# 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…**

## "Wandering" Bandsaw Circle-Cutter

*From Scott Hampton via e-mail*

***I am having trouble with my new Circle Cutting jig that I bought for my Bandsaw. I followed the directions...attaching it to my Bandsaw, and my first circle cut came out great. But now it won't cut a circle. It seems that the jig keeps pulling the wood towards the inside of the Bandsaw, drawing the Bandsaw blade further and further into the center of the wood, creating what I have named the "Big Spring Effect". It also bends the Bandsaw blade and pulls the blade out of the guides...then the blade sometimes jams into the wood so bad the whole machine stops. Any suggestions you can give on how to correct this problem would be greatly appreciated.***

There are three possible answers to your problem:

1: Since you managed to cut the first circle successfully, I believe that the most likely answer is that something has moved the center point of the jig off center with the blade teeth. As instructed, the center MUST be at the tips of the blade teeth, not in front or behind the tips. There is a setscrew (ref.#11, part number 517089) in the clamp (ref.#9, part number 516157) that stabilizes the clamp on the vertical arm (ref.#1, part number 516375). I suspect that this setscrew is not tight against the vertical arm. This setscrew must be loosened and then re-tightened with each-and-every diameter change to keep the center pin (ref.#4, part number 516156) stable.

2: The bolts (ref.#35, part number 426367) that hold the table (ref.#87, part number 516113) to the trunions (ref.#37, part number 502675) are loose. This would cause the relationship between the pivot point and the blade teeth to shift thus causing this "Big Spring Effect".

3: There could be a blade lead problem caused (possibly) by not having the upper back-up roller adjusted close enough to the blade back and wiping off the blade tooth set. In order to have the guides wipe the set from only one side of the blade, to cause this lead problem, one of the four blade guides has to be way out of position both front-to-back and side-to-side. I think this is unlikely. Hopefully, one of these is the correct answer.

## Re-sizing bed frames

*From Cindy Brooks via e-mail*

***I have an antique (double-size) 4- poster bed and would like to convert it to a queen size. There isn't room for me to enlarge the slats. Is it possible to make a double into a queen size?***

Without seeing the bed, I would guess that lengthening the bed will be a simple matter of making longer side rails and staining them to match. Hardware for attaching the rails to the head and foot boards is readily available from many of the woodworking catalogers.

However, IF the head and foot boards are serving as end rails...and the side rails attach directly to them...making this change will involve widening these, which could be a lot more difficult. One way might be to "sister" some matching wood blocks to the outer sides of the head and foot boards, stain them to match and use some new hardware to attach the longer side rails.

Double mattresses are 54" x 75" – while queen-size mattresses are typically 60" x 80".

If you use this approach, the finished bed could look a little strange, considering the fact that the actual head and foot boards will be somewhat narrower than the bed itself. But, with a width difference of only 5", it could also look OK. You'll have to decide that.

## Joining long moldings

*From Robert Williams via e-mail*

***What's the best way to join moldings together when the wall is longer than the molding? I'm installing a chair rail molding and would like to know how to best join the molding together to hide the joint.***

The answer is to cut them at a 45-degree angle where they join together...as opposed to joining them with a 90-degree butt joint.

Also...don't try to glue or otherwise join them together BEFORE you attach them to the wall. Instead, nail the long piece to the wall first...then apply glue to the mating mitered edges and nail the short piece to the wall.

If the molding is already stained, you'll have to stain the joint to match after it's installed.

## Woodworking Academy question

*From B. Malarick, Cincinnati, OH*

***I'm interested in getting into woodworking and would like to take your Academy course on "Building A Shaker Wall Clock". Do I need to take any pre-requisite courses prior to taking this course? I have no woodworking experience, whatsoever.***
***I'd also like to build a Shaker Blanket Chest. Do you offer a course such as this? If not, what would you suggest?***

I don't think any pre-requisite training will be necessary. Our Academy instructor is an excellent educator and will be able to guide you step-by-step through this process quite easily.

As for the blanket chest, we do not offer such a course. Taking our Cabinetmaking course would provide some excellent training before tackling such a project. However, this course does not cover making dovetails (in the event you want dovetail training).

If the chest you plan to make includes dovetails, our Intermediate Cabinetmaking course does teach machine-cut dovetails...but NOT hand-cut dovetails.

For more information about the Academy courses that are available from Shopsmith, visit this link:

http://www.shopsmith.com/ownersite/nationalacademy/classes.htm

## Seeking non-toxic finishes

*From Paul A. via e-mail*

***Could you please give me your recommendation for a finishing product to be applied to a cradle I'm making for my new grandson? My daughter is concerned about toxic finishes.***

If you're after a "natural" finish (not painted), I recommend using a Salad Bowl Finish such as item # 945402 in Shopsmith's on-line catalog...or a "Preserve-Oil" Finish such as item # 521246, also available in the on-line catalog.

Visit this link http://www.shopsmith.com/ownersite/itemnumbersearch.htm
to search for these items.

## The best glue?

*From B.A. Cohen via e-mail*

***Went out the other day to buy some glue and found so many kinds and types that I couldn't make up my mind. They all sound good, but I need other opinions. Which glue do you consider to be the best all around wood glue?***

For a great, inexpensive, general-purpose glue, it's tough to beat ordinary, yellow, Franklin TiteBond.

They also offer TiteBond III (which is water resistant –**NOT** waterproof) and TiteBond II *Extend*, which offers an extended "open time" so you have plenty of time to move your components around during assembly – before the glue sets-up completely.

If you need a waterproof glue for outdoor furniture and similar projects that are exposed to the weather, I'd use a polyurethane glue such as *Gorilla Glue* or an epoxy.

For an "immediate" grip, try wood *Super-Glues* or hot-melts.