

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...

Repairing crimped DC-3300 dust collection hose

From Chuck Strauss
(e-mail question — city/state unknown)

I have a fairly new hose on my Dust Collector, but at the unit end, it crimps badly. I've put duct tape on it as a reinforcement, but that doesn't seem to help. Are there any sleeves or other devices to place on the hose? Is the nozzle replaceable without buying a whole new hose section?

If the plastic end of your hose is broken, a replacement may be ordered (part # 515691 for just \$3.95). It simply screws on (reverse thread – turn CLOCKWISE to remove, counter-clockwise to replace). It may be a little tight but it WILL screw off

If the hose is badly crimped close to the end, just use tin snips to cut off the end squarely and re-install the old end (or a new one).

I suggest that you also purchase an elbow (514421 for \$4.19) and place it between your DC-3300 Dust Collector inlet and the hose. This should help take the strain off the hose and help prevent future crimping.

Cutting large sheet goods safely

From Jay H.
(e-mail question — city/state unknown)

I have owned my Shopsmith Model 510 MARK V for about 6 years and one of the standing issues that I always run into is when I'm trying to cut large sheets of plywood down. What's the best way to ensure that I'm keeping my sheets of wood at the correct angle during the cut?

Your best solution is to enlist the aid of an assistant during this process...then instruct your assistant thoroughly regarding the types of support you need...where to apply pressure and where not to, etc. In addition, I would suggest that if you're cutting a lot of large sheet goods, you might consider getting a roller support stand (740900) or two and a Shopsmith Outboard Support Table (555307).

Sorry if I sound like a "commercial"...but cutting large sheet goods can be very risky. That's why it's so important that you take all possible precautions, even WITH the aid of a helper. Wish I had more convenient news...but when working with power tools, safety is far more important than convenience.

Choosing the right moldings for a room

From Tommy Purser, Hezelhurst, GA

I recently purchased a molding attachment for my Shopsmith MARK V. I plan to make the molding to go into the great room we have just added onto our home. The room is 20' x 20' with a vaulted ceiling. What size and type of molding should I use?

There are literally hundreds of molding patterns for enhancing a room – from baseboards to casings (around doors) to chair rails to crown moldings that are typically used to visually “connect” walls to ceilings.

With a vaulted ceiling, you’re probably not going to be installing wall-to-ceiling crown moldings...especially if the ceiling takes off at an angle from the top edge of the wall. Depending upon the “style” of your house, I can imagine that a dentil molding might work for this transition. However, without seeing the room, it’s difficult for me to tell you.

Besides, moldings are a lot like wine. “What’s the best wine? The wine you like the best !” , stated Justin Wilson, the great old Louisiana Bayou, Cajun chef who used to have a regular cooking show on TV. Your choice is based on what looks best to YOU.

I do have a suggestion, however. “The Wood Moulding & Millwork Producers Association” offers a variety of 25 printed and electronic documents to help people better understand how to select and work with mouldings of all types. You can see a list of these documents at their website (www.wmmpa.com)...or contact them at 507 First Street – Woodland, CA 95695 – (800) 550-7889.

A call to them, explaining your questions...should help them decide which brochures might be of the most help to you. Armed with this information, you should be able to figure out how to create the moldings you want with the cutters available.

Older MARK V lacks power

From Jim Thornton

(e-mail question — city/state unknown)

I have a 1956 MARK V that seems to lack power. The belts aren't slipping, but the motor pulls down when trying to use the Table Saw (with a brand-new blade!). Any ideas?

There could be several things causing this. Alignment would be my first choice. Check the main worktable carefully and the alignment of the rip fence. If these are out-of-whack, there could be binding...which could easily cause a lag in power.

Second, have you changed from using a steel blade to using a carbide-tipped blade? If so, the carbide tips are wider and require more power. You might try a thin-kerf saw blade (such as 517351) instead.

Finally, your vintage machine has a 3/4 – hp motor. It is possible that your old motor is “tired” or the bearings are beginning to wear out. Your drive belt could also be worn so far that it's running in the space between the sheaves. These possibilities could require replacement parts. It may be a wise thing for you to send your Headstock into the factory so we can take a look at it for you.

To make arrangements for this, call our TOLL-FREE Technical Services Hotline at 1-800-762-7555. We'll tell you how to return it for a review and estimate.