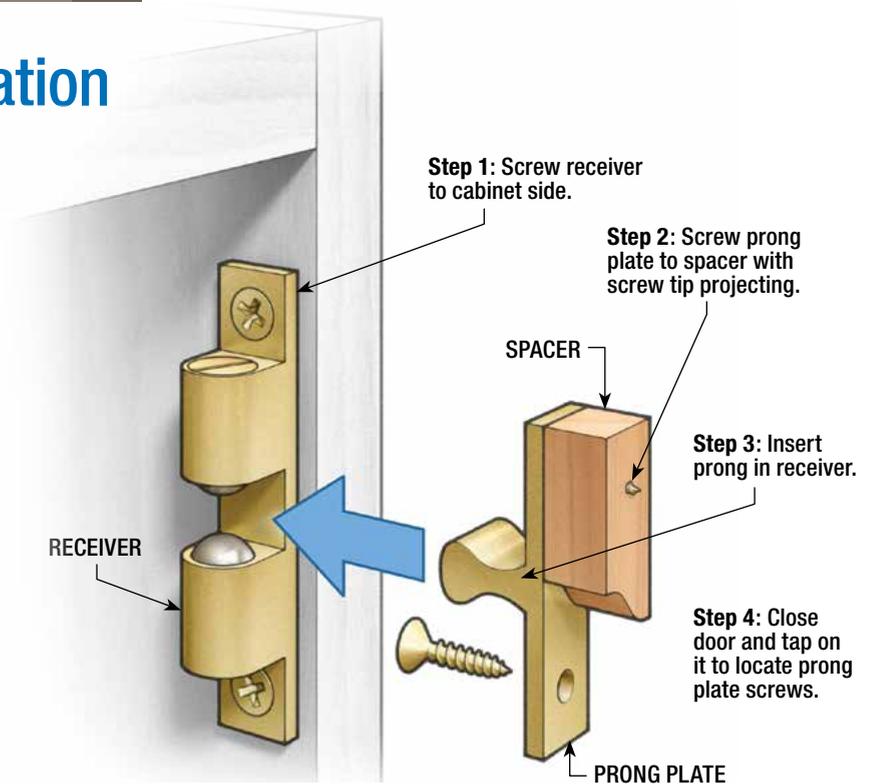


**TOP TIP**

## Easy ball-catch location

I like using brass double-ball catches on fine furniture because they're well made and classy looking. The only problem is that they can be tricky to install, as there's virtually no allowance for misalignment. Here's an approach that I've found works well: First, screw the catch receiver to the cabinet. Then make a spacer that's at least as long and wide as the prong plate and a bit thinner than the length of the prong screw. After drilling pilot holes, screw the prong plate to the spacer, allowing the screw tips to project from the rear. Press the prong into the receiver, and close the door. A few smart raps against the door will create divots that precisely locate the prong screws in the door's back side.

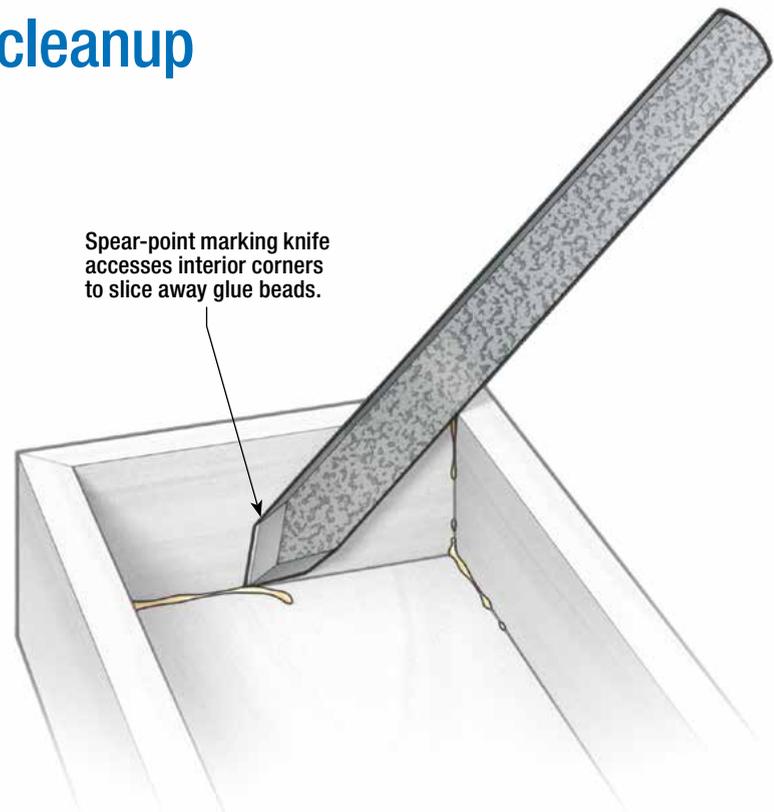
—Robert Wapp, Viroqua, Wisconsin



## Marking knife glue cleanup

My Japanese “spear-point” marking knife is great for accurately marking out joinery. Because it has a flat face and no handle, it can register flush against a dovetail cheek, for example, to precisely lay out the mating socket, even between closely spaced tails. And the spear point allows both right- and left-hand use. Recently, I discovered another great use for the tool: glue cleanup inside the corners of boxes and other small cavities. The flat face and spear point allows the knife to cleanly slice away partially hardened beads of glue squeezout in corners where a chisel often won't reach.

—Dave Freedman,  
Highland Park, Illinois



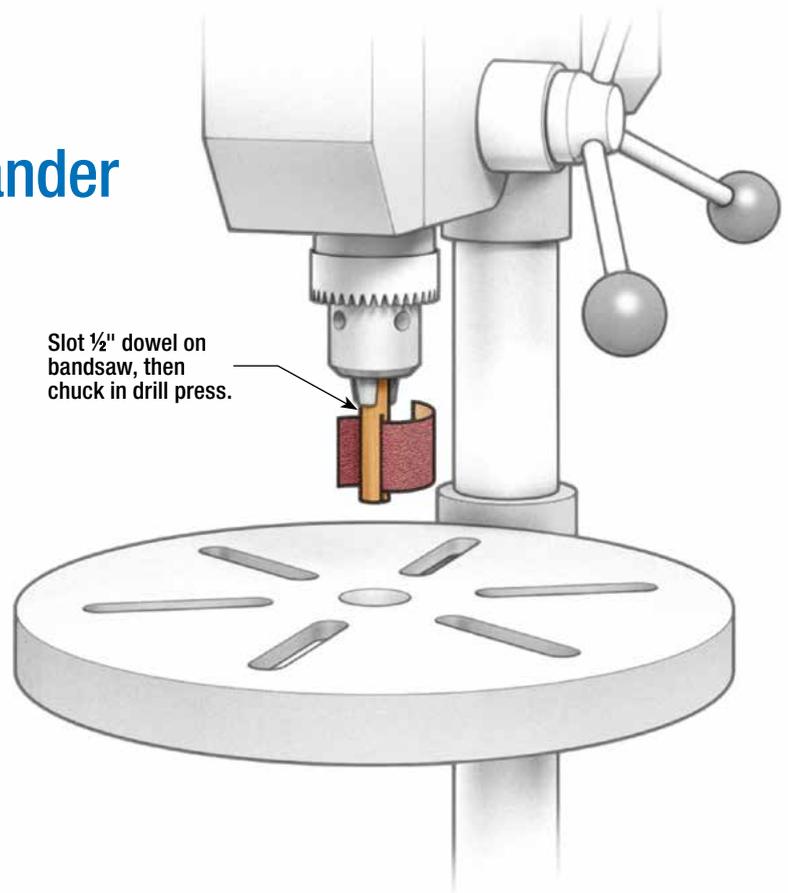
## CLASSIC TIP

## A makeshift drum sander

Sometimes I make little turned vessels with drilled-out interiors, and need to clean up the relatively deep openings. I've found that the best tool for the job is a ½"-diameter dowel that I use as a drum sander of sorts. I bandsaw a slot in the end of the dowel to accept a strip of sandpaper that automatically wraps itself around the dowel as it spins inside the hole. Refreshing the paper occasionally is a simple matter of tearing off the used section. This technique actually works well for sanding the edges of pierced scrollwork too. On large workpieces, you can chuck the sander into a hand-held drill for better maneuverability.

—Stu McPherson,

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico



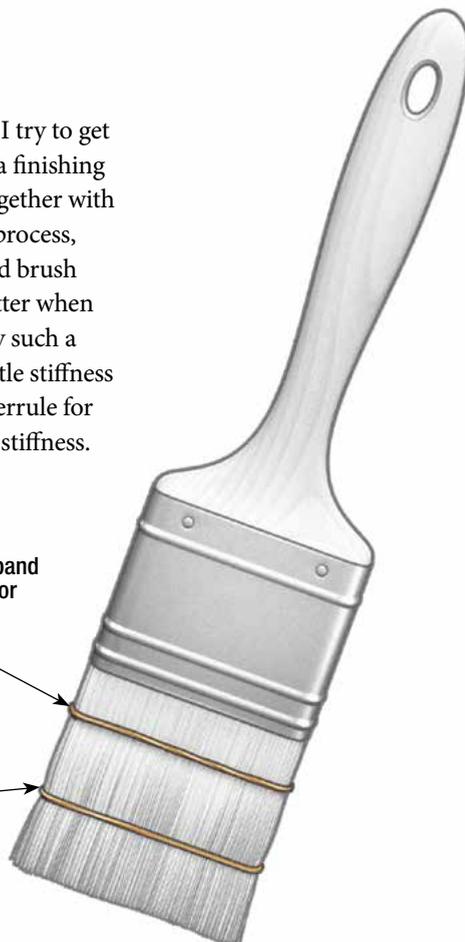
## An adjustable brush

As a 17-year-old budget-conscious woodworker, I try to get as much use as possible from my tools. So when a finishing brush started falling apart, I decided to hold it together with a rubber band, which worked pretty well. In the process, I realized that I was converting my floppy-bristled brush into a firm-bristled brush, which I find works better when applying thicker finishes. Now I don't have to buy such a wide variety of brushes. I simply "adjust" the bristle stiffness with a thin rubber band, placing it closer to the ferrule for best flexibility, and closer to the far end for more stiffness.

—Ethan Talbert, St. Augustine, Florida

Locate rubber band nearer ferrule for more flexibility.

Place here for firmer bristles.



## Finish flip seal

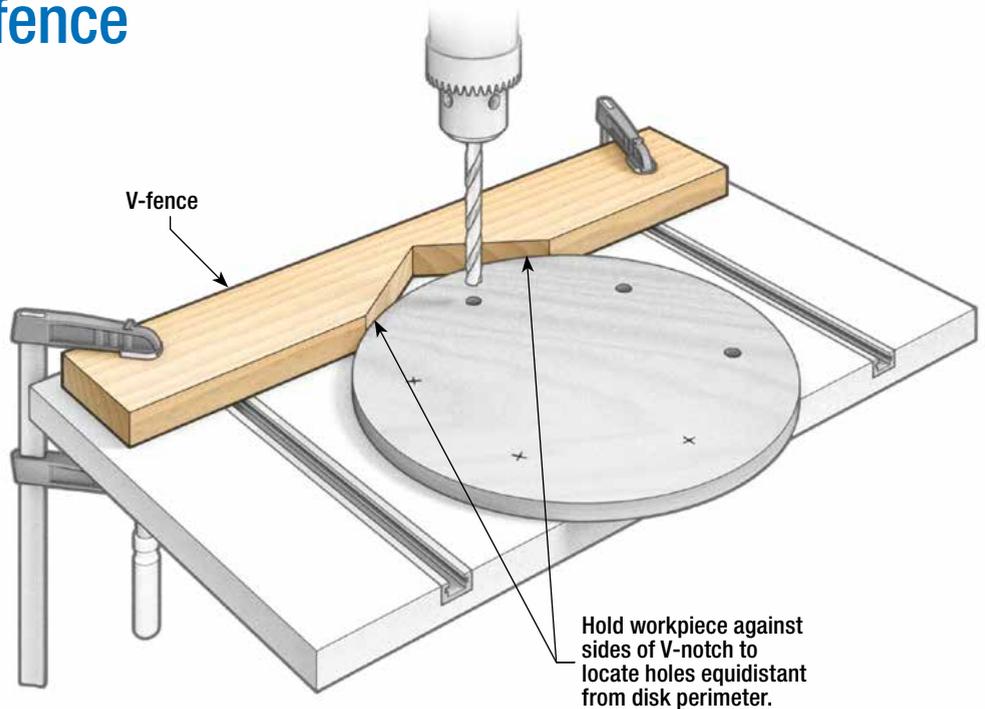
Partially used cans of finish can be hard to seal properly, causing the finish to go bad. A good way to prevent this is to wipe the lid contact areas clean, tap the lid down well, and then flip the can upside-down for storage. This way, the finish itself will form an airtight seal around the rim.

—Jonah Talbert, St. Augustine, Florida

# Drill press V-fence

While making a decorative disk, I needed to drill a series of holes near its perimeter, inseting them a consistent distance from the disk's edge. Normally, I might create a jig by installing a pin of some sort in a scrap panel that would allow the disk to rotate on the drill press table. But I didn't want to drill into the underside of the disk to create the center pivot point. Instead, I bandsawed a V-cut in a board that I then clamped to the drill press table. This custom fence provided perfect support for the job.

—Geoff Epstein,  
Marlborough, Massachusetts



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