

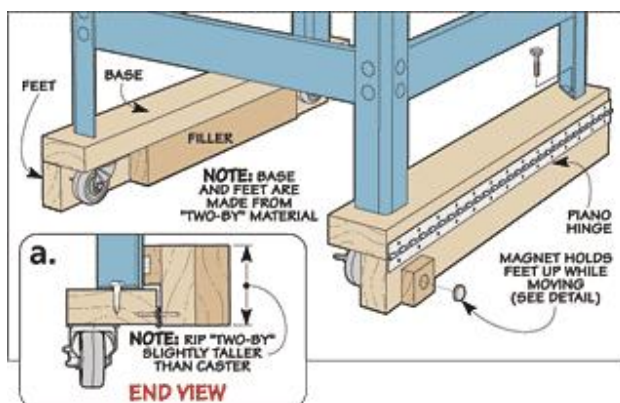
Knut's Korner 12.

Get a Grip When installing a woodscrew, you often need one hand to hold the workpiece and the other hand to hold the cordless drill. The problem is that this leaves the screw unaccounted for. And if you've had my experience, the screw usually doesn't want to cooperate. I tried using a magnetic driver bit, but it wasn't very reliable. Finally, in my search for a better solution I came up with the sure-fire screw gripper you see in the photo above. It's simply a short length of soft plastic tubing. As you can see, the tubing slips snugly over the driver bit to hold the head of the screw firmly in place. Now, the screw can't get away, come out of the bit or go off line, and a sometimes frustrating job becomes easy.



Easy-to-Build Mobile Base

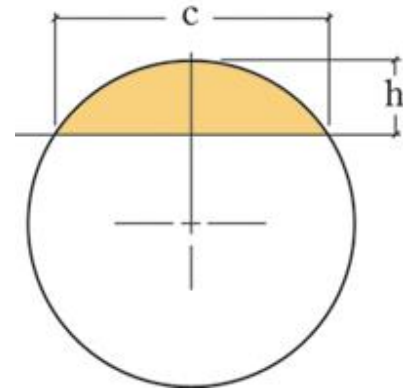
Since my workshop shares space in the garage with cars, my tools need to be mobile. So I made a simple base for each tool. To build a base, I screwed swivel casters to a 2x4 attached to the legs of the tool, as in detail 'a'. To lock the machine in place for use, I added a pair of flip-down feet attached to the base with piano hinges. Magnets attached to the feet hold them up out of the way when moving the tool.



A popular airline recently introduced a special half rate fare for wives who accompanied their husbands on business trips. Expecting great feedback, the company sent out letters to all the wives of businessmen who had used the special rates, asking how they enjoyed their trip. Letters are still pouring in asking, "What trip?"

Q: How do I calculate the radius of a curve that will fit a particular height and width?

The formula is $r = (c^2 + 4h^2) / (8h)$ where r is the radius, c is the length of the cord, (the width across the terminating ends of the curve) and h is the height from the center of the cord to the top of the curve.



Mess-Free Cleaning

A table saw blade will cut smoother and more efficiently when it's good and clean. The only catch is that cleaning your blade can be a messy job. Well, I came up with an interesting way to contain this mess. I went to a local auto parts store and bought the inexpensive oil drain pan you see in the photo. The pan has a large upper basin that drains into a reservoir below. I simply place the blade in the basin and and spray it with cleaner (oven cleaner works well). When you rinse the blade with water, all the waste flows into the reservoir and can then be disposed of properly. a small, but solid, platform on which to work. You have easy access for your clamps, and everything is at a comfortable height. So I guess the lesson here is, think small.



An old engine valve makes a good nail punch for an extra big nail. (With the big valve seat to hammer on, you probably won't hit your fingers either.)

Store spare batteries in the fridge for longer shelf life. Put them in snap-lock plastic bags. When you want to use them again, remember to bring them back to room temperature before installation. (This works with camera film also.)

When you almost have an accident on one of your wood working machines, the scare is worth more than a book full of good advice. (Knut)