Woodworking Tips

Dowel Storage Rack

Like many woodworkers, I keep several different size dowels on hand. To provide easy access to the one I need, I made a simple storage rack.
The rack consists of three pieces of PVC pipe that "stair-step" up in height (10”, 22”, and 34” in my case), see photo. If a dowel is too short to stick out the top of a pipe, it's still visible through a "window" opening in front.
When cutting this opening on the a bandsaw, it's a good idea to clamp the pipe to a board to keep it from rolling.

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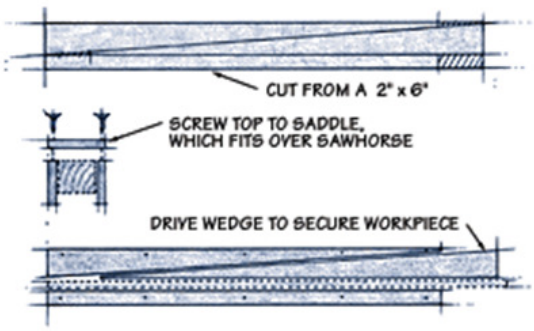
Driving Screws in MDF

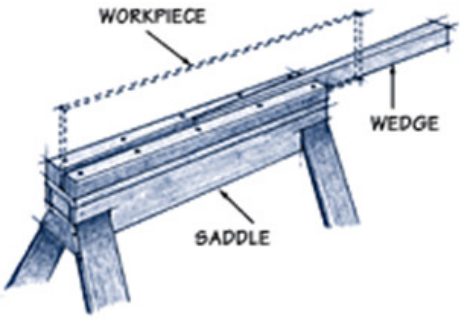
When installing woodscrews in the edge of manufactured materials like MDF, it's all too easy to split the sides of a workpiece — even if you drill a pilot hole first. To prevent this, I support the sides by clamping an ordinary hand-screw across the workpiece.

Walter Peachey

Edge Clamping on Your Sawhorse



At every step in a woodworking project, it seems that I have to somehow secure a board. With conventional clamps, this becomes quite time consuming. So I came up with this quick and easy way to clamp wood to a sawhorse.
The concept centres around a long, tapered wedge running the full length of my sawhorse. One side of the sawhorse frame is counter-tapered, so that the two pieces fit together.
Now when I set a piece of stock on edge in the sawhorse, a quick tap on the wedge with a mallet will secure it.



Another tap from underneath the wedge, and the wood is free.

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Straight and Tapered Plug Cutters

Basically, there are two types of plug cutters. One cuts a plug with straight sides. And the other creates a gradual taper on the sides of the plug, see photos.

Straight Plug Cutters

Most of the time, a straight plug cutter produces a plug with a consistent diameter, so you get a pretty good fit. But if there's any run out in the drill press, the plug will vary in size. This can create a gap when you tap the plug in the hole.

Tapered Plug Cutters

A tapered plug cutter solves this problem. As its name implies, it cuts a plug with tapered sides. So even if there's a bit of run out in the drill press, the tapered sides allow the plug to wedge tightly in the hole.

In addition, a tapered plug cutter creates more of a shearing cut than a straight plug cutter. Because of this, there's very little chip out on the sides of the plug, so you don't end up with a gap around the plug.