, but they're completely safe after curing (72 hours, except for Preserve, which is advertised as safe immediately).

Select dense, fine-grained woods such as hard maple or cherry for food-contact projects, like cutting boards. Fine grain minimizes the tiny pores that can harbor bacteria.

Finishing toy parts before final assembly is a smart tactic. Sanding is easier piece by piece, and you get a smoother, more complete finishing job.
Handling these clear oils takes some technique

after application). You'll also find available nontoxic, solvent-free stains, such as Clearwater Color Stains from Woodworker's Supply, to use under the clear oils. You can use all of these products on butcher blocks, cutting boards, utensils, toys, and other projects that come into contact with food, animals, or children.

There is, however, one drawback to these products. You probably won't find any of these finishes or stains at your local hardware store, so you'll have to order them (see the Buying Guide).

How to apply the oils
Prepare your project for stain or finish by sanding with 220-grit paper. Make sure that the wood is clean, dry, and free of oil or grease. Remove any dust with a tack cloth or vacuum.

Wipe on the oil finish with a lint-free cloth (such as cheesecloth) or sponge in a thin, uniform coat. Wait six hours, then lightly sand the wood with 400-grit sandpaper. Remove the dust and apply a second coat. You can apply more, but you must let each coat dry for 24 hours, then rub it with 0000 steel wool. Then wait 72 hours before using your project, or as directed on the label for each product. (The illustrations on the preceding page and below give you more advice on making and finishing toys, cutting boards, and other projects.)

TIPS TO REMEMBER
- Purchase only enough finish to last for 3-6 months. The material in a partially-filled container sitting on a shelf will begin to gel, and will not flow out well when applied.
- For best results, apply the finish at room temperature.
- Provide a well-ventilated dust-free area for your projects to dry after finishing.

BUYING GUIDE
Behlen Salad Bowl Finish is available at some woodworking specialty stores and from mail-order sources (call 518/843-1380 for a dealer). The Woodworkers' Store (800/279-4441) carries Butcher Block Oil. And Preserve is available from Woodworker's Supply, Inc. (800/645-9292). Check the respective catalogs for prices.

Finish turnings on your lathe, applying finish with a lint-free cloth. Use a light touch and a slow lathe speed.

Inspect your projects by holding them at a glancing angle to a light source. Apply additional finish to areas that appear dry.

Illustrations: Carson Ode
Some Folks Take Life One Step At A Time. Others Take It In Two's.

There's a good reason Laredo® Light Truck Tires are made tough with DuraShield® construction. They're put to the test every day to be as reliable, as dependable and as true as the folks who choose them.
At least once a week I hear from a reader who is ready to plunk down hard-earned cash for a Taiwanese-made woodworking machine. "The low price really tempts me," the inquiry typically goes, "but will I be happy with it? After all, you get what you pay for, right?"

In hopes of helping both myself and WOOD magazine readers gain a fuller understanding of Taiwanese tools, I recently visited the country. While there I checked out 16 factories and met with the representatives of three major companies involved in Taiwan: Delta, Grizzly, and Jet. What I learned during this trip really opened my eyes (even though I've been testing and reporting on Taiwanese-made tools for 10 years). So come along as we visit the other side of the world. I promise you'll find the trip as enlightening as I did. And, you'll be a smarter shopper the next time you're in the tool market.

Bill Krejcir
Assistant Managing Editor

Continued
TAIWAN

How Taiwan manufacturers differ from U.S. producers

While in Taiwan I saw factories that ranged from first- to third-world in sophistication. Some were large, fairly modern plants with well-managed, efficient assembly lines. Others appeared disorganized, where workers sat on boxes, banging together tools, seemingly anywhere they could find an open spot on the floor.

Although I saw some CNC (computer numerically controlled) milling, turning, and sheet-metal-bending equipment, none of the Taiwanese plants were as modern as the U.S. tool factories I’ve visited. Robotic welders, automated powder-coating systems, and laser metal-cutting equipment, all found in tool factories here at home, were not evident on my Taiwan tour.

That’s not to say that Taiwanese factories cannot make high-quality goods—many do. Rather, because of the low cost of labor in Taiwan, plant managers there do not have financial incentive to invest in sophisticated labor-saving devices. (At Rexon, the largest plant in Taiwan producing woodworking machinery, company officials told me employees on the factory floor average $3-$3.50 per hour, and work 44-hour weeks.)

Compared with U.S. manufacturers, little in the way of research and development for woodworking tools goes on in Taiwan. Why? Although there appears to be no shortage of good engineers there, woodworkers and a woodworking-tool marketplace do not exist, for the most part. So, a Taiwanese engineer can attempt to copy an existing U.S. or European-designed machine, but he has little idea about the needs of woodworkers or the nuances of their craft.

Side Note: Although I found no evidence of hobbyist or small-shop woodworking in Taiwan, I witnessed carving being performed by highly skilled local artisans. I picked up the 22"-tall, intricately carved likeness at left (of Da Mo, a Buddhist god, I was told) for $160 at a carving village north of Taichung.

Unlike U.S. plants that typically produce tools only under their own brand names, most Taiwanese plants manufacture for multiple brands. For example, at the Rexon plant I saw mitersaws, tablesaws, drill presses, and scrollsaws being made for about a dozen major U.S. and Japanese brands.

Manual labor costs are much lower in Taiwan than in the U.S. Here, workers weld together bases for Grizzly cabinet saws.
Taiwan is a small (about 70x200 miles), mountainous island located about 100 miles from mainland China. With little in the way of natural resources or farmland, its 22 million inhabitants depend heavily on importing raw materials and exporting manufactured goods.

Today, Taiwanese woodworking machines account for nearly 95 percent of all of the benchtop woodworking machines sold in the U.S., and a big chunk of the miter saw and stationary machine market, too. Nearly all of these tools are made in and around Taichung, a city that prides itself as the machine-shop capital of Taiwan. Indeed, during my visit it seemed there was a machining or manufacturing facility, many no larger than a three-car American garage, at every turn of the head.

Although there are hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of shops in the Taichung area that produce parts for woodworking machines, about 40 major facilities assemble 95 percent of the finished woodworking equipment that reaches U.S. shores.

Which companies make or import tools from Taiwan?

Today, every major U.S.-based manufacturer of power tools has at least one Taiwanese-made product. Each of the four remaining full-line producers of stationary woodworking machines in North-America—Delta, Emerson Electric (Craftsman), General, and Powermatic—have a line of tools from Taiwan. Why? Simple economics. As Mark Schiefer, Delta's director of marketing, explains it: “The fastest growth area in woodworking equipment sales is among hobbyist woodworkers. Since most hobbyists have limited budgets, manufacturers have to sell high-value, affordably priced machines if they want to participate in this growth.”

That's why Delta has been manufacturing tools in Taiwan since 1985. Today, among other products, all Delta mitersaws and benchtop tools come from Taiwan. Likewise, Emerson Electric has overseen the production of many Craftsman machines in Taiwan since 1985. Powermatic began importing its Artisan line of tools in 1989. And in just the past year, the General International line has debuted in Canada.

Continued

Some parts vendors, such as this supplier of aluminum blade housings for mitersaws, use state-of-the-art automated die-cast injecting methods.
Some common myths and realities about Taiwanese tools

No area of the tool business is more rife with myths than the subject of Taiwanese manufacturing. That may happen because Taiwan is half a world away—not a place most people get to visit. No doubt some of the stereotypes about poor quality spring out of the very real fact that a good deal of Taiwanese “junk” has been sold in this country. Once burned, woodworkers don’t soon forget. And they tell their friends about bad experiences. And those friends tell other friends, and pretty soon, the importers and manufacturers of quality Taiwanese equipment are fighting some powerful generalizations.

To get a sense for the types of things on woodworkers’ minds, I simply clicked my computer onto WOOD® Online™, our woodworking discussion group on the Internet. Here’s a sampling of what I found during a 3-month period:

- **Myth:** There are only three Taiwanese factories. Factory A makes high-quality goods, factory B produces medium-quality stuff, and factory C manufactures junk.

- **Myth:** Tool X looks just like Tool Y, so they must be the same tool in every respect.

- **Fact:** A company can get high-, medium-, or low-quality goods out of a single factory. It depends entirely on how much the buyer supervises the manufacturer.

As Nevin Craig, Delta’s president, told me: “If you don’t have your own people in Taiwan to work closely with these manufacturers, and watch them every step of the way, they will cut corners to save on costs. At Delta we control the manufacturing process from soup to nuts.”

Grizzly Imports, which previously relied on its Taiwanese trading company to conduct manufacturing inspections, recently shifted to U.S.-supervision of its inspectors. “That way, our Taiwanese factories will have American input about what Americans expect in machinery, instead of relying on what Taiwanese think Americans expect,” said Bill Crockett, manager of quality control for Grizzly.

Every U.S.-based manufacturer and importer that I spoke with agreed that careful monitoring of the Taiwanese factory is essential. Bill Taylor, vice president of DeWalt’s machinery business, said: “Many companies simply call a Taiwanese supplier and say ‘Give me a planer.’ That’s it. And they get burned.” To ensure the quality of its only product now made in Taiwan, DeWalt has one quality engineer and two inspectors devoted solely to its model DW733 12½” portable planer being made by Geetech.

The armature assemblies of universal motors roll off Taiwanese assembly lines by the thousands every day.
Some questions to ask before you buy

Ultimately, the only way to know how well a Taiwanese tool will perform is to try it yourself, ask someone who has tried it, or follow the recommendations of published tool reviews. If none of those options are available to you, ask the following questions:

• Are replacement parts readily available?
A general rule of business says that a manufacturer or importer should carry an inventory of parts not exceeding a certain percentage of total sales. So, large companies are more likely to carry significant parts inventories than small companies. If you have concerns about the availability of parts, ask the manufacturer or importer about its level of parts inventory, and where the parts are stored. Also, ask about the turnaround time for key parts.

• Does the tool company have a strong quality-control program in place, including a U.S.-supervised staff in Taiwan?
Delta, with a staff of 20, and Jet, with seven employees, have two of the largest staffs in Taichung. During my tours, I saw inspectors for both of these companies at work in the factories of their various suppliers. "In Taiwan, the attitude of many manufacturers is that 'Quality is the responsibility of the purchaser,' and that's very important to understand when you do business there," according to Cliff Rickmer, vice president of operations for Jet.

Here are several other companies with Taichung staffs employed by the U.S. company: Black & Decker (DeWalt), Emerson Electric (Craftsman), Grizzly, Ryobi, and S-B Power Tools (Skil, Bosch, and Dremel).

• Is the owner's manual thorough and written in clear English?
Even if you don’t pay much attention to the owner’s manual when you unpack a tool, this may be the single most important clue that the importer is or isn’t paying attention to the tool. If you can’t make heads or tails of the manual, that’s because the importer is depending on the Taiwanese factory to supply it. And if the importer doesn’t have control over the manual, how much control do you suppose it has over the manufacturing process for the tool?
This must-build project has an outstanding one-two combination: easy construction and safety. We designed a special safety latch that your child can securely lock from the outside, but easily opens from the inside—even when padlocked!

Start with the sides and legs
1 Rip and crosscut the sides (A), back (B), and the top/bottom (C) from ¾"-thick plywood (we used birch) to the sizes listed in the Bill of Materials.
2 Referring to the Exploded View drawing for reference, mark and cut the notch on the bottom end of each side (A).
3 Rip and crosscut the leg blocks (D) to size. Glue and clamp them to the inner face of the sides (A) where shown on the Exploded View drawing.
4 Glue and nail the top and bottom (C) to the back (B).
5 Lay the assembly (B, C) on its side, and apply glue to the edges that are facing up. Then, place one of the sides (A) on the assembly, and nail it in position. Use a framing square to check the assembly. Turn the assembly over, and glue and nail the other side (A) in place. Immediately remove excess glue.

Next, make the shelf, supports, and door stops
1 From ¾"-thick plywood, cut the shelf side supports (E), back support (F), and shelf (G) to size. Fill any voids in the edges of the plywood that will be exposed after assembly (we used Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty). Then, sand the parts smooth.
2 Lay the side supports (E) and the back support (F) faceup on your
workbench, and carefully center a brass single-prong robe hook (Stanley No. CD80-4025) on each of the three supports. Mark the centerpoints of the mounting holes with an awl or pencil. Drill the holes to match the screws furnished with the brass hooks.

3 Glue and nail the back shelf support (F) to the back (B). Then, glue and nail the side shelf supports (E) to the sides (A) where shown on the Exploded View and Assembly View drawings. Do not attach the brass hooks now; wait until after you've painted the locker.

4 Cut the bottom and top door stops (H, D) to size, miter-cutting the top end of the bottom door stop (H) to 30°.

5 Temporarily nail the door stops (H, D) 13½° in from the front edge of the side (A) where shown on the Exploded View and the Side Section portion of the Assembly View drawings. The gap between the two is for the latch.

**Bill of Materials**

| Part | Finished Size | Matl. Qty.
|------|---------------|-------------
| A sides | ⅛" 16" 72" | BP 2
| B back | ¾" 16½" 67" | BP 1
| C top/ bottom | ¾" 15½" 16½" | BP 2
| D leg blocks | 1½" 2½" 5" | P 4
| E side supports | ¾" 4" 11½" | BP 2
| F back support | ¾" 4" 16½" | BP 1
| G shelf | ¾" 12½" 16½" | BP 1
| H bottom door stop | ¾" ¾" 34" | B 1
| I top door stop | ¾" ¾" 29½" | B 1
| J door | ¾" 16½" 69½" | BP 1
| K handle | ¾" 1¾" 4" | B 1
| L latch support | ¾" 1¾" 2 | B 1
| M rear latch | ¾" 1" 6" | B 6

*Cut parts marked with an * oversized. Trim to finished size according to the how-to instructions.

**Materials Key:**
- BP—birch plywood
- P—pine or fir
- B—birch

**Supplies:**
- 3-2½" offset cabinet hinges (Stanley No. 1587), 3-brass single-prong robe hooks with screws (Stanley No. CD80-4025), 3d finish nails, 6d finish nails, 1½x12" aluminum bar stock, 2-8x1¼ roundhead wood screws, 1-8x1½ roundhead wood screw, 1-8x2½ roundhead wood screw, 1-8x1½ flathead wood screws, 1-1/4" fender washer, 1-1/2" flat washer, primer, paint.
Now, make the door and the wooden latch parts

1. Cut the door (J) to size from 3/4"-thick plywood.
2. Mark the mortise locations on the door for the hinges (we used Stanley No. 1587, a 2 1/2" offset cabinet hinge) where dimensioned on the Door portion of the Assembly View drawing. Cut the mortises.
3. Mark the centerpoints for the 3/16" holes for the top and bottom of the slot in the door (J) where shown on the Door Latch Template on the WOOD PATTERNS® insert in the center of the magazine. (Or, cut the template from the pattern pack and adhere it to the front face of the door with spray adhesive.) Then, drill the holes. Chuck a 3/16" straight bit into your router, and clamp a straight edge to the door (J) to guide the router. Then, rout the waste between the two holes to form the 3/16"-wide slot. (We routed it in three passes, lowering the bit 1/4" for each pass.)
4. Mark the location of the 1/8"-wide slot for the lock bar on the door where shown on the template on the pattern insert. Drill a series of 1/4" holes to remove most of the waste, then finish forming the slot with a utility knife.
5. To make the handle (K), cut a handle blank measuring 3 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 12". Chuck a 1/2" core-box bit into your table-mounted router, and set the bit 3/16" above the table. Clamp a fence to the table 5/8" from the center of the bit. Next, clamp stops to the fence to make a 3"-long stopped cut approximately centered along the length of the blank. (Verify your setup on scrap stock first.) Turn on the router, and holding the blank against the fence and right stop, lower the blank onto the bit. Move it to the left stop, then raise it off the cutter. Turn the blank over (not end-for-end), and repeat. See the photo below left for reference.
6. Mark the 4" finished length of the handle (K) on the blank, centering the routed recess, then cut it to length.
7. Set your tablesaw’s fence to center a 1/8" kerf in the thickness of the handle blank. Then, clamp the blank to scrap stock to safely support the piece while cutting a slot 1" deep into one end of the handle blank. Mark 1/2" radii on the handle where shown on the Handle drawing in the pattern insert. Bandsaw and sand to shape. Then, rout a 1/8" round-over where shown.
8. Rip and crosscut the latch support (L) to 13/16" x 2" from 3/4" birch.

Simulated louvers are a decorative touch

1. To make the louvers (M), start with a birch blank 3/4" x 2" x 25". Rout 1/2" round-overs along all edges of the blank. Rip a 1/2"-thick strip from each routed edge.
2. Crosscut six 6"-long louvers from the strips. Mark a 3/4" radius at each end on the back side of one louver. Bandsaw just to the waste side of the line, then disc-sand to the line. Use this completed louver (M) as a template to mark the other blanks, then cut and sand each one to shape.
3. Referring to the dimensions on the Door portion of the Assembly View.
DOOR LATCH ASSEMBLY (INSIDE VIEW)

STEP 1
- Locate the position of the latch support (L) on the door (J).
- Secure the latch support to the door with the aluminum latch in place.
- Attach the handle (K) to the door so it slides easily up and down and raises and lowers the aluminum latch.
- Screw the lock bar to the door.

STEP 2
- #8 x 1 1/4" R.H. wood screws
- #6 x 5/8" F.H. wood screw
- 1/4" washer
- #6 x 1 1/2" R.H. wood screw
- 1/8" round-over on front edges only
- 1/4" pilot hole 3/4" deep
- 1/8" pilot hole 3/4" deep
- 3/8" holes
- Handle bar epoxied in place.
- Lock bar fits through 1/8" slot in door.

STEP 3
- Use a scrapwood block to aim the force of hammer blows at the bending line.
- Latch pieces. Using the hinges, screw the door in place.
- Slide the screws through the 3/16" slot in the door and into the back side of the handle (K) where shown on the Door Latch Assembly drawing. Drive the screws, but do not overtighten them. The handle must be free to slide up and down. In the down position the 3/8" hole in the aluminum handle bar must align with the 3/8" hole in the lock bar. Move the handle up, and the 2 1/2" round-head wood screw in the handle should lift the aluminum latch, allowing the door to open. The latch slides along the back edge of the bottom door stop (H). You may need to adjust the height of the door stop (H). Once properly located, glue and nail it in place.

A bit of metalworking, then add the finish

1. Make photocopies of the patterns for the aluminum handle bar, latch, and lock bar shown on the WOOD PATTERNS® insert. Adhere the paper patterns to 1/8x1" aluminum stock (we purchased ours at a local hardware store) with spray adhesive. Center-punch all hole centerpoints, then drill to the size stated.

2. Cut the three aluminum pieces to shape. (We used a bandsaw with a 1/4" blade with 14 teeth per inch, but a hacksaw also would work.) Finish forming the radii with a file or on a stationary disc sander. Remove all burrs with a file or sandpaper.

3. To bend the aluminum lock bar, clamp the end with the 3/8" hole into a metalworking vise. Position the bending line on the pattern flush with the top of the vise jaw. Use a hammer and block of wood as shown in the photo above right to bend the piece. Remove the paper patterns from the pieces.

4. epoxy the aluminum handle bar into the slot in the handle (K).

5. Assemble the door latch components, following the sequence in the Door Latch Assembly and Door Latch Mechanism drawings. Screw the latch support (L) to the back side of the door.

6. Fill all nail holes and any voids in the plywood edges, and sand smooth. Mask the aluminum latch pieces, and paint the locker, door, and handle as desired. (We used a gloss enamel.) Attach the coat hooks to the inside of the locker.

View drawing, glue the louvers (M) in place, and weight them down until the glue dries.

4. screw the hinges into their mortises in the door (J), then attach the hinges to the side (A).

Written by Robert J. Sottich  Project Design: James R. Downing  Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine  Photographs: Bill Hopkins; John Hetherington

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TWO GOOD WAYS TO ROUT

With the help of a router table, you can quickly and precisely cut one or more parallel slots or rabbets into a workpiece. And, with either of the two procedures shown here, you can precisely stop those cuts workpiece after workpiece.

First, a few basics
Many different router-bit profiles work well for making stopped cuts. Just a few of them: V-groove bits for one or more parallel veins, round-nose or “core-box” bits for cutting flutes, and dovetail bits for sliding-dovetail joints.

Most of the time, though, you’ll use a straight or spiral bit to make square-walled cuts with flat bottoms. Depending on the application, you might be cutting a groove, rabbet, or mortise. For simplicity’s sake, we’ll refer to all of these cuts as “slots.”

For both of the procedures described here, you need to start by doing two things. First, adjust the height of the router-table bit for the necessary cutting depth. (For deep mortises you may need to set the bit at a low starting height and make the cut in a series of passes.) Then, depending on where you want the cut to fall on the width of the workpiece, set the fence the necessary distance from the bit.

A fast, low-tech procedure for single workpieces
When you have just a few workpieces to machine, and the length and position of your slots can vary by up to \(\frac{3}{16}\)" or so, try this quick-and-easy way to get the job done.

1. Mark the position of the cut onto the workpiece. Then, transfer the location of the end marks of the cut to the adjoining surface of your workpiece as shown below. Next, transfer the marks to the surface opposite the surface to be cut.

2. Use a square to mark the diameter of your router bit onto the router-table fence. Rotate the router bit so that when you butt the square up to it, you mark the full cutting diameter.

How to get on-the-money results with multiple pieces
For fast and extremely accurate results with multiple workpieces, take a few minutes to position and clamp two stopblocks to the router-table fence. You can make the stopblocks from scrapwood. Just be sure to notch one corner. This provides a place for sawdust to go so that your workpieces firmly contact the stopblock.

1. On a piece of scrap the same length as your workpiece, mark the position of the slot. Now, measure from the left end of the slot to the right end of the scrap. Use this measurement to locate a stopblock on the fence, measuring to the right from the left edge of the router bit. For example, the left end of the mortise shown at right is \(1\frac{1}{8}\)" from the right end of the scrap. So, we clamped the stopblock \(1\frac{1}{8}\)" from the left edge of the router bit.
STOPPED CUTS

3 Turn on the router and place the workpiece against the fence, with its left end suspended and its right end resting on the router table. Now, slowly lower the workpiece completely onto the router bit, with the workpiece's left mark about 1/2" to the left of the left mark on the fence as shown below.

4 Carefully slide the workpiece to the right so the left mark on the workpiece and left mark on the fence align. This short, so-called "climb cut" goes opposite of typical feed direction, so go slow for safety and accuracy.

5 Now, slide the workpiece from right to left until the right marks on the workpiece and fence align. Then, slide the workpiece about 1/4" to the right and lift the workpiece straight up, being careful to keep it in firm contact with the fence. On slots more than 1" deep, switch off the router before removing the workpiece.

2 On the same piece of scrap wood, measure from the right end of the mortise to the left end of the scrap (2 5/8" in the example below). Use this measurement to position and clamp the left-side stopblock. As shown, we set the left-side stopblock exactly 2 5/8" from the right edge of the router bit.

3 Start the router and place the scrap piece against the right-side stopblock as shown below, and lower the piece onto the bit. Slide the piece to the left until it contacts the left-side block, then slide it back and forth to ensure a complete cut. Lift it straight up and measure the position of the slot. Adjust the stopblocks as necessary before cutting your workpieces.

You may find that some workpieces are too long to rout using your current router-table fence. In that case, either make a longer fence, or attach stopblocks to the workpiece and cut the slots with a handheld router outfitted with an edge guide.

Written by Bill Krier with Jan Svec  Illustrations: Jim Stevenson
MOBILE SANDING

Believe it or not, we designed this space-saving project almost 3 years ago for Idea Shop 2. But, in the rush to get everything done, we forgot to schedule it into an issue. Better late than never, though, right? Actually, the project has gotten better since we brought it into the WOOD® magazine shop. Project builder Chuck Hedlund has figured out a way to connect all three sanding machines via clear plastic blast gates to a shop vac. It’s hard to find dust around here anymore.

Note: See the January 1995 issue (#76) for building the two-wheeled mower shown below left. Or, for a photocopy of the article, send $3 and a self-addressed stamped envelope with $.32 postage to WOOD Magazine’s Tool Mover, 1912 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309-3379.

Start with the plywood carcass
1 Cut the left-hand side panel (A) and right-hand side panel (B) to the sizes listed in the Bill of Materials from ¾” birch plywood. Note that side B is ¼” shorter than side A to allow for clearance when using the tool mover to move the cabinet.
2 Cut the bottom panel (C) and back panel (D) to size. Cut a ¾” x 6” taper at the bottom right-hand corner of the back panel to match the one you will cut in the face frame later. (See the Face Frame drawing for reference. When assembling the cabinet later, the
tapers must be directly across from each other. The tapers allow the casters to come in contact with the floor without the corners of the back panel and face frame rubbing against the floor when moving the cabinet.)

3 Mark the location of the rabbits, grooves, and dadoes on the inside face of the plywood side panels (A, B). Cut or rout them to the sizes listed on the Side Panel drawing. (We fitted our tablesaw with a dado blade and wooden auxiliary rip fence. Then, we test-cut scrap pieces of plywood first to verify a snug fit of the mating plywood pieces and the shelf standards in their respective rabbits, dadoes, and grooves.)

4 Cut the cleats (E) and supports (F) to size.

5 Dry-clamp the carcass (A–F) in the configuration shown on the Exploded View drawing. Don’t worry about the two center supports (F). You’ll add them later. Adjust the size of any piece now for a square assembly.

6 Glue and clamp the plywood panels, cleats, and supports together, and check for square. Mount the side supports (F) so they position the cleats (E) flush with the top edges of the plywood panels. See the Screw-Hole detail accompanying the Exploded View drawing for reference.

The face frame comes next

1 Cut the face frame rails (G, H) to size. Now, cut the stiles (I) and mullion (J) to size.

2 Dry-clamp the face frame together, and check its fit against the front of the carcass. The outside edges of the face frame should be flush with (or even extend a fraction past) the outside surfaces of the side panels (A, B).

3 With the face frame still clamped together, use the Face Frame drawing for reference, and mark dowel-hole alignment marks on the face frame.

4 Remove the clamps, and use a doweling jig to drill $\frac{3}{8}''$ holes where marked. Glue, dowel, and clamp the frame together, checking for square and flatness.

5 Mark and cut the tapered bottom corner on the face frame.

6 Clamp the face frame to the front of the carcass. Glue and clamp the two remaining supports (F) face-to-face with the edges and ends flush. Later, drill mounting holes through the top of the cleats and through the back side of the back panel (D) to secure the 1$\frac{1}{2}''$-thick center support in place. Be careful to center it from side to side so identically sized drawers will fit in the openings later.

The laminated and banded top comes next

1 Cut the top pieces (K) to size plus 1" in length and width. Glue and clamp the pieces face-to-face to form the 1$\frac{1}{2}''$-thick top. Later, trim the laminated top to finished size ($22\frac{1}{4}''\times40\frac{1}{2}''$).

2 Rip and miter-cut the banding pieces (L, M) to size. Drill evenly spaced mounting holes where
A pair of drawers for plenty of pull-out storage

Note: To accommodate the drawer slide hardware, the drawers need to be 1" narrower than the openings. Our openings measure 18", and our drawers measure 17" wide. If your openings are different, adjust the drawer width accordingly. If you plan on placing a vacuum in the cabinet, you’ll need to make one drawer 5" shorter than the other to allow room to run the vacuum hose through the laminated top (K).

1. From ¼"-thick solid birch, cut the drawer fronts (N) to size. Cut or rout the rabbets and groove along the back side of each drawer front to the sizes shown on the Drawer drawing.

2. Drill mounting holes through each drawer front for adding the pulls. (We used 3/8" wire pulls.)

3. From ½"-thick birch, cut the drawer sides (O) and backs (P) to size. (We planed ¾" stock to ½" thick for these parts.)

4. Dry-clamp the drawers together, measure the opening, and cut the ¼" plywood bottoms (Q) to fit. Glue, clamp, and nail each drawer together in the configuration shown on the Drawer drawing.

Continued on page 106
A simple expression of nature's beauty and balance. The Japanese call it ikebana, the art of flower arranging. And we call this simple-to-build project from designer John Seitz of Harmony, Pennsylvania, impressive, to say the least. It's a great gift item, even for the most discriminating person.

1 You'll need to start with a 3x3" turning square 7" long for the vase body (A). If you don't have stock this size, laminate thinner stock, matching the edge grain carefully to avoid obvious glue lines. (We used mahogany for the vase body.) Crosscut both ends square.

2 Mark diagonals on the top end of the body to find center. Then, holding the 3"-square vase body stable in a large handscrew clamp, use a Forstner bit to drill a 1 3/16" hole 1 3/16" deep, centered in its top.

3 Make two photocopies of the full-sized body (A) pattern at right.

4 Cut the patterns to shape; use spray adhesive to adhere the full-sized photocopied patterns to adjacent surfaces of the body (A). Bandsaw the sinuous V-shaped notch in the center of the body to shape, on the face-grain side only. This is especially important if you laminated thinner stock to form the body. You don't want the glue lines (or edge grain if you used a turning square) facing forward.

5 Follow the outside cutlines to bandsaw the sides of the front face to shape.

6 Use double-faced tape to adhere the pieces of waste with the paper pattern applied to it back to the side of the body. Now, as shown in the photo at right, bandsaw the outside lines on this pattern to cut the front and back to shape.
Cut the outside edges marked on one of the patterns. Then, glue the waste pieces back in place, and bandsaw the outside edges on the adjacent surface.

7 Cut the base (B) to 3x3” from 1/2” stock (we used walnut). Sand both the vase body and base smooth. Do not sand the V-notch.

8 Drill a countersunk mounting hole centered in the bottom of the base and into the center of the body. Screw the base to body. Be sure the screw head is recessed far enough so it will not scratch surfaces the vase is placed on.

9 Apply a clear aerosol finish to the project, being careful not to get too much finish in the notch, possibly creating runs. Rub with steel-wool between coats.

10 Fit the kenzan cup (also known as a flower-holder cup or "frog") into the hole in the vase body. Add a bit of water to the kenzan cup, and arrange a flower or two to your liking.♣

**Buying Guide**

**Kenzan cup.** 1 1/16"-diameter metal cup with spikes to support flowers. One for $8.50 ppd., or three for $19.50 ppd. Side Three Studio, 381 Fanker Road, Harmony, PA 16037.

Written by Marlen Kemmet
Project Design: John Setz
Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoline
Photographs: John Hetherington
Sure, you can buy bigger routers with gobs of power, and smaller routers that practically fit in the palm of your hand. But for all-around usefulness, you'll appreciate one of the midsized plunge routers reviewed here.
For this review we focused on plunge routers that advertise having from 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 horsepower. But, as we discovered early in our tests, advertised horsepower ratings are an inaccurate measure of actual power. Why? Some models with lower hp ratings actually out-muscled a few routers in the high end of our tested range. We soon discovered that rated amperage draw more realistically reflects actual power. So, in the chart at the end of this article, we rate the routers according to amps rather than hp.

What separates these routers from other sizes
Our tested routers draw from 7.8 to 12.2 amps. They will effortlessly power most common bits through tough hardwoods, sometimes with just one pass. But as we discovered during our trials, if you frequently use bits with diameters over 1 1/2", you should buy one of the routers in the upper end of our tested amperage range. On the other hand, if you need a router that will handle bits over 2" in diameter, such as panel raised or deep plunge cuts in one pass, you might be better off with a router that draws 15 amps. (See our review of these routers in the September 1995 issue.) Remember that such large routers weigh more than 11 pounds—quite a handful! Because of their weight, we most often mount 15-amp routers in a table.

Plunge routers excel at cuts in the field of a workpiece
A fixed-base router can't match a plunge router for safety and effectiveness at making cuts on the interior surface (field) of a workpiece. Examples of such cuts include stopped dadoses, mortises, inlay and template work, and sign-making tasks. The reason: With a plunge router you preset the cutting depth, then release a locking lever that permits the motor and bit to spring up to a noncutting height. To make the cut you switch on the machine and push the motor straight down until it contacts a depth stop. You engage the locking lever and make your cut. At the end of the cut you release the lock and the motor springs up again. With this straight-in, straight-out action you will get much better results than if you tried to make a field cut with a fixed-base router by tilting it in and out of the cut. On the other hand, plunge routers have no advantage over fixed-base routers on edge cuts.

Note: If you don't need the field-cutting advantages of a plunge router, you may be better off purchasing a fixed-base router. We will review today's mid-sized, fixed-base routers in a future issue of WOOD+. magazine.

Key components of a plunge mechanism
When rating plunge routers we give high priority to the smoothness and effectiveness of their plunge mechanisms. Key among the components that make up this mechanism are the plunge rods, depth locks, depth scales, turret stops, and micro-adjustment mechanisms. Let's take a brief look at each.

- **Plunge rods.** All of the plunge routers ride up and down on two
steel rods. The quality of these rods, the springs within them, and the guide bushings that ride on the rods determines how easily and accurately the router plunges. Of the tested routers, the Porter-Cable 693 and DeWalt DW621 were the smoothest plungers. We rate all of the routers for "smoothness of plunge" in the chart at the end of this article.

**Depth locks.** In the chart we also rate "ease of using depth locks." Here, our favorites were the Porter-Cable and Bosch plunge routers. They have easy-to-reach, spring-actuated locking levers as shown on the previous page. These routers, and the Ryobi R175, remain locked in all positions unless you rotate the lever.

You can disengage the spring-actuated lock on the Ryobi so that it works like the routers that have locking levers without springs. With these, the router "floats" on its rods until you activate the lock by pushing on a lever or twisting a knob.

Although we prefer plunge routers with spring-actuated levers, you might do better with one of the other routers if you use sign-making templates or the CMT Router Carver. With these, you need to repeatedly plunge the router as you move from one opening in a template to another. Under these circumstances, a spring-actuated lever will quickly fatigue your index finger.

**Depth scales.** With any router you often find yourself adjusting the depth of cut. All of the tested plunge routers have some means of reading the depth on a scale, and a stop system for returning to one or more preset depths. Here, again, our favorites were the Bosch and Porter-Cable models. As shown left, the Porter-Cable 693 has an effective and smartly constructed depth-adjustment system. The system consists of an easy-to-read depth scale, a cursor that accurately indicates depth, and a depth-adjustment rod that halts the plunge at preset depths when the rod contacts one of six stops on the depth-stop turret.

With most of the routers we tested, you can "zero" the tool by locking it at the point where the tip of a straight or spiral bit just touches the work surface. Then, you set the adjustable cursor to zero on the scale. Set this way, the scale tells you the depth of your dado or mortise cuts.

**Turret stops.** Since a project may require several cuts at various depths, you can preset these depths on the turret. By rotating the turret you can switch from one cut to another and maintain accuracy. Although some of the tested routers have turrets with as many as eight stops, in our experience we've never found a need for more than three stops.

**Micro-adjustment mechanisms.** If you demand extreme accuracy when setting the depth of a cut, you won't find a better micro-adjustment mechanism than the one on the Bosch models (see photo above). True to the ads for these routers, we actually were able to cut through a sheet of paper without damaging the surface beneath it.

**More points to consider**

- **Overall quality.** You'll find this rating in the chart for each of the tested routers. It's a good indicator of how well the router will hold up over time (especially important if you're a heavy user).

  As an example of one of the things that separate an "excellent" router from a "fair" one in overall quality, see the photos opposite page, top. The better-made routers have cast-aluminum housings that surround the lower bearing. The aluminum supports the bearing more sturdily, and better dissipates heat, than plastic.

- **Ergonomics.** A lot of features go into rating how well a tool
You can mix and match these components as necessary. For example, you can buy the fixed-base, D-handle router (model 691) for $160, and the plunge base alone for $80. (The D-handle base requires a motor with a short power cord, so you would need to use an extension cord with this motor and the plunge base.)

**Collets.** Half of the routers in our test have collets that accept only bits with \( \frac{1}{4}'' \) shanks, and the other routers accept both \( \frac{1}{8}'' \) and \( \frac{1}{2}'' \) shanks. We strongly recommend that you buy a router that accepts both. You'll be happier in the long run because of the greater variety of bits that will fit in your router, and because of the added durability of the \( \frac{1}{2}'' \) shanks.

As noted in the chart, some of the routers have spindle locks similar to the one shown on the **left side of the next page**. These lock the shaft so you can adjust the collet with one wrench. But, we prefer the old-fashioned approach of using two wrenches as shown on the **right side of the next page**. Dual wrenches work together like plier handles to give you loads of leverage for loosening a collet. As we see it, the only advantage of shaft locks is that you have one less wrench to lose.

We've heard and read much about how some collets supposedly hold bits more securely, and with less runout, because they are longer, or have more slots milled in them. (Runout refers to the amount that an object spins out of a perfect orbit around its center.) These theories seem sensible enough, but our tests did not bear them out. All of the collets held securely when tightened properly, and although some had slightly more runout than others, we found no differences in cut quality attributable to collet runout.

**Versatility.** If you want to enjoy the best of both a fixed-base and plunge router, but can afford just one, only Porter-Cable offers you a solution. As shown above, the same motor housing works with any of three different P-C bases.
MIDSIZED PLUNGE ROUTERS

Routers with spindle locks require only one wrench for loosening collets, but we prefer the two-wrench system.

Two wrenches give you plenty of leverage to loosen a stubborn collet. No strain, no banged knuckles.

routers have a variable speed range. You'll appreciate this feature if you use bits over 1" in diameter, or if you work with woods that quickly burn (such as black cherry).

**Base opening.** In the chart we list the size of the opening in the base of each router. Pay careful attention to this column if you plan to use bits over 1 1/2" in diameter—bits that big will not fit through the opening in some of the routers. Also, note that with some routers you can make the opening larger by removing the plate attached to the base.

**Dust collection.** Only one of the tested routers—the DeWalt DW621—has built-in dust collection. In our tests, the system worked effectively, catching nearly all of the dust in some situations. You can buy optional dust-collection accessories for the Bosch routers.

**Observed power.** Although the "amps" column gives you a good idea of each router's power, we also rated "observed power" in the chart right. Here, we rated the relative cutting strength of each router by feel, sight, and sound as we routed workpieces.

### HOW 10 MIDSIZED ROUTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANUFACTURER/IMPORTER</th>
<th>MODEL</th>
<th>AMPS</th>
<th>SPEED RANGE (RPMs)</th>
<th>SWITCH TYPE (1)</th>
<th>HANDLE TYPE (2)</th>
<th>LENGTH (A) (INCHES)</th>
<th>BIT SHANK DIAMETER (INCHES)</th>
<th>SPINDLE LOCK (YES/NO)</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ANGULAR TURRET STOP (YES/NO)</th>
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<td>1/4</td>
<td>Y</td>
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</table>

**NOTES:**

1. (RO) Rocker
2. (SL) Slide
3. (SA) Split arbor shaft
4. (MK) Mushroom-shaped knob
5. (RE) Rabbit-ear shape
6. (EV) Straight vertical handle
7. (SP) Three-piece self-locking

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WOOD MAGAZINE  OCTOBER 1997
### We give these routers the thumbs-up

Our favorite tools in this category are the Porter-Cable 693, Bosch 1613EVS, and DeWalt DW621. For a solid, versatile plunge router at a reasonable price, go for the P-C 693. If you require variable speed and micro-adjustment, buy the Bosch 1613EVS. And, if you put dust collection high on your priority list, take a good look at the DW621.

For the budget-conscious, occasional woodworker, the Ryobi R175 delivers good value.

Written by Bill Krier
Product testing: Dave Henderson
Photographs: Dean Tanner

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## PLUNGE ROUTERS RATE

<table>
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<th>CUTTING DEPTH</th>
<th>EVALUATION (9)</th>
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6. Vertical range of bit measured with the motor housing fully raised and fully lowered.
8. (CA) Cast aluminum (PL) Plastic
9. **E** Excellent
10. (I) Italy (J) Japan (U) United States
11. Based on lowest available price at time of article's production.

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**MANUFACTURERS' LISTING:**

- **Bosch**
  - 773/286-7330
  - Call or visit your local Sears store

- **DeWalt**
  - 800/363-9255
  - Call or visit your local Sears store

- **Hitachi**
  - 800/866-1666
  - Call or visit your local Sears store

- **Makita**
  - 800/462-5482
  - Call or visit your local Sears store

- **Porter-Cable**
  - 800/467-9655
  - Call or visit your local Sears store

- **Ryobi**
  - 800/752-2579
  - Call or visit your local Sears store
Completed in 1797 at Boston, Massachusetts, the wooden warship *USS Constitution* was constructed from material contributed by nearly every state in the new nation. One of three oversized frigates (a three-masted vessel) built to replenish the U.S. Navy following the Revolutionary War, she carried provisions for a 475-man crew, had 44 guns, measured 204' long, and weighed 1,500 tons. Because she was heavy, *Constitution* proved slow and cumbersome under sail.

Due to her stout construction, though, as shown in the drawing below, she was notoriously tough-skinned under fire. In a battle with the English warship *Guerriere* during the War of 1812, so much shot from the English guns bounced off her sides that sailors fondly called her "Old Ironsides" from then on.

The *USS Constitution* actively served her country (as a training vessel and later a barracks ship), with several rebuildings, until 1934. Still in commission as the oldest warship afloat of any of the world's navies, she is docked at Boston's Charlestown Navy Yard. White oak, live oak, and other woods used in her construction...
White oak (*Quercus alba*)
*Uses:* Horizontal exterior-hull planking, bent inside planking, planking nearest the keel, and keel timbers.

Hard, heavy, straight-grained, and decay-resistant, the wood of white oak contributed much to the *Constitution*. And unlike the rather short and gnarled live oak, white oak trees grow to 150' tall to provide long, clear planks. When Old Ironsides was being built, white oak was plentiful throughout the Union's 13 states.

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
*Uses:* Treenails (pronounced "trunnels") to pin the ship's timbers together.

In the 1700s principally found in Pennsylvania and Virginia, black locust wood rates as stronger and stiffer and nearly as long-lasting as white oak. The tree's smaller height and diameter, however, prevented its extensive use for framing and planking.

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*)
*Uses:* Ship's masts, cabinetry, millwork and trim.

Growing throughout much of the young nation, eastern white pine was a massive tree—250' tall with a trunk 6' in diameter. The straight-grained, stable, and lightweight wood is comparatively non-resinous for a pine.

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*)
*Uses:* Beams and decks.

Although longleaf pine had a range throughout the south-

eastern states, the original supply for the *Constitution* came from South Carolina. The wood's durability, strength, and hardness made it ideal for surfaces prone to abuse, such as decks. Turpentine and varnish come from the tree's pitch (gum), even today.

Lignum vitae (*Guaiacum officinale*)
*Uses:* Rigging components, such as sheaves, blocks, belaying pins, and deadeyes.

Brought from the Caribbean islands and South America, lignum vitae is the hardest, heaviest, and most close-grained wood known. Its density almost equals that of iron! The wood's high-resin content and pressure-resistance made it ideal where some natural lubricating quality was necessary, as in the large warship's rigging blocks. Even in modern times, lignum vitae has been used for underwater propulsion parts because it often performs better than steel.

---

Written by Peter J. Stefano
Illustrations: Jim Stevenson

Lines secured around belaying pin, set in a fife rail

Deadeyes, made of lignum vitae, were used to keep shrouds and stays taut.
The Mission Tradition Lives On

Matching Futon Recliner And Ottoman

In the February 1996 issue, we published the plans for a beautiful full-sized futon sofa. You responded with many letters of thanks and expressed a strong interest in matching pieces. Since we try never to let down our readers, we went right to work developing this matching set—a futon recliner and ottoman. In issue 104, March of 1998, we plan to treat you to the complementary coffee table, shown at far right.

Note: We built our recliner frame around a standard chair size (6x28x54") futon mattress and our ottoman around a standard small (6x22x28") futon mattress. Although the recliner is extremely comfortable for sitting, the length of cushion makes it less than desirable for sleeping when fully reclined.

To order the February 1996 issue (#86) with the futon sofa article with the full-sized patterns on the pattern insert, contact WOOD Back Issue Sales, P.O. Box 9255, Des Moines, IA 50306. Or, call 800/572-9350 to order. The issue is $4.95 plus $2 shipping. Due to the large size of the full-sized patterns, photocopies are not available.

Start by forming the legs for the end frames
1. To form the 1 1/2"-thick legs (A), cut eight pieces of 3/4"-thick stock to the size listed in the Bill of Materials plus 1/4" in width and 1/2" in length. (Since 1 1/4"-thick oak can be difficult to find, we laminated two pieces of 3/4" stock to form the 1 1/2"-thick pieces.)
2. With the edges and ends flush, glue and clamp two pieces face-to-face to form each of the four legs.
3. Cut or plane both edges of each leg for a 3/4" finished width. Trim both ends of each leg (A) for the 20 1/4" finished length.
4. Using the Parts View drawing on the WOOD PATTERNS® insert in the center of the magazine for reference, mark the location of the grooves and two mortises on the inside edge of each leg (A). Hold the legs together face-to-face and use a square to verify that the marked mortises align.
5. Repeat the process in Step 4 to mark the location of the mortise on the inside face of each leg.
6. Use your drill press, fence, and a Forstner bit centered over the joint line to drill 3/4" holes 3/16" deep to remove most of the stock from each marked mortise. As shown in the photo at right, use a chisel to square the mortises.

Now, machine the remaining end-frame pieces
1. To form the 1 1/2"-thick bottom and top rails (B, C), cut 3/4"-thick stock to the sizes listed in the Bill
of Materials plus ¼" in width and 
½" in length.

2 Glue and clamp the pieces together, and later cut the rails (B, C) to the finished sizes listed in the Bill of Materials.

3 Purchase enough oak wainscoting for the two end frames (we purchased ours at a local home center). Measure the thickness of the wainscoting (ours measured ¾" thick, but they may differ slightly). Now, use a router and a straight bit or a dado blade to cut a ¾" groove centered along the inside edge of each leg. Whether using the tablesaw or table-mounted router, you'll need to use a stop to end the groove at the mortise. The groove needs to be as wide as your wainscoting is thick.

4 Cut a ¾" groove centered along the top edge of the bottom rails (B). Cut the same width of groove 1¼" deep along the bottom edge of the top rails (C).

5 Using the dimensions on the Tenon detail accompanying the Recliner End Frame drawing for the bottom side rails (B) and the Parts View drawing for the top side rails (C), cut the tenons on each end of each rail (B, C). (We cut these on our tablesaw.)

6 Transfer the curved cutline from the Parts View drawing, and cut and sand the bottom edge of the top rails (C) to shape.

7 Crosscut the oak wainscoting (D) to length.

Although any one of these pieces would be nice alone, we strive to do a "roomful of furniture," allowing you to make a complete matching set.
It's time to assemble the oak end frames
1 Dry-clamp (no glue) each end frame to check the fit. You'll need to trim the outside edge of each outside piece of wainscoting. The outside edges of the wainscoting should protrude into the 3/8"-deep groove about 1/8". Also mark the taper cutline on the bottom of each leg so the top end of the taper stops just below the point where the bottom rail (B) meets the leg (A).
2 Cut the tapers, and sand to remove the saw marks.
3 Glue and clamp each end frame together, checking for square. (We ran a thin bead of glue in the grooves in the bottom and top rails to keep the wainscoting from rattling in the finished frame. We did not glue the tongue-and-groove joints between the individual wainscoting pieces.) Wipe off all excess glue with a damp cloth.
4 Cut the armrests (E) to size. Rout 3/8" round-overs along all edges of each armrest.
5 Glue and clamp an armrest to the top end of each end frame. The inside edge of each armrest overhangs the inside surface by 1/8", and the armrests are centered front to back on the top end of each frame.

Cut a pair of rails for joining the end panels
1 Cut and laminate 3/4"-thick stock for the front and rear rails (F) just like you did for the legs (A).
2 Trim the rails to finished size, and cut a tenon on each end of each rail to the size shown on the Tenon detail accompanying the Recliner Exploded View drawing. For proper clearance of the assembled seat and backrest assemblies between the end frames, keep the distance between the tenon shoulders 28" as dimensioned on the drawing.
3 Glue and clamp the front and rear rails (F) between the end frames, checking for square.

Next, the backrest uprights
1 Cut and laminate 3/4"-thick stock to form the backrest uprights (G). Cut the uprights to finished size. See the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing for reference.
2 Clamp the uprights edge-to-edge, and use a square to lay out the centerpoints for the holes on the outside face of each where dimensioned on the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing. On the inside face of each, mark the location for the rabbets and dadoes.
3 Remove the clamps, and drill the 3/8" holes.
4 Cut the 1 1/2" dado 3/4" deep in each upright where marked. (We did this on a tablesaw fitted with a dado blade.) Then, cut the 1/2" rabbet 3/4" deep where marked.

Cut the remaining seat and backrest pieces
1 Cut and laminate 3/4"-thick stock to form the 1 1/2"-thick seat end (H), backrest top and bottom crossmembers (I, J), and seat crossmembers (K, L).
2 Cut pieces H-L to the sizes listed in the Bill of Materials. For a proper fit of the seat and backrest assemblies between the end frames cut crossmembers (I-L) to the exact lengths listed in the Bill of Materials.

See the WOOD PATTERNS® INSERT FOR FULL-SIZED PATTERNS
Mission Tradition

3 Drill a \( \frac{3}{4}'' \) counterbore \( \frac{3}{4}'' \) deep on the outside face and \( 1\frac{1}{4}'' \) from the back end of each seat end (H) where shown on the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing. Drill a \( \frac{3}{8}'' \) hole \( \frac{3}{4}'' \) deep on the inside face where shown for the screw eyes.
4 Cut a rabbet across each end of the crossmember (I) where dimensioned on the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing.
5 Cut a \( \frac{1}{2}'' \) rabbet \( \frac{3}{4}'' \) deep along the top edges of parts H-L where dimensioned on the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing to house the \( \frac{1}{2}'' \) plywood panels M and N.
6 Drill the counterbored mounting holes, and then glue and screw the backrest (G, I, J) together, checking for square. Measure the opening, and cut the backrest panel (M) to fit. Screw it in place.
7 Repeat the process just described to glue, clamp, and screw together the seat assembly (H, K, L, N).

8 Use a plug cutter to cut sixteen \( \frac{3}{8}'' \) plugs \( \frac{3}{16}'' \) long. Glue a plug into each counterbore. Later, sand the plugs flush.

Add the filler blocks, stopblocks, and pivot brackets
1 Cut a pair of filler blocks (O) to size, and glue them into the exposed rabbets along the back end of each seat end (H) where shown on the Exploded View drawing.
2 Cut a pair of stopblocks (P) to size, drill countersunk pilot holes, and glue and screw them to the seat ends (H, O). The stopblocks hit the pivot blocks, preventing the recliner from moving past the upright position.
3 To form the pivot blocks (Q), laminate 3 pieces of \( \frac{3}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 12'' \) oak face-to-face with edges and ends flush. Plane the block blanks to \( 1\frac{1}{4}'' \) thick. Then, transfer the pivot-block pattern and hole centerpoints from the Parts View to the pivot-block blanks. Cut the pivot

With the chair upside down, clamp the pivot blocks in place and secure them with screws.
blocks (Q) to shape. Drill the countersunk and counterbored holes where dimensioned on the drawing. Clamp (no glue) the pivot blocks in place to the rear legs (A). Using the holes just drilled in the pivot blocks as guides, drill pilot holes into the inside face of the legs. Remove the clamps, and set the pivot blocks aside for now. You’ll attach them later.

Sand, stain, finish, and assemble
1 Finish-sand the end frames, rails, backrest, seat, and pivot blocks.
2 Stain, if desired (we left ours natural), and apply a clear finish to all parts.
3 Drive the 3/4" screw eyes into the back inside faces of the seat ends where shown on the Recliner Seat and Backrest drawing.
4 Use a pair of 1/8" carriage bolts 3 1/2" long with flat washers and locknuts to connect the seat to the backrest where shown on the Exploded View drawing. Then, do the same to connect the pivot blocks to the backrest assembly.
5 With the aid of a helper, position the seat/backrest assembly facedown on your workbench. (We used a pad to protect the finish.) Then, position the base over the assembly. Lift the seat/backrest assembly up and clamp the pivot blocks in place on the legs. Use 2 1/2" wood screws to secure the pivot blocks to the legs as shown in the photo above left. Turn the recliner right side up.
6 Place a futon cushion on the recliner in the fully reclined position. To hold the cushion in place and keep it from slipping off the recliner, hook one end of a 20" bungee cord to one of the screw eyes, bring the cord around the front of the cushion, and connect the other end of the cord to the opposite screw eye.

Written by Marlen Kermit
Project Design: Chuck Hedlund
Illustrations: Kim Downing, Lorna Johnson
Photographs: Bill Hopkins

WOOD MAGAZINE  OCTOBER 1997
Have you ever thought about spending time rubbing elbows with a master craftsman? Each year, thousands of woodworkers do just that.

They hone their skills by attending workshops, often held in some of the nation’s most picturesque settings. And besides learning a new technique or type of woodworking, they meet others with similar interests and different skill levels. So whether you’re an eager beginner or a practiced professional, you’ll fit right in.

But because woodworking workshops are so diverse, you’ll need to carefully weigh your options before you start packing. The following advice will help.

**How much time can you afford to spend?**

Vacation-type workshops offer everything from Windsor chairmaking to bowl turning and marquetry. They also vary in length from a few days to a week. You also can sometimes arrange specialized, personal instruction to fit your schedule.

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Photographs, counter-clockwise from upper left:

A. Furnituremaker Sam Maloof annually shares his skills with students at Anderson Ranch, in Colorado.

B. At Tennessee’s Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, there’s a high-intensity focus on woodturning.

C. At some schools, carving and wood sculpture may be part of the class offerings.

D. Centers such as Anderson Ranch normally offer other courses, such as weaving.
minimum may be a day or two, and all facilities don't offer this.

The best thing to do when you write for information is to state as closely as you can the month you want to attend, and the length of time you have available. That's because shorter or weekend workshops sometimes aren't listed in the workshop brochures.

Should you go by yourself or include the family?

No matter what workshop you take, you'll work wood. But how comfortable you feel will make the difference between a so-so experience and an unforgettable one.

Generally, workshops fall into the following categories. Each has an emphasis and atmosphere that's quite different.

- **Woodworking and other crafts.** Well-known centers such as Arrowmont, in Tennessee, or the Brookfield Craft Center, in Connecticut, offer classes in woodworking concurrently with classes in clay, glass, photography, weaving, and other interests. This means that your spouse and/or children might find taking a workshop in one of these other crafts appealing. Taking a workshop at one of these types of facilities provides the opportunity for a real family vacation, especially if it is situated in a particularly scenic area with recreational possibilities.

- **Strictly woodworking.** Intensive describes this type of atmosphere. Because only specialized woodworking courses are offered, only woodworkers attend. For example, the woodturning seminars held at Craft Supplies USA, in Utah, are taught by top turners, but that's all there is. At Marc Adams School of Woodworking, in Indiana, you can learn machine maintenance, joinery, and other woodworking subjects from experts for a weekend or a week. The facility's huge, modern shop allows space for every student to have a workbench.

So if you're the only one in your family interested in woodworking, go by yourself. Unless, of course, the locale has something to offer other family members while you're in the workshop.

- **Special-focus workshops** feature a little-known aspect of woodworking, such as Old-World chip carving or pioneer treenware. Unlike the intensive, strictly woodworking atmosphere, this type of facility usually offers companion courses from the culture or historical era that may be of interest to non-woodworkers.

At the Norwegian-American Museum called Vesterheim, in Iowa, you can learn how to carve or make bent-wood boxes. But there are courses in such techniques as tote painting and knife making. The Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop, in West Virginia, offers pioneer crafts, like log-cabin building and basketry, plus folk arts such as square dancing.

With these options available, you'll have to do some advance planning. If your family will go, and members want to take courses, check if there's a minimum age. Also inquire about meals, lodging, and what to do in the area. If you do decide to take a workshop alone, the most important consideration will be the instructor, so find out all you can about him or her and the workshop content. You might even call the facility and speak directly, or at least get the names of some people who have taken the course.

Will you have to pay anything extra?

Cost is the bottom line. Here, numerous aspects can impact your wallet and travel budget.

- **Every workshop has a basic fee.** What does it include? Some include meals, snacks, and materials. In others, the stated cost only covers the instruction. If the workshop brochure doesn't itemize what the fee covers, you'll have to do some additional calculating.

- **Add up food and lodging.** In a campus-like setting, such as at Arrowmont, you can live like college students in dormitories at rea-
Despite its genteel air, this stately tea cart serves decidedly utilitarian purposes, from side table to rolling buffet. But foremost, it’s a beautiful piece of furniture that’s an ideal showcase for your finest craftsmanship.

First, turn the legs

Note: You can purchase the legs and handle already turned. See our Buying Guide on page 78
1 Cut stock for the two back legs (A) and two front legs (B) 1" longer than shown on the Bill of Materials. Mark the center on each end of each piece by drawing diagonal lines.
2 Referring to the Full-Sized Patterns for the legs (in the middle of the magazine), lay out the 9"-long section for turning on each leg where shown. (We marked the top of the turned section 7 1/4" from the top, which allows 1/2" extra at both the top and bottom for trimming the completed leg to length.)
3 Mount the stock between centers on your lathe. (We used a cup-type dead center in the headstock, shown right, and a rotating cup-type center in the tailstock.}

Continued
CART
A furniture classic for teatime and much more

Dowel-Pin Detail
9/16" dowel pins
11/4" long

3/8" hole
3/4" deep

3/8" hole
9/16" deep

Groove Detail
9/8" groove
1/4" deep

3/8" hole
9/8" deep

3/16" round-overs

3/8" hole, countersunk

7/8" hole
9/8" deep

3/4" pilot hole
3/4" deep

1/8" beads stopped
11/2" from ends of all rails

1/8" wood screw

3/8" dowel pin
11/4" long

1/2" cove

1/8" bead

3/8" groove
11/4" deep
1" from top edge

1 11/16" dia. wooden-wheel caster
(21/8" overall height)

1/2" notch
3/4" deep

Axle clamp

1/8" round-over

Axle

1 5/8"

3/16" round-overs

#6 x 1" F.H. wood screw

14" wooden tea cart wheel

Stop bead 3" from axle notch.

EXPLoded VIEW

Axle detail

3/4" round-over

#6 x 1 1/4" F.H. wood screw

Tray

Classical edge

Mitered corners

#8 x 11/16" F.H. wood screw

3/8" hole, countersunk on bottom side

#8 x 1 1/4" F.H. wood screw

#8 x 1 1/2" F.H. wood screw

11/2"

1/8" bead

1/8" round-overs

14" wooden tea cart wheel

SEE THE WOOD PATTERNS® INSERT FOR FULL-SIZED PATTERNS
Using the cup center to drive the turning rather than the usual spur-type center allows the turning to stop in case of a tool catch, minimizing the chance of damage. If the turning stops too easily, however, increase the tailstock pressure.) Turn the section between the marks to 1 3/4" diameter. Draw lines A through D on the rounded section, placing them where shown by the pattern.

4 With a parting tool, cut in to establish the diameter shown at each line. To gauge the size easily, set a caliper to the specified diameter, and hold it against the turning as you cut in with the parting tool, shown above right. When the caliper slips over the turning, you've reached the right size.

5 Form the features with a gouge and skew. At the top and bottom of the turned section, round the corners back 1/2".

6 Sand the leg with 150- and 220-grit sandpaper. Dismount the leg, and mount the next piece of stock on the lathe.

7 Turn the remaining legs, using the first one as a model for the others. You can get by with minor variations in the turnings, but they need to look substantially alike. Using the pattern, you could cut a cardboard template of the turned section to match against the legs.

8 Once you're satisfied that all four legs match, cut them to the length shown in the Bill of Materials. Mark the inside faces (your choice) of each leg. (We put strips of masking tape on them.)

9 Drill a centered 3/16" hole 1 1/4" deep into the bottom (the longer portion) of each back leg (A). To drill the holes accurately, rotate your drill-press table to vertical, and clamp the leg to it. Chuck a 3/8" brad-point bit into the drill press, and align the axis of the leg with it.

Make the frame members

1 Cut the rails and stretchers (C, D, E, and F) to the dimensions shown on the Bill of Materials.

2 Mount a 3/8" dado blade on your tablesaw, and cut a groove 3/4" deep in each lower rail and stretcher (E, F). Cut the groove 1" from the top edge, shown in the Groove Detail illustration.

3 Cut a notch 1" long and 1/8" deep where shown in the bottom edge of each lower rail (E). The front axle will fit into the notches; measure the axle supplied with your wheels, and adjust the notch length if necessary.

4 Rout a 1/8" bead along the lower outside edge of the upper rails and stretchers (C, D) where shown, and along both outside edges of the lower rails and
stretcher (E, F). On the lower edge of the lower rails (E), stop the bead 3" from the axle notch.
5 Mark centers for the 3/8" dowel-pin holes on the inside faces of the legs marked earlier. Before drilling the holes, stand the legs in order in a rectangular array to verify that each set of holes faces another set. Drill the holes with a doweling jig to ensure accuracy.
6 Drill mating holes in the ends of the upper and lower rails and stretchers where shown. On the lower rails and stretchers (E and F), the groove faces in and runs near the lower edge of each part.
7 Cut shelf G to the dimensions shown. Rout or saw a 1/4" rabbet 3/8" deep along the bottom ends and edges to fit into the grooved lower rails and stretchers. Saw 5/8" x 5/8" notches in the corners where shown to fit around the legs. Before sawing, put masking tape on the face at the corners to minimize chipping.

**Assemble the frame**
1 Dry-assemble the legs (A, B), the rails and stretchers (C, D, E, F), and the shelf (G). Once you’re satisfied that everything fits properly, glue the parts. The frame involves 13 parts and 32 dowel pins; you can glue it together most easily by building two side assemblies and joining them.
2 To construct each side assembly, join a front and back leg with an upper and lower rail. The groove on the lower rail should face in, as should the dowel holes in the leg. The beaded edge of the upper rail should face out. Clamp, and square by measuring the diagonals across the inside of the opening. Allow the glue to dry. (We allowed about one hour’s drying time for each glue-up, using yellow glue.)
3 Next, lay one side assembly on your workbench with the dowel holes facing up. Glue the lower stretchers (F) and the shelf (G) to it. Apply glue to the shelf joints sparingly to minimize squeeze-out. Square between the inside of the legs and the tops of the stretchers, using a try square or framing square. Clamp until dry.
4 Glue the upper stretchers (D) into place, the beaded edges facing out. Square and clamp.
5 Glue the other side assembly to the stretchers. Square the assembly, and clamp.
6 Cut the two cleats (H) to the size shown. Drill and countersink the cleats where shown in the Exploded View drawing. Then, screw and glue one to the inside face of each upper rail (C), with the top edges flush.

**Go for the top**
1 Cut a piece of walnut plywood 3/4" x 12 1/8" x 11 1/2" for the insert (I). This is 1/2" wider than shown. On both ends, form a chamfer of 1/8" or less. The chamfer should not expose layers beneath the face veneer. To rout the chamfer, chuck a 1/2" V-grooving bit (such as the Freud 20-104 that we used) into your table-mounted router. Make test cuts on scrapwood to adjust the fence and cutting depth to produce a suitable chamfer. After routing, don’t change the setup; you’ll use it again shortly.
2 Cut the stock for the insert edge (J) 1/2" longer than specified—12 1/2". Glue the piece to one chamfered end of the insert. When dry, cut the insert/edge assembly to finished width—12".
3 Chamfer the edges of the insert, using the same setup you used on the ends. Stop the chamfers at the ends of the insert edge (J).
4 From stock longer than specified, miter-cut the side and end moldings (K, L) to finished length. Glue the moldings around the
insert/edge assembly, with the insert edge (J) facing in.
5 Install a classical pattern bit in your table-mounted router. Rout the outer top edge of the assembled moldings.
6 Lay the completed assembly upside down on your workbench. Cut the top (M) to the dimensions shown. With the good face of M down, center it on the back of the assembly. Clamp the parts, then screw them together with countersunk #8×1¼" flathead wood screws.
7 Center the frame upside down on the inverted top assembly. The end of the frame with short legs goes toward the end of the top with the opening in it. Attach the top to the frame with #8×1¼" flathead wood screws driven through the cleats (H) into the top (M).
8 Rout stock for the side and end banding (N, O). For safety, we routed the ½" cove along the edges of wider stock, then ripped ¼" from the edge to form the banding. Miter-cut the banding pieces, and attach them to the top with glue and brads.

Attach the axle
1 Photocopy the pattern for the axle clamp (P). Temporarily laminate two blanks with double-faced tape, and apply the pattern to the top of the stack. Bandsaw the parts, and sand to the line.
2 Separate the parts, and rout a 3/8" round-over along both curved edges. Drill and countersink the screw holes where indicated.
3 Center the axle in the lower rails' slots. Place a clamp over the axle on each rail, and attach with #6×1" flathead wood screws.

Add the handle
1 Turn the handle (Q) from a 1½"×1⅜"×1¼" piece of stock. Follow the general procedures described for turning the legs. Center the handle turning on the blank, and turn the ends to ⅜"-diameter tenons. Then, when completed, trim it to length by shortening the tenons.
2 Photocopy the pattern for the handle bracket (R). Temporarily laminate two blanks with double-faced tape, apply the pattern to the top of the stack, and bandsaw the two brackets. Sand to the line.
3 Separate the parts, and rout a ⅜" round-over along both curved edges. Referring to the pattern, drill a ⅜" hole ⅜" deep in each bracket. Drill facing sides to make left and right brackets.
4 Installing the handle will be easier with the top and frame assembly upside down. Lay out and drill the four ⅜" screw holes on the upper rear stretcher (the one at the long-legged end).
5 Glue the brackets onto the ends of the handle. Take care to keep the brackets parallel and to align the mounting surfaces.
6 Hold the handle in position. Then, reach in from the back and push a screw or awl through one of the screw holes to mark one of the brackets. Drill a ⅜" start hole at the mark, and screw the handle to the upper stretcher with one screw. Mark the other locations.
7 Remove the handle, and drill the other three holes. Screw the handle on permanently.

Now, build the tray
1 Form stock for the tray sides and ends (S, T) from a piece of ¾×2" material about 30" long. Start by routing a ⅜" rabbet ⅜" deep along each edge on one face. Then, flip the stock over, and rout a ⅜" bead along both edges on that face.
2 Rip ¾" from each edge of the routed piece to make the tray stock. Plane or sand the sawn edge—it will show.
3 Cut the tray bottom (U) to the size shown. Test its fit in the top recess. Miter-cut the sides and ends from the routed stock, and assemble them around the bottom.
4 After the glue dries, mark the locations for the handle screws on top of each end. Drill ⅜" holes through the ends at the marks. On the bottom, guide on the holes to drill ⅜" counterbores ¼" deep.

Get that wagon rollin'
1 Finish-sand the tea cart and tray. Apply a clear finish (we sprayed on three coats of polyurethane). Let the finish dry thoroughly.
2 Push the large wheels onto the axle until they click into place. Drive the caster sockets into the holes in the bottom of the back legs. Insert the caster stems into the sockets. Stand the tea cart up.
3 Attach the handles to the tray ends. Finally, set the tray into the opening in the top.

Buying Guide
Wheels and hardware. One pair walnut wheels (90WP16), one axle (90WP18W), two wooden casters (7C4A), and two brass pulls (SBH17). For current prices, call 800/223-8087. Constantine’s, 2050 Eastchester Rd., Bronx, NY 10461.

Turned legs and handle. Four legs and handle turned from walnut. $62.00 ppd. in U.S. Schlaubach and Sons, 720 14th St., Kalona, IA 52247. Or call 800/346-9663 to order.
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wilderness. Called the Pine
Barrens, this part of New Jersey
played an important role in
Colonial America and a vital one
in the Revolutionary War.

The Pine Barrens did not repre-
sent valuable land back then. Just
the opposite—the soil was boggy
and sandy, as it remains to this
day. But the land did support a
thick forest of pine trees. And in
the damp, soggy ground one
could find iron ore.

To early Americans, that com-
bination of pitch pine (Pinus rigidia)
and iron ore was heaven sent.
That’s because iron ore was trans-
formed into iron by melting it to
remove impurities, a process
called smelting, and the fuel of
choice was wood charcoal rather
than the mined coal of later
times. The resinous pitch pine—
its sappy, hard-to-work wood
seldom desired—proved perfect as a
source of charcoal.

So began the intensive “mining”
of the Pine Barrens. Colonists
extracted the iron ore from the
ground and felled the surround-
ing pitch pine for smelting. From
the iron, blacksmiths crafted
tools, hardware, and weapons. In
fact, iron that originated in the
Pine Barrens was forged into guns
that fed the War for
Independence, and later, the War
of 1812.

Over the centuries, the pitch
pine forests were extensively cut
for fuel, and for the building of
barns and bridges. Forest fires
also raged. Scrub oaks replaced
the virgin forest, so shading the
younger pines that they became
stunted. But even today, the Pine
Barrens has not yielded to agricul-
ture or extensive development.

Illustration: Jim Stevenson
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Build-A-Toy®
Contest Winners

Everyone's really a winner in WOOD® magazine's annual Build-A-Toy contest. That's because all toys entered are sold at auction. Then, the money raised buys new toys for needy kids through the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. So, in addition to the 1996 contest prizewinners listed on this page, you'll also find the names of the top money raisers from last year's auction. Turn to page 8 for photographs of the top prizewinning toys.

Best toy entry
(original design only, all divisions)
Frank Ryan, Eugene, Ore.; 16-piece Imagine-A-Toy; $3,000 in Delta tools.

Home Hobbyist (original design)
Grand prize. Larry Weaver, Petersburg, W.Va.; farm tractor and disc; $2,100 in Craftsman stationary machines.
First prize. Jack Dalton, Jackson, S.C.; 1934 Chevy pickup; Grizzly machines valued at $2,000.
Second prize. Bob Schnare, Hull, Mass.; fire truck; $1,000 in Bosch tools.
Third prize. George Cole, Sequim, Wash.; steamroller and tender; $500 in DeWalt tools.

Professional (original design)
Grand prize. Neil Seely, Rochester, N.Y.; ferryboat with six cars; $2,000 in DeWalt tools.

First prize. Mike Jagielo, Almond, Wis.; bed bug pull toy; $1,500 in Hegner MK4 Accura multimachine.
Second prize. Robert Trace, Toledo, Ohio; Noah's ark on wheels; $1,000 in Bosch tools.
Third prize. Dee Cook, Lawrenceville, Ill.; scale rolltop desk with swivel chair; $500 in Porter-Cable tools.

Junior Craftsman (all designs)
Grand prize. Elton Eby, London, Ky.; working crane; $1,500 RBI Hawk scroll saw.
First prize. Robert Reising, Des Moines, Ia.; Red Baron airplane; $1,000 in Skil tools.
Second prize. Winner wishes to remain anonymous; checker set; $750 in Dremel tools.
Third prize. Brad Marlatt, Newark, Ohio; horseshoe set; $250 in Miessel Hardware merchandise.

Citations (all designs, all divisions)
Best use of wood. Jack Rowland, Porterville, Calif.; cedar pickup with trailer and boat; $575 Milwaukee compound miter saw.
Best model. J.C. Brown, Winter Garden, Fla.; tank; $250 in Formby's finishing supplies.
Best clear finish. Fred Krueeter, Pepin, Wis.; walnut semi, lowboy trailer, and grader; $250 in Formby's finishing supplies.
Best painted/dyed finish. Robert Trace, Toledo, Ohio; Noah's ark on wheels; $200 in Red Devil paints.
Best educational toy. Nelson McAfee, Summerfield, Fla.; Humpty Dumpty puzzle; $250 in Crafts Supplies merchandise.
Best action toy. Robert Davenhall, Culpeper, Va.; roller coaster marble game; $250 in Woodworker's Store merchandise.
Best pull toy. Winner wishes to remain anonymous; spinning pegs on wheels; $250 in Klockit merchandise.

Robert Reising's Red Baron airplane won First Prize in the Junior Craftsman category.

Special Awards
Best toy from a woodworking club. No entries in this category; $250 in Leichtung merchandise.
Best entry from a shop class. Mechanicsburg Intermediate School, Mechanicsburg, Pa., instructor William Richie; three five-piece train sets; $250 in Delta tools, $1,000 in 3M supplies, $500 in Red Devil paints, $200 in American Tool clamps.

Crafted for Joy®
Toy Auction Top Money Raisers
Toy entries that brought at least $100 at the November 13, 1996, auction to benefit Toys for Tots were notified by letter. Here, though, are those readers whose handcrafted toys sold for $185 or more in the bidding that raised enough to purchase $20,000 in new toys for kids.

$625, scale radial-arm saw (bid included actual new saw donated by Delta).
Samuel Erickson
New Windsor, Ill.
$580, bed bug pull toy
Mike Jagielo,
Almond, Wis.
$545, scale tablesaw
(bid included actual new saw donated by Delta).
Brent Bobb,
Bountiful, Utah
$400, 1934 Chevy pickup
Jack Dalton, Jackson, S.C.
$375, scale rolltop desk w/chair
Dee Cook, Lawrenceville, Ill.
$240, golf clubs w/cart.
Kenneth Forseth, Shorewood, Ill.
$205, walnut pinball machine.
Charles Frodl, Belmont, Mich.
$190, Harley-Davidson-style trike.
W.L. Wardle, Las Vegas, Nev.
$185, roller coaster marble game.
Robert Davenhall, Culpeper, Va.
$185, music box structure.
William Howe, Ranchos Palos, Calif. ♦
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Woodworking Vacations

Continued from page 73

Reasonable prices. At Colorado's Anderson Ranch Art Center, accommodations are in condos and townhouses, some with cooking facilities. Specialized workshops most often don't have on-site accommodations or meals, but may have special rates at local motels or suggest nearby camping. Whatever the options, if meals and lodging aren't included in the fee, they add to the cost.

- Bring your own hand tools. Workshops like you to bring your own hand tools, but you'll share the facility's power equipment. Sometimes, you can rent hand tools instead of bringing them along, but check on this.
- Who pays for the wood? A nominal lab fee usually covers wood to practice on, and may be included in the workshop fee. If you'll be building a major project—like a Windsor chair—you'll be expected to pay for the stock separately. You might be able to furnish your own wood. Ask.
- Pay on acceptance. All workshops limit attendance. Some may take 20 students; others, only five. This means you had better register early when you find the right workshop. And when you register, be prepared to pay a deposit equal to a portion of the workshop cost, and maybe even a processing fee.

With all to consider, it's important to ask yourself what you really want from a woodworking vacation. You have two options:

Learn a technique to take home, or learn a technique and build a project to take home. At a woodturning workshop, you may be better off paying attention to the turning techniques. On the other hand, at an Appalachian greenwood chairmaking class, you're expected to complete the chair.

For a list of schools, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope to: Vacation, WOOD Magazine, 1912 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309-5579.

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Craftsman Tool Vac turns on/off with power tools

Have you ever wanted to hook up your shop vacuum to your power sander, but didn’t because of the hassle of running to the vacuum to turn it on and off? Tool-activated auto-switch vacuums offer a solution and have been on the market for several years, but at a steep price. Fortunately, Sears recently introduced an affordable model that puts such convenience within most woodworkers’ means.

The heart of the Tool Vac (model 17726) lies in its three-position rocker switch. Besides on and off positions, the switch has an auto setting that connects to an onboard power-tool outlet. In auto mode, you plug your handheld power tool (up to 6 amp) into the outlet, turn on the tool, and the vac comes on. Switch the tool off and the vac runs for an additional 5 seconds to clear the hose, then automatically shuts off.

The Tool Vac comes equipped with a pliable, 1¼"-diameter hose that’s 11’ long. The top-mounted handle provides convenient cord storage.

The auto-activated switch worked flawlessly, and the vac’s 6-amp motor had plenty of power to suck up dust generated by my sanders. A foam seal makes the lightweight, three-gallon tank leakproof, and the two-stage filter captured all visible dust during my tests.

I only found two minor problems. Emptying the vac requires you to pull out on plastic handles on either side of the lid, but you almost need a third hand to fully separate the lid from the tank. A stepped hose adapter would make it easier to hook up to a variety of power tools.

—Tested by Bob McFarlin

MiterMatic sets miter angles quickly, accurately

Setting a miter gauge precisely can be time-consuming and frustrating. But the MiterMatic Tablesaw Setup Square makes setting up for accurate angles quick and painless.

Made from ¾”-thick polycarbonate, it has ¼” grooves milled into both sides. The grooves intersect the top and bottom edges at angles of 22.5, 30, 45, and 90°. The square features those same angles—one at each corner—to also help you set the bevel angle of the saw blade.

To set up your miter gauge, place two pennies in the miter-gauge slot to raise the bar slightly above the surface of the saw table. With the miter-gauge clamping knob loosened, place the MiterMatic over the bar and align one edge of a chosen groove against the bar. Keeping the groove’s edge firmly against the bar, slide the square up against the miter-gauge face. The square moves the head to the proper angle. Then, tighten the clamping knob down and you’re done.

I found all the angles extremely accurate. And since the angles are milled right into the polycarbonate, the square can’t be knocked out of alignment.

The main drawback I found comes when using the square with tee-slot miter gauges, which can’t easily be raised out of the miter slot. I also discovered that when setting bevel angles, I had to raise the blade completely to the top so the square cleared the blade’s teeth.

—Tested by Dave Hedgeson

Continued on page 102
RITS
OUR QUEEN ANNE FURNITURE KITS—are ready to assemble, yet contain tall, slender chairs, a variety of occasional tables, and a desk. All are made of real wood, and we also stock individual Queen Anne legs for every project. Complete instructions in our brochure. ADAMS WORKS, INC. Circle No. 584.
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SHIP MODELING KIT—History Ship Woodworking is a complete guide to constructing a replica of your choice. Each kit contains all parts, metal and brass fittings, cloth sails, plans and instructions. Send for free literature. Model EXPO, INC. Circle No. 1076.
Buckboard Bench Kit—Includes steel springs that give a comfortable ride and custom--made, full-size instructions. New matching western table kit. THE ROUJEDUSCH CO., 50c. Circle No. 1085.

PUBLICATIONS
WOODWORKING BOOKS BY MAIL—Presents books, including carvings, work shop practices, guides, books on tools and wood and timber. Plus videos. LINDEN PUBLISHING, Free. Circle No. 1190.


SHOP ACCESSORIES
ECON-ABRASIVES—Offers a complete line of sandpaper and woodworking-related accessories. We custom make abrasive belts in any size and in any grit. Catalog ECON-ABRASIVES, Free. Circle No. 1191.

50TH ANNIVERSARY—for 50 years Industrial Abrasives Co. has offered the widest selection of quality abrasive products available. You can order the full line of Abrasives from one main store to large industrial accounts, we know the abrasive business and we want to be your supplier. Catalog available to orders. Industrial ABRASIVES CO., Inc. Circle No. 1238.

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WEATHERWRIGHT CATALOG—The catalog that helps woodworkers do it right! Discover over 200 new products, including exciting items for making computer desks, albums, cabinets, office furniture, and humidifiers. Many exclusive and hard-to-find specialties like unique hardwoods, solid brass hardware, kitchen cabinet accessories, and more. Free catalog. Circle No. 331.

The Woodworker’s Hardware Catalog—Free Catalog of the finest woodworking and building hardware in the United States. Free catalog. Circle No. 332.

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Tonka Tools—The Shopsmith Mark V video kit will show you how you can be the woodworker you’ve always dreamed of becoming. Includes video presentation of the Shopsmith Mark V (an all-in-one woodworking center) shown in action, plus step-by-step instructions. All the operations which would normally require the use of a shaper, router and a planer can now be accomplished with the Shopsmith Mark V. JOINTER, INC. $5.00. Circle No. 610.

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Porcupine Pad keeps benchtops free of scars

If your benchtop looks like mine, it bears the scars of times I’ve drilled too deep or sawn too close. Well, a new product called the Porcupine Pad should help keep future benchtop gouges and nicks to a minimum.

The pad consists of four interlocking 12x12" plates topped with 2¼"-long plastic pins. The pins, spaced in rows 1¼" apart, support your workpiece above the benchtop without interfering with a drill bit or jigsaw blade.

I tried several tools with the Porcupine Pad and found it worked best with a jigsaw, particularly when I held my workpiece firmly with one hand. When I tried edge-routing a board, the workpiece skittered across the pins, making it nearly impossible to complete the cut. I had mixed success using a circular saw, and even drilling caused the board to shift around slightly.

The pad’s manufacturer recommends using the product with a mat or foam pad beneath it. I used a foam router mat, and it did help keep the Porcupine Pad from sliding on the benchtop.

If you do a lot of jigsawing, the Porcupine Pad may be worth trying out. However, I wouldn’t recommend using it for two-handed operations such as routing. You also could use it as a drying rack for finished projects.

—Tested by Dave Henderson

Continued on page 104
**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS**

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PRODUCTS THAT PERFORM

Magnetic Dado Shims hold their position

If you own a stackable dado set, you know how necessary and frustrating shims can be. They’re crucial for fine-tuning the width of a cut, yet they invariably wind up in the bottom of the saw cabinet or caught in the arbor threads.

SystiMatic offers a nifty solution — shims made out of magnetic vinyl. These shims measure 3/4" in diameter with a 3/4" bore that keeps them clear of the arbor.

The set includes two each of .010, .012, and .015" with the thicknesses stamped on one side of the shim. SystiMatic magnetizes only this side, so you can stack the shims to the desired thickness. The vinyl flexes so you can easily "peel" them off.

I made a test cut for a 1/2" dado that was .014" too narrow. I removed the outer blade, installed a .015" shim, made another pass, and found the cut width dead-on. While they don’t allow the precision of plastic shims — available as thin as .002" — I still found that by varying the chippers and magnetic shims, I could obtain virtually any width. And to keep the unused shims handy, simply stick them to the side of your metal saw cabinet.

—Tested by Bob McFarlin

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WOOD MAGAZINE OCTOBER 1997

Page 104
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SANDING CENTER

Add the doors, shelves, and rigid casters
1 Cut a pair of plywood doors (R) to size. Rout a 3/8" rabbet along the back side of each where shown on the Exploded View drawing. Do not rout rabbets along the inside mating edges of the doors.
2 Drill mounting holes and add a pull to each door.
3 Mount a pair of 3/8" inset hinges to the back side of each door and then to the face frame.
4 If you don't house a vacuum inside the cabinet, consider adding a shelf for extra storage. To do this, cut the shelf (S) and banding strips (T) to size. Glue the banding to the front and back edge of the shelf.
5 Turn the assembly upside down, and position the rigid casters flush with the inside face of the back panel (D) and face frame rail (H). Drill pilot holes and screw the casters in place.

Clear-finish and paint the project
1 Remove all the hardware from the cabinet, doors, and drawers. Finish-sand as necessary. Apply a coat of clear finish to the drawers, doors, top, and shelf. (We applied three coats of satin polyurethane, lightly sanding between coats with 320-grit sandpaper.)
2 Paint the carcass interior and exterior. (We applied several coats of red spray enamel over primer for our cabinet, being careful to avoid runs.)
3 Screw the shelf standards in place. Attach the casters.
4 Screw the drawer slides to the supports (F) and then the mating parts to the drawer sides.
5 Working from the inside of the cabinet, drill mounting holes through the cleats and into the bottom side of the top. Screw the top to the cleats.
6 Use the hinges to secure the doors to the face frame. Reattach the pulls.

Written by Marlen Kemmet
Illustrations: Kim Downing, Lorna Johnson
Photographs: Studio Au
How they felled trees before axes and saws

Preceding the widespread use of iron tools among the Woodland Indians, they relied on fire for many aspects of their woodworking. To fell a tree, for instance, they cut through the cambium layer under the bark all the way around the circumference (called girdling). In a year or more, it died standing.

Once the tree was dead and dry, mud was packed as a protective layer above its base. Next, they used brush and kindling to start a fire around the trunk's lowermost section. As the wood charred, it was chipped away. The process continued until the heartwood gave way and the tree eventually toppled.

U.S. woodworkers donate skills to help an African university grow

Keith Henderson, a WOOD® magazine reader from Richfield, Minnesota, was one craftsman who answered. Last spring, he joined an eight-person team of woodworkers from Minnesota-area churches that (at their own expense) spent 16 days at Daystar University’s new Athi River campus teaching Kenyans how to build classroom and dormitory furniture for their new institution.

“Our job was to teach the staff members how to use power tools safely and efficiently so they could in turn teach others,” says Keith. “I couldn’t believe how eager they were to learn, and the skills that they picked up in such a short time. The local wood made it interesting, too. Most of it was unfamiliar to us, but proved to be good furniture stock. And language wasn’t a barrier. Woodworking truly is universal.”

Photograph: Keith Henderson
Illustrations: Jim Stevenson
“Every time I build something, I’m building a reputation. That’s why I use ProBond.”

Howard Packer, Newtown, CT, General Contractor

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