A camera phone makes it easy to photograph your completed projects before they slip the shop and your memory. It also allows you to record videos of complicated jig setups and hard-to-remember procedures, making the job easier the next time. I find that using a tripod helps enormously, especially when including hands-at-work to help demonstrate a technique. To mount my phone, I cobbled together the unit shown. To make one yourself, size the pieces and locate the lens port to suit your particular model. Epoxy a ¼-20 T-nut in the bottom piece to connect to a typical tripod head.

—Lee Wimbs, Greensboro, North Carolina
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A helper post

When working wood, task lighting is indispensable for really seeing what you’re doing, especially with older eyes. Strong, well-positioned light is critical for peering into a router base opening, seeing cutlines, and taking accurate measurements, among other things. I also find that a strong light raking across a work surface in a dimmed shop makes defects really pop out for effective smoothing. To allow perfect positioning of a lamp, I use a simple free-standing post to which I can fix a clamp light at any height. It’s just a 2x2 with a base made of scrap plywood panels. I also outfitted it with cup hooks and plywood brackets to support cords and dust collection hoses.

—Paul Anthony, senior editor

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<tr>
<td>LARGE BRACKET</td>
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<td>POST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility clamp light</td>
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<td>Cup hook for tool cords</td>
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Deburring tool

Sometimes a tool from one craft works well for another. I’ve found that a hand deburring tool, used to clean up rough edges in metalwork, has great applications in the woodshop. The tool’s sharp cutter rotates freely in its handle and cuts a small chamfer on edges and corners. In metalworking, it’s used to remove burrs caused by the cutting tool, and can serve essentially the same purpose in woodworking, removing exit tearout from mortises or holes, and quickly scraping away rough edges on shop plastics and metals. Hand deburring tools can be purchased online from places like mscdirect.com or amazon.com.

—Dan Martin, Galena, Ohio
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Love Turning but Hate Sharpening?
If you love turning but don’t have the time or equipment it takes to effectively sharpen your tools, you have to check out Woodpeckers new Ultra-Shear line. Just like other carbide insert tools, Ultra-Shear tools have a short learning curve, simply keep the tool flat and level on the centerline of the workpiece and cut the shape you want.

But Ultra-Shear goes even further, delivering a spectacular surface finish with a technique called *shear scraping*. Roll the tool right or left on your tool rest and you will feel it land solidly on a secondary bearing surface. This sets your cutting edge at 45° to the stock. Coming into the work at this angle, the wood fibers slice cleanly, virtually eliminating sanding. The exclusive shape of the Ultra-Shear shaft allows you to switch from aggressive stock removal to super-fine finishing in the blink of an eye.

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- October 28 – Fort Worth, TX
- October 29 – Dallas, TX
- November 3-4 – Greenville, SC
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