

# 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...**

## **Affixing old sanding discs**

From John Olson (e-mail question)

*I have some old Sanding Discs for my 12" Disc Sander that I would like to use...and I need a supplier who sells the glue to apply them with. If you know of any, it would be appreciated.*

My recommendation is that you use artist's rubber cement. Be sure to "butter" the surface of the steel disk and the surface of the sandpaper. Allow both to dry thoroughly (probably 15 minutes or so). Then put the two together and press firmly to adhere them. To remove, use rubber cement thinner (the best brand is "Bestine").

## **Preventing "unsquare" jointed edges**

From Pamela Oeschger (e-mail question)

*I recently purchased a jointer and am having problem getting the technique down for getting square edges. It seems my boards are narrower on the ends and thicker in the middle when I am running them through the machine. I have checked all my adjustments and believe they are correct, I think the problem is in my technique of feeding the boards through. I would appreciate any advice you may offer.*

First of all, it's vital that you maintain a constant, even, downward pressure throughout the cut...and on both ends of the board. Be sure the FeatherGuard is adjusted to provide adequate pressure against the face (or edge) of the board...forcing it into the fence so it can't move away during the cut.

If you're right-handed, start by licking your fingers (for "traction") and positioning both hands (always use push blocks, if possible) on top of the leading end of the board. Maintain a steady downward pressure on your left hand as you use your right hand to "walk" the board through the cut.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure that all downward pressure is exerted downward on the INFEED table (ahead of [BEFORE] the cutterhead). If you start to push down on the board over the top of the OUTFEED table, it will tend to lift the board off the surface of the INFEED table, causing the taper

cutting you're talking about.

As you get toward the outfeed end of the board, begin to shift your right hand to the end of the board to provide forward pressure as you leave your left hand on top to provide the necessary downward pressure. Let the FeatherGuard maintain your inward pressure as you continue to provide steady downward pressure.

Another thing that could easily be affecting your cuts is having your Jointer Knives set too low. They should protrude from .001" to .003" above the surface of the outfeed table when properly set. If this isn't the case on your Jointer, this is your problem. Your Jointer Owner's Manual explains how to set them properly.

### **Identifying MARK V speed ranges**

From Ron Jolly (e-mail question)

Do you have a chart that gives the corresponding RPM for each of the "letter" designated speeds on the MARK V Speed Dial?

Here ya' go !

SLOW 700

A	750	N	2600
B	850	O	2800
C	950	P	3000
D	1050	Q	3250
E	1150	R	3500
F	1300	S	3800
G	1450	T	4100
H	1600	U	4400
I	1750	V	4700
J	1900	W	5100
K	2050	FAST	5200
L	2200		
M	2400		

### **Speed Dial Problems**

From "Gene" (e-mail question)

*Recently, I called Shopsmith with a speed dial problem. Since I've owned my Shopsmith, the speed dial has been difficult to turn; I've even had it come off the worm gear shaft in my hand. I've tried tightening the set screw that fits into the half-moon area on the shaft, but it still seems to work loose. Is this normal?*

*I also asked about lubricating the "quadrant" and was told two different things. First, I could lubricate the quadrant with bee's wax. I have found that bee's wax is difficult to find; I checked at Home Depot and Ace Hardware. I was also told I could use "bearing grease". Which should I use? Additionally, if I can use bee's wax as a lubricant for the "quadrant", can I also use it in other gear-driven areas on the machine; such as the pinion for raising and lowering the worktable and on the pinion for the quill?*

I would say BOTH wax answers are wrong. Both bees' wax and cup grease (or bearing grease) will attract sawdust...though the bees' wax will be less sticky than grease. We use a commercial stick wax during assembly that probably attracts dust too. I like paraffin wax myself because it is readily available, not sticky and will melt around the parts, leaving a thin film of lubrication (must be used in moderation).

If you have had trouble "since you bought the machine", (however long that may be) then the problem is bigger than wax (or lubrication) will solve. I suggest that you remove the speed control assembly and send it in to us for evaluation and repair or replacement. Call 1-800-762-7555 for instructions on how to return parts for repair. The set screw loosens because of over use that has worn the patch-lock from the threads. Any more that a couple of adjustments will render the patch useless and will require a new set screw or some thread-locking compound to secure it. Be sure you're getting the set screw seated properly in its recess on the shaft.

### **Brad Points or Forstners – which drill bits are the best?**

(e-mail question)

*I'm puzzling over which bits to invest in for woodworking...Forstner vs. Brad Point. I see ads in a Shopsmith catalog for both. One advantage I see for Brad Point bits is the greater number of sizes available. Which type is going to provide the cleanest, most accurate cuts?? I would appreciate your advice.*

Brad Points are the best overall choice. Forstners are designed for specialized operations such as making large diameter holes or flat-bottomed holes. Overall, it's tough to beat Brad Points for general woodworking.

### **Seeking "rusty-looking" finish**

From Andrew McFaul (e-mail question)

*I recently saw some wood crown molding in a cabinet shop that had a finish that looked exactly like rusted metal. How can I do this?*

Since I've never had a call for a finish of this type, I obviously have no experience with this....but I could venture a GUESS.

Colonial Maple stains will create a rust-colored finish on certain woods. Get some scrap wood that's the same as the molding...or get enough extra molding so you have enough to experiment with.

If you want a true, blotchy-looking, "nasty" rusted look, apply the Colonial Maple stain with a rag instead of a brush by dabbing it on to make it look blotchy and uneven. If you're looking for just the COLOR of rust, yet want a smoother finish, apply with a brush. If you want a "flat-looking" surface coat, apply a coat of natural Danish or Tung oil....or a coat of SATIN Poly-U over your stain.

Achieving the finish you want is going to be a matter of experimentation.

## **Removing dark stains from old woodwork**

From “Patrick” (e-mail question)

*I bought an old house with a tremendous amount of wood work. The problem is that its pine or fir and it was stained very dark brown. I have tried Zip-strip and bleach even sanding but its just too much. Is there anything that I can do? My goal is to get it back to natural and then to re-stain it lighter because a natural clean coat would look too grainy. Please save me from painting it all white.*

Unfortunately, dark, oil-based stains (which was all that was available in “the old days”) on soft woods such as pine, fir and poplar have a tendency to be permanent. Since you’ve already tried using commercial strippers and wood bleaches, you might try to have some of this “dipped” by a local refinisher. Pick a few small pieces that will fit into a dipping tank and give it a try. If it works, you have a viable alternative. If not, you may be left with no choice but to paint it or replace it.

## **MARK V motor problems**

From “Grady” (e-mail question)

*My MARK V’s motor is running fine, but the output shaft will not turn. Any suggestions?*

If the motor turns and nothing else turns, The drive belt is probably broken. If both auxiliary shafts turn but the quill doesn’t, it’s the nylon drive. If the lower (Jointer) shaft turns but the spindle & upper auxiliary shaft don’t, The Poly-V Belt (or Gilmer belt on older machines) is probably broken. If you need installation assistance, call our TOLL-FREE Technical Services Hotline at 1-800-762-7555.

## **Using end mills for routing woods**

From Curt George (e-mail question)

*Is there any difference between high speed steel router bits and an endmill used in machine shops to cut metals?*

Yes. There are a couple of differences. First, they are made of slightly different alloys. And second, there is a difference in the way they are heat-treated.

If you’re planning to use router bits to cut steel, forget it! Router bits typically have just two flutes...are not made of the same alloy...and are not heat treated in the same fashion. Three reasons why they won’t cut steel — or even aluminum, for that matter.

If you’re planning to use end mills to rout wood, that’s not a good idea, either. End mills have too many flutes and will clog quickly. If you’re only making a shallow cut with them (where there won’t be much wood “waste”), you may be able to get away with it. If there will be a lot of wood waste as you make your cuts, the bit will load-up fast and burn your workpiece.