

Correction fluid as labeling pen

I find it important to label the wood I store in my shop. Some years ago, I attended a presentation by Dick Sing. He said he used white type-correction fluid, such as Wite-Out, and found it especially useful for labeling darker woods. When I started stabilizing wood, I found the markers, pens, and pencils I had been using dissolved in the stabilizing resin. I decided to try white correction fluid, and it worked well. I use one with a ballpoint tip, rather than a brush applicator. Correction fluid can also be used to label wood that has already been stabilized.

—John Tarpley, Tennessee



Improved live center knockout bar

Like other live centers on the market, the one that came with my Oneway lathe has a removable center point (Photo 1). Oneway provides a thin rod with a small handle that works well to lock the spindle of the live center when attaching and removing threaded accessories. It also works as a knockout bar for the center point, but only when the live center is removed from the tailstock. Also, if the center point is overly tight due to infrequent removal or corroded from turning green wood, the provided rod is inadequate and may bend.

I grew tired of both situations and made a longer, sturdier knockout bar. It had to be long enough to go all the way through the tailstock quill and live center, be stiff enough not to bend, and be heavy enough to work as an actual knockout bar, rather than requiring striking force from a hammer. My original intent was to hunt down some 1/4" (6mm) rod in my shop, but I was only able to find 3/16" (5mm) rod at the time. I decided it would be at least a good "proof of concept," so I went ahead and made a wood handle for added mass and to indicate it was more than just a random piece of 3/16" rod laying around. It worked so well, I never upgraded to the thicker 1/4" rod.

Use it like any other knockout bar. Safety hint: wear a glove or clump a rag in your hand to catch the center point.

—Ed Pretty, Canada



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—Joshua Friend, Editor

Mallet-and-awl marking kit

As I get older, I try to be more careful with my hands. I don't want to develop arthritis, which could end my woodturning days. So I avoid the temptation of using my hands as a hammer. One example was when using an awl to make centered indents on spindle blanks. I now use a shop-made mallet to tap the awl instead of using my palm (Photo 1).

I cut the mallet out of a scrap of ash. It measures 9 1/2" x 3" x 2" (24cm x 8cm x 5cm). I added holes to my mallet that hold an awl and a marker. This makes it into a one-stop center-marking kit (Photo 2). I use the marker to highlight the centered indents, which makes them easier to see when mounting work on the lathe between centers.

—Carl Ford, New York



Jig centers faceplate screw holes

I always drill pilot holes when attaching a faceplate. But they are often not centered properly within the screw openings in the faceplate. I fixed that problem by making a simple self-centering drill bit jig. It is sized for the 1/4" (6mm) openings in my faceplate and drills 3/32" (2mm) pilot holes.

—Bill Wells, Washington

