

ASK SMITTY

No woodworker (except *SMITTY*, of course) has ALL the answers. From time-to-time, everyone hits a snag, trying to figure out some sort of in-shop problem. Don't worry. *SMITTY* can help. Just use the special e-mail link directly below to send your questions to *SMITTY*. He'll do his best to get back to you soon, with the answers to those questions.

Here are the questions...and *SMITTY*'s answers for this issue...

Resawing on the Bandsaw

From Bob Myer

(e-mail question – city/state unknown)

What accessories are recommended for resawing? I have an earlier model Shopsmith Bandsaw with a cast iron table.

First.....be sure to use a 1/2" or 5/8" wide blade. Thinner blades won't track properly.
Second.....you'll need a resawing fence. The best ones are shop-made from wood. Cut an L-shaped piece of stock from a 3/4" piece of oak or other hardwood. Make the "foot" about 8" long x 3/4" wide x 3/4" high...and the vertical member about 5" high x 3/4" thick x 1-1/2" to 2" wide. You can either radius the inside of the 90-degree angle or insert a steel angle bracket at this point for reinforcement. Round-over the outside of the vertical member (into a half-round shape) using a router bit or belt sander.

Set the fence on your bandsaw table with its "foot" in the table surface and projecting inward toward the bandsaw's throat and its vertical member next to the blade. Make the distance between the vertical member and the blade the same as the resawn thickness you desire. Clamp the fence firmly to the table.

Draw a line down the full length of the top edge of your workpiece, indicating your cut thickness. Start cutting. Feed the wood very slowly, allowing the blade to do the cutting. Don't rush. If the blade begins to wander off the line, swing the infeed side of your stock left or right to compensate for this "lead".

You could also use a high wooden face attached to your Miter Gauge as a resawing fence...but you will NOT be able to compensate for blade "lead" as you go. The rounded edge of the shop-made fence is what allows this compensation.

Hollowing-out chair seats

From Harlan Spiller

(e-mail question – city/state unknown)

I'm building a child's rocking chair - The plan requires the top of the seat to be slightly hollowed out - Do you have any suggestions ? I have a Shopsmith Model 510

Unfortunately, this can be a tough job. You could start with your drill press.....drilling a series of different depth holes at different locations on your seat blank to establish the differing depths of the various locations on the seat.

From this point, there are a number of ways to finish everything off...

Old line craftsmen used an inshave — a U-shaped tool with a sharp blade and a handle at each open end to scoop-out the scrap.

Some have used a router (instead of a drill press) to get it close, then “feathered” the relief in with sandpaper.

An auto body (portable disc-type) sander with coarse paper also works, as does a rasp, a random orbit sander with very coarse paper or a sculptor's gouge.

This is one job that takes a lot of patience.

Using the Shopsmith Mortising Package

(e-mail question – name/city/state unknown)

I just ordered the Shopsmith Mortise & Tenon Package for my MARK V and am concerned about the added pressure applied to the gearing of the Quill Feed mechanism that is required to bore the square holes. Any comments? Thanks.

No cause for concern. Just be sure the quill handle is tightened securely onto the flat of the quill shaft before getting started. Also....it's best to take small “bites” at a time....about 1/8" deep.... progressing from one end of your mortise to the other...then go back and start over until you reach your full depth. Also...be sure to provide some sort of support under the worktable while performing this operation...a 2" x 4" or (if you have a Model 510 or 520 MARK V) the Shopsmith Telescoping Leg Supports will work just fine.

Preventing tear-out when cutting dadoes

From Ralph Steinhav of Chicago, IL

Every time I cut a dado, I get “feathery” splinters on the ends of the cut. This messes-up the clean joint look I want. What can I do ? My dado blade is brand new and very sharp.

Try using a sharp utility knife, pocket knife or artist's knife to score the outline of the trailing edge of the dado cut before you cut it. Then, when the wood finishes passing over the dado blade, those close-to-the-top grains will have been cleanly severed by your knife.

You might also wonder why the outside blades of your dado set are a little larger than the chipper blades. This is to give your dado cuts a cleanly severed edge. If the chipper blades were the same diameter as the outer blades, they'd tear out chunks of wood fiber, leaving a rough, splintered cut.

Making coasters

From D.P. Clay of Charleston, WV

I need to make 3" holes for coasters but I've never seen a drill that large. Is there a Shopsmith MARK V accessory or method to do this?

Here are a couple of ideas:

- 1:** Mount the coaster blank to a lathe faceplate with some industrial-grade double-stick tape and use your lathe to turn your recess.
- 2:** Or...resaw your stock into 1/8" or 3/16" thickness with your Bandsaw, then cut a hole in one piece with a 3" hole saw or your Scroll Saw and glue it to the other (base) piece.

Once the stock is cut, add felt or cork to line the hole and you'll have completed an excellent set of coasters !

