

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...

Troublesome Scroll Saw table movement

From Mark Manly via e-mail

I have recently purchased a Shopsmith MARK V-Mount Scroll Saw and am having a problem with the worktable moving a slight amount during use. Can you help?

The two most probable solutions for your problem lie in the area of lose fasteners. Either the tilt locks are not tightened adequately or the trunion screws are loose. In either case, simply tighten one or both. Another possibility is that the trunion on your machine is not seating properly in the trunion base. To remedy this, loosen the front tilt lock, push down on the work table and tighten the trunion lock knob.

Currently available accessories for Model 10-ER machines

From Quin Leach via e-mail

Is there a list of currently-available Shopsmith MARK V accessories that will work on the earlier Model 10-E and 10-ER machines? I'm particularly interested in the Mortising Attachment.

I'm afraid that the currently available Mortising Attachment won't work on Model 10-E or 10-ER machines. However, there is good news. Most of the spindle-mounted MARK V accessories will work with these earlier machines (except the 10" Saw Blades...10-E and 10-ER machines were made for smaller blades).

If you have a question about a particular accessory, just call Shopsmith's TOLL-FREE number and ask one of our representatives before ordering.

What is "galling"?

From Robert C. via e-mail

I have often heard the term "galling" used by experts when they discuss cleaning the surface of metal parts. Just what exactly is "galling"?

"Galling" is the break-down (or build-up) of a metal surface, caused by excessive friction between two mating parts that move past, within, or over one another. During this movement, particles from one or both of the parts are torn loose and then either welded to the other part or balled-up onto the other. This occurs most frequently when one part is made of a softer material than the other.

A piece of fine emery cloth or a single-cut mill file is normally used to eliminate the effects of "galling". To prevent the reoccurrence of "galling" coat the mating part surfaces with paste wax, oil (only if not exposed to sawdust), one of the special, spray-on metal surface coatings such as Dri-Cote or Top-Cote. These products have been specially-formulated to lubricate mating metal parts and provide a protective shield that will prevent corrosion and the build-up of wood resins on metal surfaces

Using a tapered India slip stone to hone lathe chisels

From J.P. via e-mail

I recently honed my lathe chisels for the first time (I'm new to woodworking). After using the Shopsmith Sharpening Kit, I then proceeded to hone all of the flat chisels with a flat stone. In the past, I had purchased a tapered India slip stone, part number 731029...but no "how-to" literature was included with the stone.

I searched the Sharpening Chapter in the Power Tool Woodworking textbook and also website honing tips but have found nothing on the proper use of tapered slip stones. Any suggestions you have would be greatly appreciated, including the possibility of a fixture to secure the tapered slip stone for safe use.

There really is no "secret" to using these stones (which are for use ONLY with curved-edge chisels such as Gouges and Roundnoses).

Just lubricate the stone with a good quality honing oil, hold it in your (non-dominant) hand, concave side up and go to work, as you would with a flat stone. Lay the convex edge of your chisel onto the stone's concave surface, while doing your best to maintain the proper edge angle. Push the chisel slowly forward across the stone's surface, while rotating it to be sure you hone the entire edge equally.

Turn the stone over (convex side up), and repeat the process on the opposite (concave) edge of your chisel.

Unfortunately, because of their tapered shape, there really is no "guiding" device that can be used with these stones.

Thickness Planer is burning the workpiece

From Judy L. via e-mail

I enjoy using my new Shopsmith Thickness Planer and am actually saving money by purchasing rough lumber and sizing it myself - just as you said I would. A few times, burn marks have appeared on my workpieces from using the Planer. Any suggestions?

There are two primary causes for this problem: 1): The feed rate you're using is too slow for the stock -- or 2): Your planer knives are dull.

Solutions: 1): Increase your Planer's feed rate setting -- or 2): Check your Planer Knives for sharpness and sharpen them if necessary. Your burn marks should stop appearing.

Life of re-ground Thickness Planer Knives

From M.S. via e-mail

How many times can my Shopsmith Thickness Planer Knives be re-ground before they should be replaced?

Thickness Planer Knives are a lot like auto brake shoes and drums. In this case, they should NEVER be re-ground to less than 11/16" wide. Using Knives narrower than this can be dangerous and narrower Knives should be discarded immediately.

Keep this limit in mind if you're sharpening your own Knives with Shopsmith's Planer/Joiner Knife Sharpener. If you're sending them out to be re-ground, be sure to tell your professional re-grinder about these limits and advise him to remove as little material as possible each time he grinds them.

Mixing white and red oak on the same project

From Paul Leech via e-mail

My question is about finishing. If I build a table using both white and red oak...and a mixture of flat-sawn and quarter-sawn...then stain it with a medium to dark finish...will it look OK? I have been told that white and red oak finish about the same. I'm looking forward to your answer.

I have seen hardwood floors with both mixed red and white oak and they look OK. Actually, your question is less about finishing and more about aesthetics.

I believe that mixing both White and Red oak, quarter sawn and flat sawn, and staining it in a medium to dark finish, is a mistake...unless you're really wanting a truly "mixed-up" look. However, it is OK to mix quarter-sawn and flat-sawn boards of the same species in a project... just don't mix the red oak with the white oak because the white and red oak will not stain to the same color.

The red oak will have more of an open grain and a pinker color than the white oak, while the white oak will have a closed grain and be lighter in color, since its closed pores won't absorb the stain as well as the red oak. It's also important to note that there are some species of white oak that are actually brown in color and will be darker than the red oak.

Generally, mixing the two oaks in furniture is not advisable. Sorry I don't have better news for you.