



by lathe before starting a project. First, I use toolrest edge, being sure to file the entire edge any dips. Second, I clean the lathe bed freely. To do this, I mix beeswax and peanut butter, then use this blend along with the bed ways. Wipe off any excess wax. I lightly lubricate the toolrest edge so my tools

er since 2001



### Wet floor before sweeping

Before I sweep my shop floor, I spray it with water. This clumps the dust and keeps it from rising and you breathing it. I bought an inexpensive plastic sprayer



and keep it handy for this purpose. —Paul Kaplowitz, South Carolina, AAW member since 2012

### Color-coding identifies screws

I like to use faceplates, so I use various screws to attach workpieces and waste-blocks. I color-code my faceplate screws to avoid using the wrong length screws on various thicknesses of wood. I paint the screw heads pink on my 1½" (38mm) screws and green on my 1¾" (4cm) screws (Photo 1). This makes for quick identification and more efficiency when I am mounting work on the lathe.

Spray-painting the screw heads is made easier if you temporarily screw them into a piece of scrap cardboard (Photos 2, 3).

—Carl Ford, New York, AAW member since 2001



### Quick center finder for spindles

The holidays are a busy time in most shops, and mine is no different. In addition to turning furniture legs and balusters, I make gifts for holiday markets. This means a lot of time spent turning spindles—and finding the center of

spindles again and again and again! To save time (and my sanity), I made a simple jig that helps me locate the center of a spindle quickly and accurately.

The jig works very efficiently when you have to find the centers on

multiple spindles that are all the same size. Simply cut off a slice about ¼" (6mm) thick from the top of one of the spindles, find its center, and drill a small hole, just big enough for an awl tip to poke through. To find the center of a spindle, hold the jig squarely on top of a spindle, lining up the edges, and poke the awl through to make an indent. Flip the spindle over and mark the other end.

If your spindle blank is already cut to precise length and you don't want to make it shorter by cutting off a slice, just cut a scrap that matches the spindle's dimensions, and it's ready to go.

—Jolie Karno, California, AAW member since 2014

