

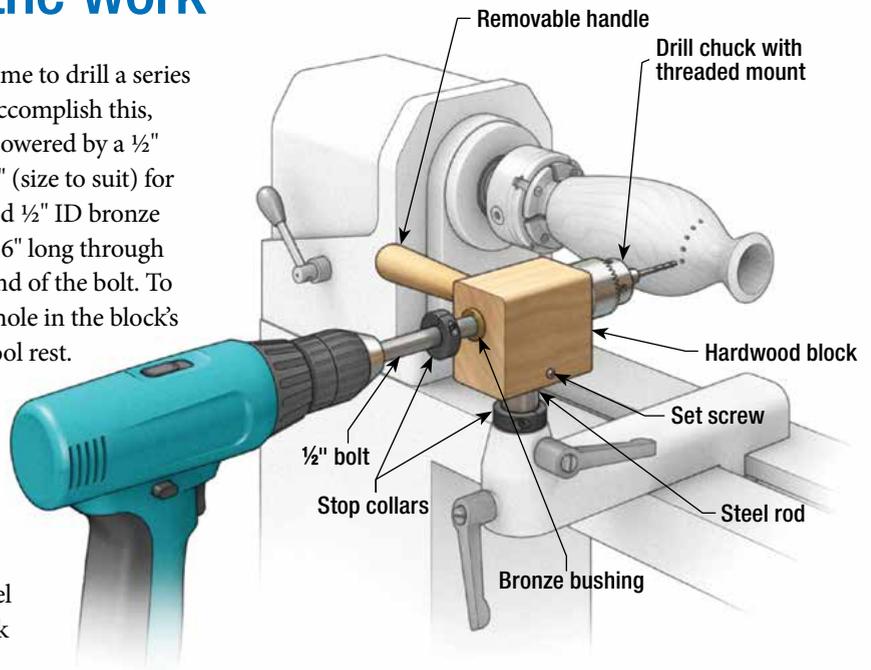
## TOP TIP

### Horizontal drill for lathe work

I recently completed a lathe project that required me to drill a series of equally-spaced holes around a small vase. To accomplish this, I made a banjo-mounted, horizontal drilling jig powered by a ½" handheld drill. I used ¾" hard maple about 3 × 3" (size to suit) for the jig body and drilled a hole through it. I pressed ½" ID bronze bushings into each end of the hole, slid a ½" bolt, 6" long through the bushings, and threaded a drill chuck on the end of the bolt. To mount the block on my banjo, I drilled a second hole in the block's underside the same size as the post hole for the tool rest.

Then I slid a matching steel rod into the hole, locking it with a setscrew. After sliding a stop collar onto this rod, I adjusted the height of the chuck to align its central axis to that of the lathe and tightened the stop collar. To control the hole depth, I mounted another stop collar on the handheld drill end of the bolt. A ⅞"-dia. dowel press-fit into a hole drilled in one face of the block serves as a removable handle and adds stability.

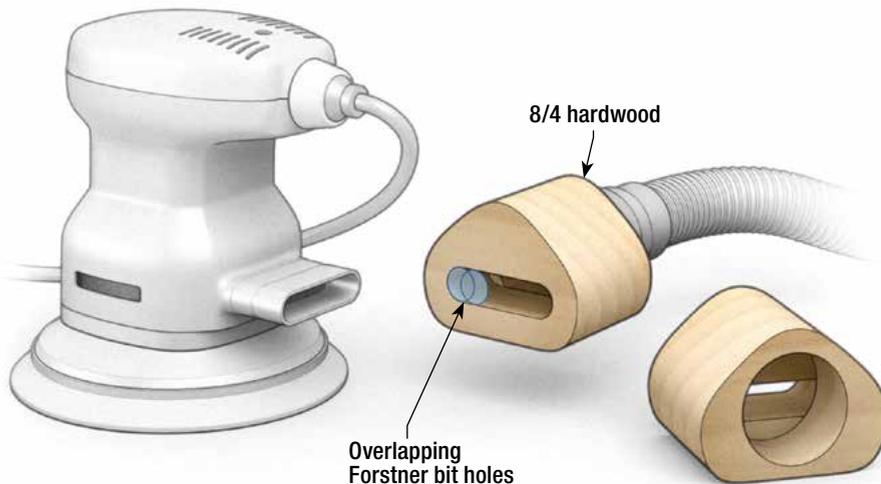
—Jeff Peters,  
Redgranite, Wisconsin



### Dust hose adapter

I managed to lose the shop vacuum adaptor that I used with my random orbit sander. Rather than turning my shop upside down to find it or buy a replacement, I made my own from a piece of ¾" stock. I drilled a series of ⅞" holes into one side to fit the tool's dust port. For the vacuum hose, I drilled a 1½" hole into the opposite end. A few bandsaw cuts helped contour the piece to a less bulky shape. I'm pleased to report my shop-made version stays connected at least as well as the original.

—Steve McCoy,  
Werleys Corner, PA



### Restoring aluminum tables

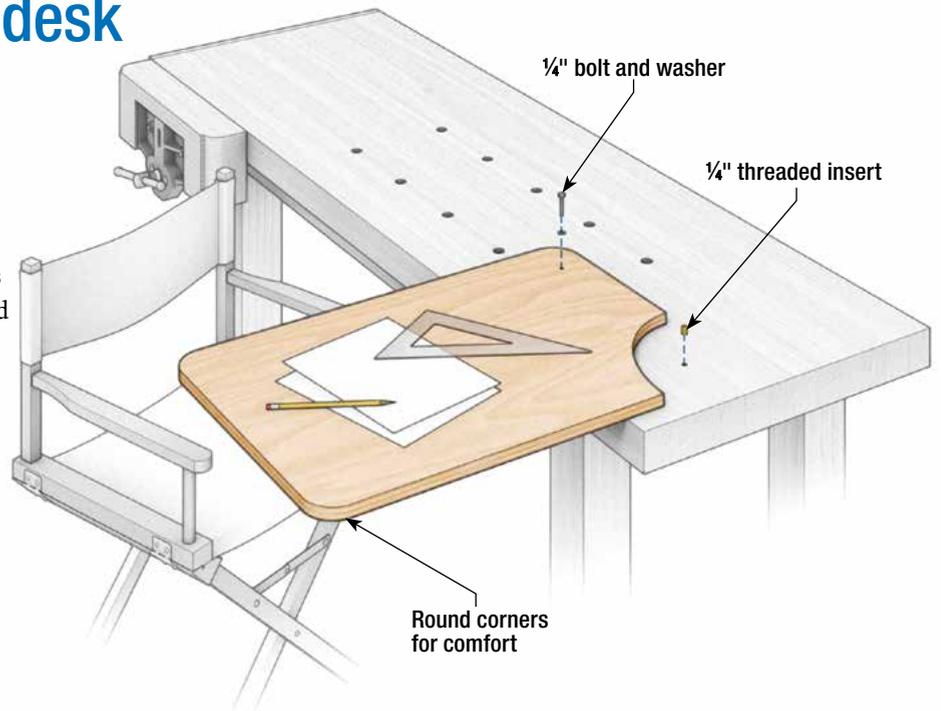
If you should happen to cut a little too deep on your CNC machine and scar the aluminum table, don't despair. Most of these tables are made up of narrow, two-sided extrusions. To hide the damage, loosen the holding bolts and flip the extrusion over before retightening everything. Then double-check your cutting files before it happens again.

—Bob Berner,  
Allentown, PA

## Impromptu shop desk

I often need a desk for paperwork or other seated tasks, but I don't have space for a freestanding one. My bench is a poor substitute: even when it is not covered with projects, it doesn't have knee room underneath. My solution was to add a removable wing at its right-hand end made from a piece of smooth-faced  $\frac{3}{4} \times 20 \times 30$ " plywood. It attaches via  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bolts that thread into inserts recessed into the benchtop. The result is a sturdy, spacious auxiliary work surface with room for my knees below. It's perfect for sketching designs, taking project notes, and working with small parts. When I don't need the desk, it can be removed in seconds and stashed out of the way.

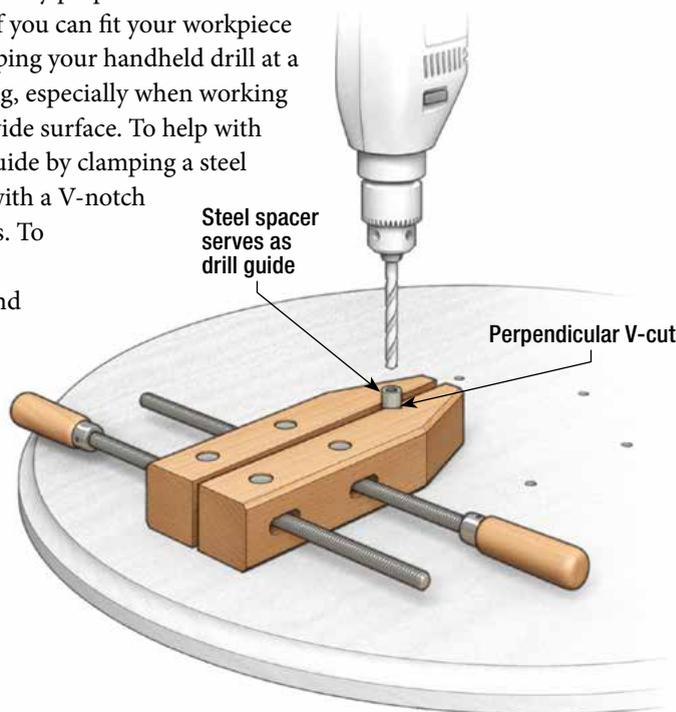
—Bill Wells,  
Olympia, WA



## Perfectly perpendicular holes

Drilling a hole that is exactly perpendicular to a surface is easy enough if you can fit your workpiece on a drill press. But keeping your handheld drill at a perfect  $90^\circ$  is challenging, especially when working toward the center of a wide surface. To help with this, I made a drilling guide by clamping a steel spacer in a handscrew with a V-notch sawn into one of its jaws. To make your own, cut the notch at the table saw and use the reassembled handscrew to hold a spacer whose inner diameter just accommodates your drill bit. My local hardware store carries these spacers in 2" lengths with inside diameters ranging from  $\frac{1}{16}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ ". ■

—Richard Entwistle,  
Highland Lakes, NJ



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