TOP TIP

Splining polygons

Sometimes I make 6- or 8-sided frames, reinforcing the otherwise weak joints with splines. As when splining square frames, these polygons are first glued together, and then the frame is held vertically in a jig and fed across the tablesaw to cut the spline slots.

The trick is in the jig. Many woodworkers have a dedicated jig for spline-slotting square frames. It’s typically constructed somewhat like a tenoning jig, except it has two fences—perpendicular to each other and at 45° to the saw table. These are usually screwed to the jig face. Instead, I attach my fences with double-faced tape rather than screws. This gives me the flexibility to attach or rearrange any type or number of fences to suit a frame of any shape. (I can also use the jig for tenoning by attaching a single vertical fence.)

The jig itself is nothing fancy—just a couple of ¾"-thick MDF or hardwood plywood panels attached and gusseted at a perfect 90° angle with a handle on the base for keeping the jig against the rip fence when in use. For safety, always clamp the workpiece to the body of the jig when sawing.

—Bill Sands, Lubeck, West Virginia

---

You Asked. We Listened.

Introducing the World’s Smallest Round Inflatable Sander!

It’s here . . . your small round inflatable sander, only ¾” x ¾” with a patented dome head, that eliminates hand sanding! This product is excellent for getting into really, really small openings like under the rim of a turned bowl or tight concave shapes. It’s a new must-have to complete your Guinevere® Sanding System.

Just ask for Small Round Sander #11341SR, Sanding Sleeve Grits are 80, 150, and 320.

GET YOURS TODAY AT THAAPPUB.COM OR CALL 800-942-1300

“Any tool that makes sanding and finishing this easy and fool proof should be illegal, or at least a sin!”

Thomas Haapapuro
thaapdesigns.com
A shop-made lathe gauge

I do a lot of spindle-turning at the lathe, and find myself turning sections and details to the same common diameters time and again. Rather than constantly resetting my calipers, I devised a gauge for these diameters, making it from plastic laminate, which is thin enough to slip into parted areas and in between beads.

Making a gauge like this is easy. Begin with an oversized scrap of plastic laminate for safe handling. Lay out the centers for the desired diameters along a line drawn parallel to one edge. Bore out the holes on the drill press, and then saw through the centerline. Finish up by trimming the gauge to a convenient size.

—Mark Pilsner, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Watco Danish Oil penetrates deep into wood pores to protect from within and to enhance the natural look and feel of the wood. For nearly 100 years Rust-Oleum’s products’ renowned performance, and superior durability have given you the power to change.

Available at Woodcraft and other fine retailers nationwide.

Looking for Moisture Meters

Check out Lignomat’s Meters at www.woodcraft.com

Lignomat: 800-227-2105
www.lignomat.com
Ligno-Scanner at Woodcraft # 150260
mini-Lignos #150259 and #153775

Buy Quality and Accuracy
Protected by a 2-Year Warranty!

??? Check out the new info-site:
www.wood-moisture.com

BIG GATOR TOOLS

V-DrillGuides

Drill Straight – Every Time!
Can be used on flat surfaces, round parts and corners.

www.BigGatorTools.com
913-377-2444
Like many woodworkers, I often use “screw strips” to support panels and other project parts when finishing them. With flathead screws driven through them, these screw strips essentially hold the inverted screws upright so “wet” work can rest on the tips without damage, allowing you to finish to both faces of a piece in immediate succession.

The problem I’ve found with most screw strips is that they’re prone to tipping. To solve the problem, I took inspiration from the concept of parallel rulers. I simply connected a pair of screw strips using two ¼”-thick strips of hardboard and a couple ¼” panhead screws with washers, as shown. When spread apart, the parallelogram unit has firm footing for supporting workpieces. When not in use, a unit can be folded shut and safely stacked together against another unit with the screws facing inward toward each other.

—Mark Dean, Dade City, Florida
Stop feeling the pinch

It happened again. I was adjusting my metal bench vise to put the squeeze on a workpiece when the handle bar suddenly slid full force through its hole, slamming my fingertip between the ball-end of the bar and the head of the vise screw. (A bunch of you out there know exactly what I’m talking about.) I finally decided I had had quite enough of that smooth move, and rifled through my collection of rubber washers and O-rings looking for a fix. I found a couple of thick rubber washers that fit nicely onto the ends of the handle just below each ball. No more blood blisters.
—Willard Knight, Bellingham, Washington

Biscuit slot glue spreader

The quickest way to spread glue in biscuit slots is using a tool tailored for the job. I made my own by grinding the end of a putty knife to match the contour of a biscuit. Squeeze glue into the slot, smear it against the sides of the slot with the knife, and you’re done. Putty knives are cheap enough that I’ve actually made several of these spreaders to suit different sized biscuit slots.
—Alice Wallace, San Mateo, California
SUBSCRIBE!

2 YEARS for $29.99!

go to woodcraftmagazine.com and click SUBSCRIBE

-or-

Complete the form below and mail in an envelope addressed to:

WOODCRAFT MAGAZINE
PO BOX 7020
PARKERSBURG WV 26102-9916

Payment Enclosed

Name

Address

City

State               Zip

Country

E-mail

Send in now to get

2 Years for $29.99!

or go to woodcraftmagazine.com and click SUBSCRIBE

By providing my e-mail address, I am indicating I’d like to receive information about my subscription and other offers from Woodcraft Magazine via e-mail.

Outside of the U.S and Canada add $30 for postage.
Foreign orders must be prepaid. Payment in U.S. Funds only.