Do It Yourself

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Workbench: Getting Started

From "Woodworking"

episode DIW-205 -- More Projects »

Is your old workbench too small, unsturdy or lacking functionality? DIY Woodworking host Bruce Johnson found his to be too narrow, with a wobbly vise that needed replacing. He designs a larger workbench that includes a larger work area, a convenient bottom shelf and a new vise. He begins by selecting rock-hard maple and creating a mortise -and-tenon system that will strengthen and stabilize the legs and base.

This is an intermediate project that can be completed for \$250 to \$300. With high -quality materials, the workbench should last a lifetime.

Note: This workbench originally appeared in *Workbench Magazine*. Complete plans to build this workbench can be purchased at www.workbenchplans.com.

Materials:

Hard-rock maple, cut to desired length for legs Additional wood for tenons, cut to desired length Table saw with dado blade Woodworking glue Clamps

- 1. A mortise-and-tenon system (**figure A**) will stabilize the table by creating greater strength than glue alone. (The legs will be created by gluing together two pieces of wood that have had half of a mortise cut.)
- Use a dado blade (figure B) -- with extra teeth in the middle -- to narrow the wood and create an opening. Cut mortises about 1/2" deep (figure C) at the top edge and about 6" from the bottom. Repeat for the opposing board.



A custom workbench is designed to accommodate many woodworking needs. This one has a shelf to store wood and tools; a secure vise and a sturdy top. The mortise-and-tenon system give the legs added stability and strength.



Figure A



- To secure the pieces together, hammer a nail halfway into the board. Use pliers to snip the nailhead off and create a brad (figure D) that will work into the opposing side of the leg.
- 4. Apply a generous amount of woodworker's glue to the inner surface of one of the boards and use clamps to pull aligned sections together (**figure E**).
- 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you have created all legs. (Tip: A damp cloth can be kept nearby to remove any excess glue while assembling legs.)
- 6. Cut tenons to desired length, then use dado blade to narrow the tenons on both sides to fit the mortise (**figure F**). Repeat process to narrow tenons for all legs.

Sponsored Resource

> Click here to order your tools and materials for this project from

Woodcraft!

RESOURCES:

Workbench Vise

Model: Record 52 ED

Record Tools

Website: recordtools.com

Setting Up Shop: The Practical Guide to Designing and Building

Your Dream Shop Model: 1561585556

Author: Sandor Nagyszalanczy

Making Workbenches: Planning, Building, Outfitting

Model: 0806905352 Author: Sam Allen

The Workbench Book

Model: 1561582700 Author: Scott Landis

Figure B



Figure C

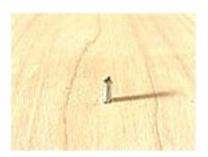


Figure D



Figure E



Figure F

Do It Yourself: Products

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

Model: 1561580619

Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

Workbench Magazine

How-to magazine featuring a wide variety of woodworking projects.

Workbench Magazine

Website: www.workbenchmagazine.com

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