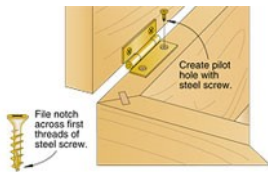


Woodworking Tips



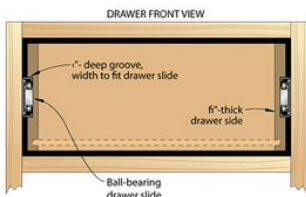
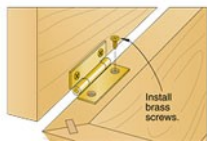
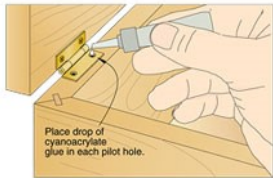
Use a little glue, hold a little screw

Two things I love to do in the woodshop are carving small figures and building small treasure or jewelry boxes. I get frustrated when attaching hinges to a box (or a basswood figure to its base) because the screw can strip or split the wood.

To prevent this, I first drill a pilot hole, then "tap" the hole with a steel screw the same size as the brass screw I'll install permanently. (I file a small notch in the screw threads to make it cut like a self-tapping screw.)

When it's time to install the brass screws, I first add a drop or two of cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to the hole, then insert and tighten the screw. This really sets the screws in place. I find I can still back out the screws, but it's definitely more work. I've also used this method successfully to screw into the edge of plywood.

--Ed Twilbeck, Ocean Springs, Miss.



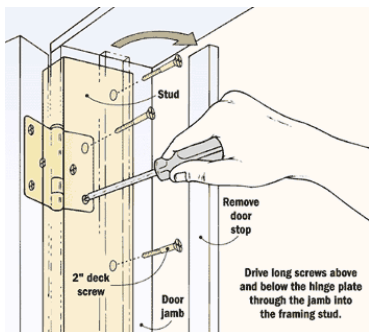
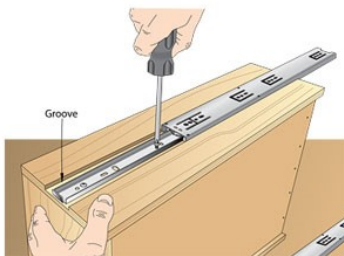
Squeeze more room into your drawers

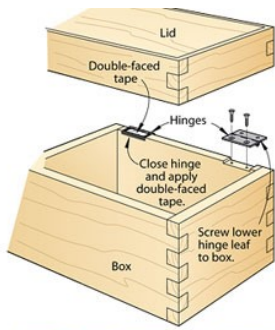
I like to use ball-bearing drawer slides in my cabinet projects because of their super-smooth operation. However, those slides take up space outside the drawer that could be used to expand the size of the drawer.

I put some of that interior room into the drawer by recessing the slides in 1/2" grooves on both drawer sides as shown. That gains me 1/2" of width in each drawer. I make the grooves about 1/8" wider than the female part of the slide that mounts to the inside of the cabinet. The process works with any drawer side at least 1/2" thick.

As a time-saving bonus, I no longer have to measure and mark the location of each slide on the drawer. I simply eyeball the slide in the center of the groove and move the female part out of the way just far enough to drive the first two screws. Then, I remove the female part completely and drive the rest of the mounting screws.

--Edwin Hackelman, Omaha, Neb.





Double-faced tape holds shifty lids

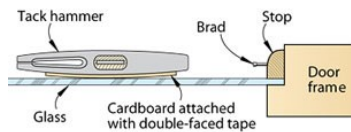
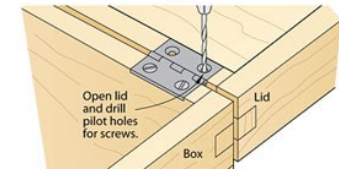
Aligning a hinge with the lid of a box while you try to drill the holes for the hinge screws often proves tricky. Here's a solution that's fast and simple.

Cut your hinge mortises and screw the hinges to the box. Next, place a strip of double-faced tape on the top of the hinge and align the lid in the closed position on top of the box. Press

firmly over the hinge to get a good bond between the lid and the tape.

Carefully open the lid and drill the pilot holes for the hinge as shown. Remove the lid from the hinge and take off the tape. Now, reinstall the lid by driving the screws through the hinge and into your perfectly aligned pilot holes.

--Alan Holtz, Torrance, Calif.



This tip doesn't even scratch the surface

When tacking the stops around a fragile pane of glass (in a cabinet door, for instance), it's not hard to scratch the glass, or worse yet, break it. To overcome this potential problem, I attach a piece of card stock to one side of my tack hammer with double-faced tape as shown. Not only does the card stock protect the glass, but by using different thicknesses, I can make the face of the hammer parallel to the nail head, lessening the likelihood of bending the nail.



Sanding-disc shim cuts plugs closely

I like to use wooden plugs to hide screws in my projects, but tediously sanding the plugs flush with the surface around them isn't high on my list of fun things to do. Even when I saw off the plugs first, no matter how careful I am, the teeth of the saw often mar the workpiece. This means even more sanding. I minimize both damage and sanding time by slipping a well-worn random-orbit sander disc, grit side down, over the plug before sawing it off as shown. The disc protects the workpiece from the saw's teeth and leaves just the shallowest nub on the plug that sands away quickly.

Sanding-disc shim cuts plugs closely

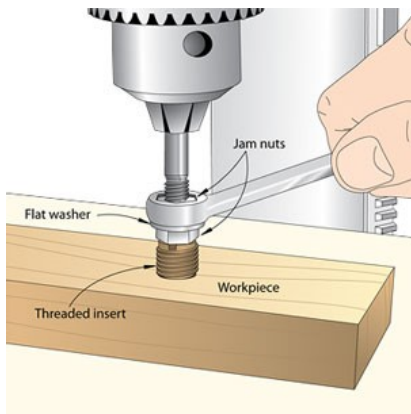
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--John Hell, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

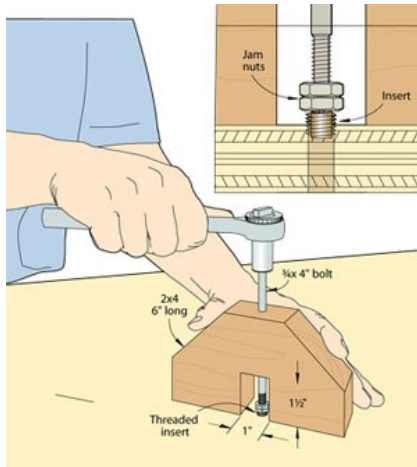


Washer between jam nuts prevents wrench slippage

I found that the best way to install threaded inserts is to use my drill press (unplugged, of course) as a heavy-duty manual press. The press gives the insert a straight start and supplies enough pressure to drive it into harder woods.

If you have done this before, you know that the wrench slips off the top jam nut pretty easily, so I placed a flat washer between the first and second jam nuts. The wrench can't slip off the nut because the washer blocks it.

--Perry Johnson, Golden Valley, Minn.



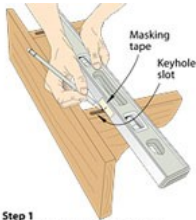
Make quick work of threaded inserts

A lot of woodworkers use a drill press to install threaded inserts, but large pieces can be too awkward or impossible for this practice. I've used the jig shown to install more than 150 threaded inserts into the music stands and other projects I build. I think it would be a great addition to your shop, and it takes only a few minutes to craft.

Start by cutting a 6" length of 2x4 to the shape shown in the drawing. For a 3/8" threaded insert, center a 13/32" hole over the opening in the bottom of the jig. Use your drill press to ensure that the hole is exactly 90° to the bottom. Insert a 3/8x4" bolt through the hole and double-nut the end to capture the bolt.

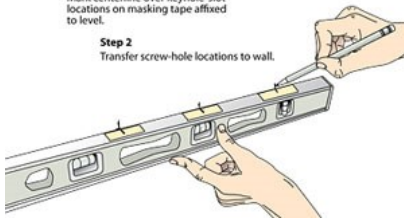
When you're ready to install an insert, thread the insert onto the bolt and position the jig over the hole. Using a socket wrench, apply downward pressure to the bolt while you turn the insert into your workpiece.

--C. Dean Becker, Waterloo, Iowa



Step 1
Mark centerline over keyhole-slot locations on masking tape affixed to level.

Step 2
Transfer screw-hole locations to wall.



Foolproof hanging with keyhole slots

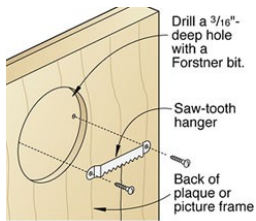
Keyhole slots are a great way to affix wooden hangings, such as a shelf or picture, to a wall. But if the mounting screws aren't perfectly level or spaced exactly the same as the slots, the job can become a nightmare. Here's a solution that works great.

I attach short pieces of masking tape to the top of my level and, using the keyhole slots themselves, I mark the locations of the slots on the tape, as shown in Step 1. If I want to center the wall hanging between two objects, I also make a third mark, centered between the two marks.

After finding the mounting location for the shelf, I mark the center of the shelf at the correct height. I place the level's center mark on that mark, make certain it's level, then mark the screw locations using the other two marks, as shown in Step 2. Finally, I drive the mounting screws into those marks. My hangings are always right on the money and level.

--Bill Vanderhoof, Hanover, Pa.



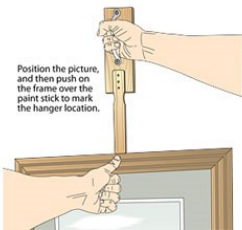
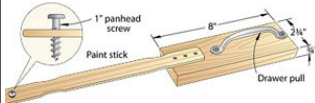
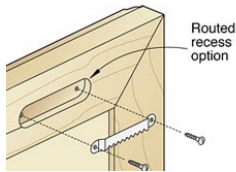


Your honour, I was framed and I demand a recess

To hang a plaque or frame truly flat against the wall, recess the saw-tooth hanger as shown in *top drawing*. On plaques or wide picture frames, you can use a Forstner bit; on narrow picture frames, rout the recess with a straight bit as shown in *bottom drawing*.

--Erv Roberts, Des Moines, Iowa

Picture Frames

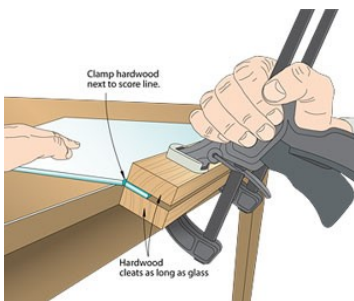


You'll get hooked on this picture-hanging helper

Pictures or other art with wire hangers always hang a little lower than we want them to, don't they? First, you struggle with how to hold the thing while your helper decides where he or she wants it; then, the wire on the back sags more than you expect. This nifty little jig solves both problems.

To use it, place the jig against the wall and hang the wire over the head of the panhead screw. When the location is picture-perfect, press on the frame directly over the paint stick as shown. The screw will leave a dimple in the wall, and that's where you drive your nail. If I'm using a hook-type hanger instead of a nail, I put the bottom of the hook over the dimple.

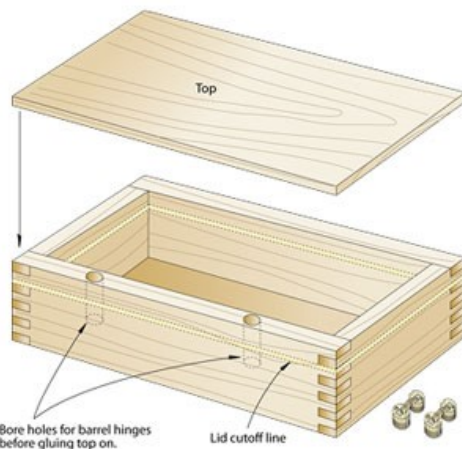
--Scott Hood, Oakville, Ont.



Make a clean break

I had to trim about 1" from a piece of glass I was installing in a cabinet door. But even after scoring the glass with a cutter, it kept breaking off in small pieces. I figured if I could snap the whole length at once, I'd get a nice clean break. So I sandwiched the waste piece of glass between two scraps of hardwood as long as the scored line and clamped them in place as shown in the drawing. Using the clamp as a handle, I gave a quick downward snap, and the piece broke off perfectly.

--Allan Fanjoy, Saint John, N.B.



Boring for barrels

If you've ever used those hidden barrel-style hinges on a box, you've probably ruined a box or two trying to get the mounting holes between the box and the lid perfectly aligned. I solved this problem by boring the holes for the hinges before I glue the box top on, as shown. Then, when I cut off the lid from the box, the holes can't help but lineup.

--Gerry Hill, Tucson, Ariz.

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This Club/ Guild aims to assist members to improve their woodworking skills. Not all such activities occur in our Club premises, and some activities or events are promoted through this Newsletter and others directly to members in some other ways, but they are still Club/Guild activities, please support them. These activities may include personal and group tuition of members by other members (we all try to help one another for the benefit of the Club/Guild in this way) sessions in member's workshops, wood-gathering, events promoting our activities to members of the public, and other such activities and events.

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