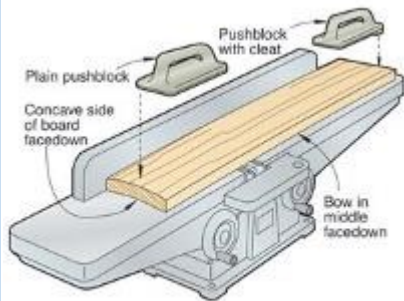


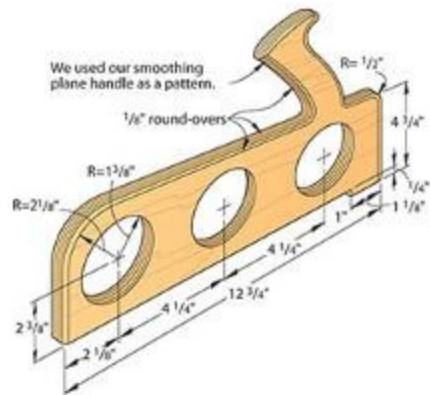
Woodworking Tips



Shop-altered pushblock helps remove cup

Here's a way to remove one side of the cup in warped boards at your jointer. As shown in the drawing at left, a cleat added to a regular pushblock helps get the job done safely. To accomplish this, first flatten the concave side by face-jointing. Then remove the convex side of the warp by running it through your planer with the new flat side down. Be sure to take into account your reduced stock thickness in your project.

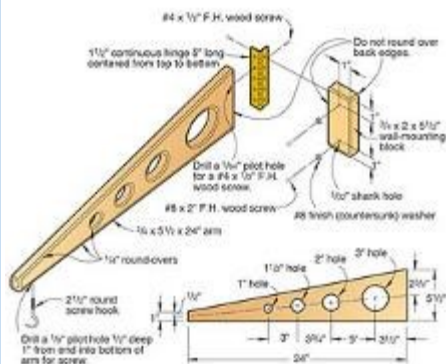
-- from the *WOOD*® magazine shop



Sure-grip jointer pushstick

The next time you are jointing wood, keep your hand safely above the fence and out of harm's way while applying even pressure with this extra-tall pushstick. A notched bottom edge provides the needed grip for pushing the wood smoothly and effectively over your tool's knives.

-- from the *WOOD*® magazine shop



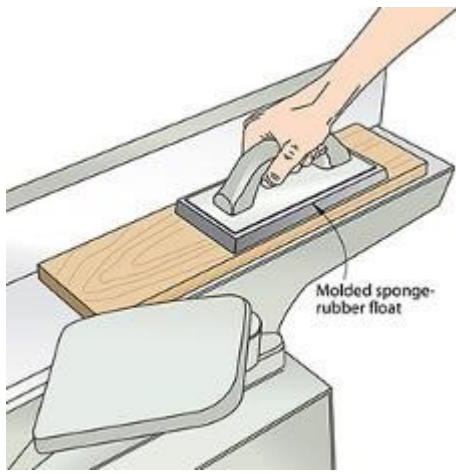
Swing-arm support

Keep the motor end of your rotary tool up and out of the way, and the flexible-shaft and business end close at hand, with this convenient swing-arm support. Screw it to the wall above your carving station.

After using the tool, just loop the end of the flexible shaft through one of the holes in the swing-arm support, and then swing the arm to one side until you need it again

-- from the *WOOD* magazine shop



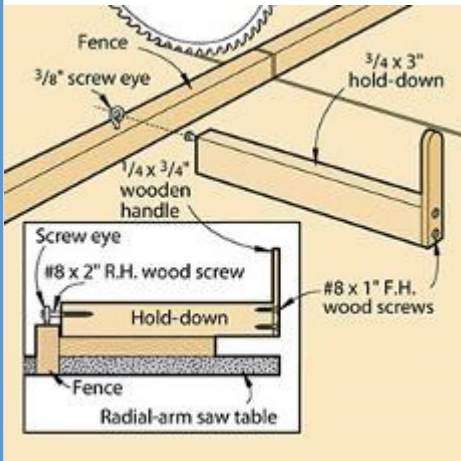


See if this pushblock tip floats

Over the years, I've found that most of the pushblocks that come with jointers and shapers provide little grip on the stock. Instead, I use a couple of molded sponge-rubber floats, that seem to hold on to the wood better than ordinary pushblocks. The broad aluminum bases on these masonry tools won't damage a cutter if hit, and they keep my hands well away from the cutters of a jointer or shaper.

-- Brian Grams, Gillette, Wyo.

Hold-down works for radial-arm saw



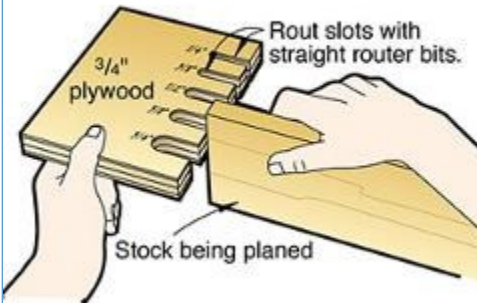
Feather boards and hold-downs are easy to find for tablesaws and router tables. Now, here's one you can build for your radial-arm saw. It makes your operations safer and stops the subtle creep or movement of the stock that occasionally ruins your cuts.

To build this helper, attach two screw eyes to your saw's fence about 8" to the right and to the left of the blade. Then, fashion the hold-down out of 3/4 x 3" stock and fasten a handle as shown at right. The length of the hold-down should equal the width from the fence to the front edge of the saw table.

Position a roundhead screw in the end of the hold-down so it sits flush with the thickness of stock you normally cut. For thicker or thinner stock, make another hold-down and position the screw accordingly. Make sure your fence is securely anchored so it doesn't pull up when you push down on the hold-down.

-- Dave Yarkosky, Albia, Iowa

Gauge prevents planing problems



Anyone who has planed down stock to different thicknesses knows the frustration of planning material too thin. To prevent this, I created an accurate thickness gauge by routing and labeling 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", and 3/4" notches in a piece of plywood. It's proved to be faster and more accurate than a ruler.

-- Mark Liska, Manitowoc, Wis.

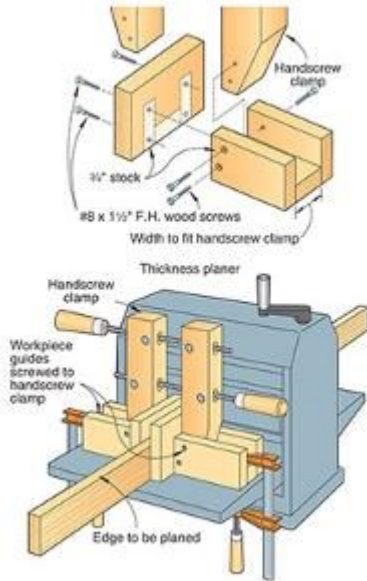


Mill uniform widths with your planer

With an old hand screw clamp and some scraps of hardwood, you can set up your thickness planer as shown right to mill uniform-width door or cabinet stiles, rails, and other pieces with jointer-smooth, square edges.

Prepare your workpieces by jointing one edge and ripping the other edge so the workpieces are slightly too wide. Then, clamp one of the workpiece guides to your planer's in-feed table and adjust its face 90° to the planer table. Adjust the face of the opposite guide so the part fits snugly between the guides. Clamp down the other guide. Fine-tune the snugness of the guides on the workpiece with a hand screw clamp.

-- Bob Killian, Lubbock, Texas



Rookie cabinetmaker teaches a nifty biscuit joiner trick

In my first attempt at cabinetmaking, I wanted to use biscuits to secure the corner blocks in the bathroom vanity I made for my wife. But the blocks were too small to clamp to the bench while I plunged with my biscuit joiner. After a bit of head-scratching, I finally decided that if I couldn't clamp the workpiece to the bench, I'd clamp it to the tool.

After attaching the corner block to the joiner's fence as shown in the drawing right, I used clamps to temporarily mount the biscuit tool to my benchtop. Then, I just pulled the trigger and plunged. Since that experiment, I have tried the process with both smaller and thinner pieces with unqualified success.

-- Jim Culler, Bellville, Ohio

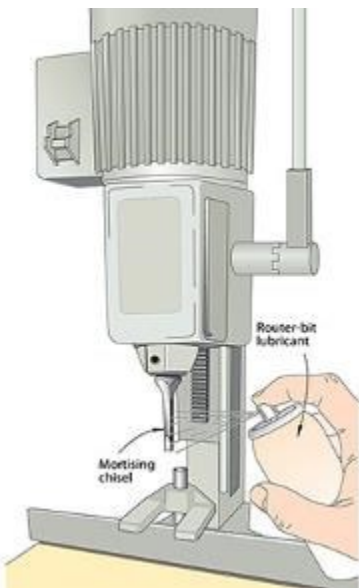


A spritz to quiet mortising bits

I've found that a couple of quick shots of router-bit lubricant into the hollow chisel of my benchtop mortising machine eliminates the annoying squeal I used to get with those bits. It only takes a little spritz, and I wipe off the excess before use to prevent it from contaminating my workpiece. As a bonus, I've found the bit stays cool longer and cuts quicker and cleaner.

-- Tony Strother, Durham, N.C.

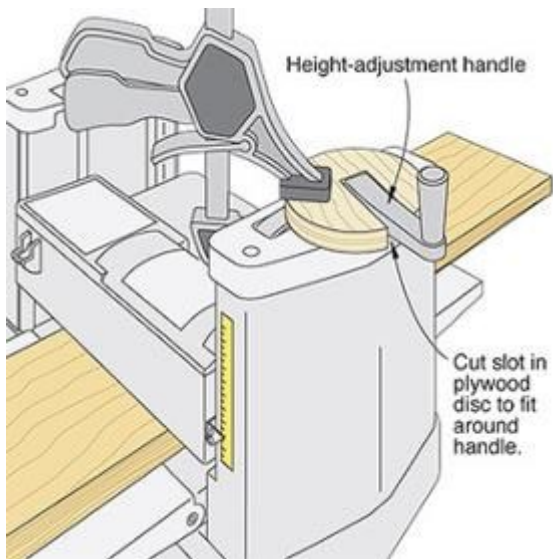
Benchtop Mortise



Stop cutterhead creep with this simple handle holder

My Delta 22-540 planer, like many portable 12" units, lacks a cutterhead lock, so I made my own. I cut an 8"-diameter disc from 3/4" plywood and cut a notch in it to match the planer's height-adjustment handle. After setting the cutterhead to the proper thickness for my workpiece, I slip the disc around the handle and clamp it to the body of the planer as shown in the drawing right.

-- Paul Lonergan, Lancaster, Ohio



Biscuits strengthen even narrow face frames

While making a face frame for a bathroom base cabinet recently, I felt like mortise-and-tenon joints were overkill and half laps were too time-consuming. I wanted to use my biscuit joiner, but the face frame was too narrow to accept standard-size biscuits. Instead of cutting biscuit slots in the edges of the frame parts, as I normally would, I cut a pair of them in the back face across each joint as shown at right. After gluing the biscuits in place and letting the glue dry, I cut the protruding half of the biscuits off with a handsaw. (They won't be seen on the inside of the cabinet anyway.)

You wouldn't want to use this method for joints that will be under a lot of stress. Nor would you use it where the back of the frame will be visible. But for face frames, the joint produced is quick, easy, square, and plenty strong.

-- Len Estrada,

Keep toys rolling with plastic washers

Wooden wheels on toy projects often don't turn freely due to the wood-on-wood friction between the wheel and the toy. For free-wheeling toys, make some plastic washers to reduce this friction. Cut your washers from any thin plastic such as coffee-can lids. Use a hole punch, knife, or scissors to cut the hole for the axle. Slide the washers between the wheel and the toy body, and the wheels will spin easily.

-- Carl Uberig, Beverly Hills, Fla. Gladstone, Va.

