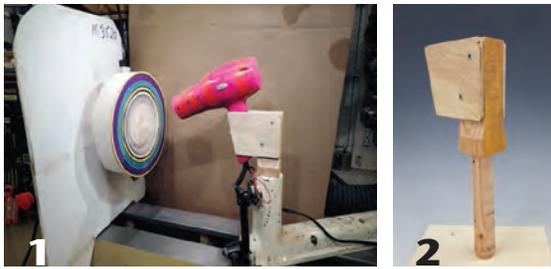


## Banjo-mounted hair dryer

When I paint turned items on the lathe, I like to dry the paint faster with a hair dryer. Hand-holding the hair dryer would be tedious, so I made a tool post that holds the hair dryer for me (*Photo 1*). The post mounts in the lathe banjo, and the hair dryer is held in the post by friction, so it can be popped in and out easily.



To make the jig, I started with a scrap of wood 1½" (38mm) square and 10" (25cm) long. I turned a 5" (13cm) tall × 1" (25mm) diameter post on one end to fit into my banjo. I used a bandsaw to reduce one of the square sides on the tool post to 1¼" (27mm) wide, then added scraps of thin plywood to either side using screws (*Photo 2*). Since the handle of my hair dryer is 1¾" (30mm) wide, it fits in the jig with a nice friction fit. Adjust these dimensions to suit your lathe banjo and hair dryer.

—Carl Ford, New York

## Keep CA bottle tip clear

My cyanoacrylate (CA) glue bottle is forever growing a dried "hat," which eventually clogs the tip. I've tried many solutions, but most damage the plastic tip to varying degrees. So I came up with a handy jig for clearing away built-up CA glue from the bottle tip.

I made the jig from a small scrap of aluminum. I drilled two ⅜"- (5mm-) diameter holes ⅜" (10mm) from the ends and cut a notch in one end using a hacksaw. Then I mounted the jig to my workbench, with the notch hanging over the edge (*Photo 1*). To use the jig, simply insert the glue bottle tip in slot and yank downward (*Photo 2*). The unwanted dried "hat" comes off, with tip left undamaged.

—Harvey Fein, New Jersey



## Log ramp

To turn a large blank weighing over 200 pounds without a hoist to aid in lifting the piece to the lathe, you have to bring out your inner MacGyver. I rough cut the bowl blank using a chainsaw to enable the piece to be rolled into the shop. Given the weight of the blank, I could not lift it on my own and had to engineer a ramp to get the wood block up to the lathe. I made the ramp from an 8' (2.4m) length of ¾" (19mm) plywood, 12" (30cm) wide. A support was built to prop the ramp at the midpoint to prevent

sagging and to hold the weight of the blank. And voilà, I was able to roll the bowl blank up the ramp onto the lathe single-handedly. *Safety Note: Take steps to ensure the ramp does not slip off the lathe bed while you are rolling a log up it.*

—Jim Williams, Ontario, Canada



## Drill chuck as small tool handle

Last year, I needed a small tool to hollow Christmas ornaments. Although I was convinced a sharpened hex wrench would work well for this task, I knew I would need a handle to effectively hold the small tool.

I tried using clamping pliers, but those only provided up-and-down support and did nothing to prevent side-to-side motion. Then I realized that a drill chuck would make a perfect handle. The chuck firmly grips the wrench on all four sides, holding it securely. An added benefit is the mass of the chuck, which helps to reduce chatter from the light-weight hex wrench.

—Mark Heatwole, Virginia

## Quick PVC jam chuck



If you need a quick jam chuck for a small project, you can use a PVC coupling (or union), the kind of fitting used to connect two pieces of 2" (5cm) PVC electrical conduit. A coupling of this size stays in place when I mount it in my chuck in expansion mode. In addition, if you're looking to protect your turning where it contacts the coupling, just tape some craft foam or other suitable padding over the end. This will not only protect the wood, it will give you a little more friction to drive the piece.

—Rich Sabreen, Connecticut