

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...

Sharpening Forstner Bits

From H. Medley, Crestview, FL

I recently invested in a set of Forstner Bits, but have been unable to find any information on the proper method of sharpening them. Can you help me?

Unfortunately, we recommend that the average home shop woodworker have these bits sharpened by a reputable local sharpening service. Forstner bits have several critical angles that must be carefully maintained during the sharpening process. Unless you happen to be extremely adept at sharpening and have the proper jigs and other sharpening aids, it's not worth risking your investment by sharpening these yourself.

Bringing neglected MARK V "back to life"

From Kevin Smith (e-mail question — city/state unknown)

I have inherited a Shopsmith mark 5 that has been neglected and unused for many years. What should I do to get it ready to be useful again. (it has some rust and just has sat for many years.)

Remove the rust, blow out any dust, give the machine a good cleaning, coat all surfaces that slide against one another or a workpiece (such as the worktable, miter gauge bar, quill, etc.) with either paste wax or a special coating such as Dri-Cote or Top-Cote.

Lubricate, following the directions in your owner's manual. If you don't have an owner's manual, you should call Shopsmith Customer Services Toll-Free at 1-800-543-7586 and order one so you know the proper procedures. Just remember NOT to turn the speed dial unless the machine is running. This is VERY IMPORTANT! If you have problems with your machine after this (you shouldn't), call the TOLL-FREE Tech Services hotline at 1-800-762-7555 for assistance.

Using link-type belts in MARK V's

From Mike F. (e-mail question — city/state unknown)

I have an older Model 500 MARK V. Can I replace its V-0Belt with a link-type belt?

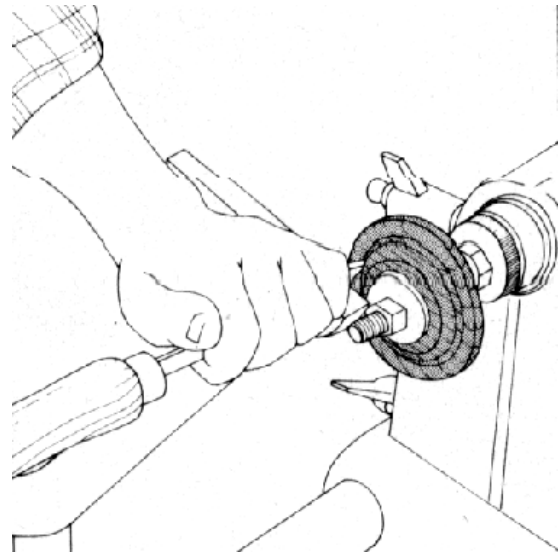
I'm afraid not. We do NOT recommend replacing the "Motor Drive Belt" with a link-type belt. The RPM's of the MARK V's speed control system are critical and will be adversely affected by using these link-type belts. We strongly advise you to use only Shopsmith-manufactured belts on your MARK V. If you need help choosing the correct belt, just call Customer Services TOLL-FREE.

Turning Bracelets

From Jack M., Nashville, TN

Is there an easy way to mount stock for turning bracelets on a Lathe?

There sure is. Besides Faceplates, Screw Centers and Chucks, one of the easiest ways would be to drill a hole in the center of your turning stock and mount it to Shopsmith's 1/2" Shaper Arbor or our 5/8" Molder/Dado Arbor.



Using universal arbor to turn bracelets.

Splitting table is a *Splitting Headache* for its makers !

From Diane & Bill M., Alberta, Canada

My husband built us a kitchen table out of spruce. We stained it and then used a water-based top-coat to protect it . Now it is starting to split, one spot along the place where he joined it (with wood glue and biscuits), the other split is in the center of a board. What can we do about this? Is it just from our dry weather (we live in Alberta, Canada) or should we have used a oil based finish? Would that have sealed it better? Thank you for any advice.

Here's the bad (I'm sorry) news. After asking a number of experts, the unanimous opinion is that the problem lies in the wood you used to build the project.

It is highly likely that the moisture content of your spruce was far too high when the project was originally built. Once glued-up and then finished, that moisture was "trapped" inside...causing your problems.

There are two options:

- 1) Wherever you have a split, saw your pieces apart, making your kerf follow the splits. Then, glue the pieces back together and allow them to dry thoroughly before applying another coat or so of finish. PERHAPS this will work for you.
- 2) If this procedure doesn't work, you have no option other than to re-build your table, using kiln-dried lumber.

Your Canadian environment should have no effect. And it will make NO DIFFERENCE whether you use water or oil-based varnish. Wish I had better news.

Solving “sticky Quill” problems

From Jon D. (e-mail question — city/state unknown)

The quill on my MARK V Model 520 sticks on a regular basis and does not move freely. I rub the paste wax on it and it frees up for a while but then gets sticky again. Please tell me how to maintain the Quill so it will always move smoothly in and out.

My first question would be....”What kind of wood are you cutting most often?” If your answer is pine or some other highly resinous wood, I can understand your problem. Woods with resinous sapwood will gum-up moving parts.

Here's my suggestion. Run the Quill all the way out and lock it in that position. Lay some newspapers under it across the Way Tubes to protect them. Spray the quill thoroughly with WD-40 and use a toothbrush to clean out the rack teeth on the underside. If WD-40 won't cut the build-up, try turpentine or mineral spirits.

Once cleaned thoroughly (and dried)...spray the quill with a product such as Dri-Cote. If you're cutting a lot of resinous woods, you may have to do this frequently.

If this doesn't solve your problem...or if you're not cutting resinous woods, you may have a Quill spring problem.

Try my approach first. If it doesn't work for you, call Tech Services TOLL-FREE at 1-800-762-7555 for further instructions.

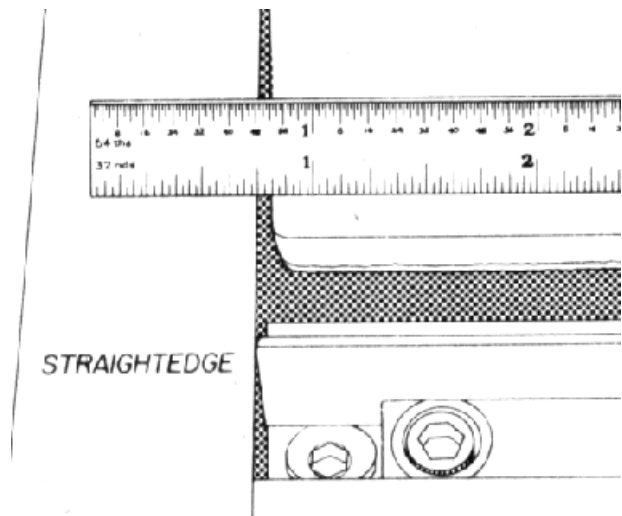
Rabbeting on the Jointer

From G. Snarr, Winchester, VA

When I form a rabbet using my Jointer, the width of the cut gets narrower from the beginning to the end. How can I correct this ?

Either the setting of your Jointer Knives is wrong or your Jointer Fence isn't lining up parallel to the outside left edge of the Outfeed Table. The Knives should extend $1/32''$ to $1/16''$ beyond the outside edge of the Outfeed Table.

To adjust the Fence, add metal shims (such as a thin washer or piece of sheet metal) between the Fence Bar and the "bosses" at the end of the Infeed Table until the Fence is parallel with the Outfeed Table. Be sure to keep your stock against the Fence on the infeed side at all times when cutting rabbets.



Knives extend $1/16''$.