

WOOD

25th
ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

The World's Leading Woodworking Resource

Easy and Elegant

Drop-front Computer Desk

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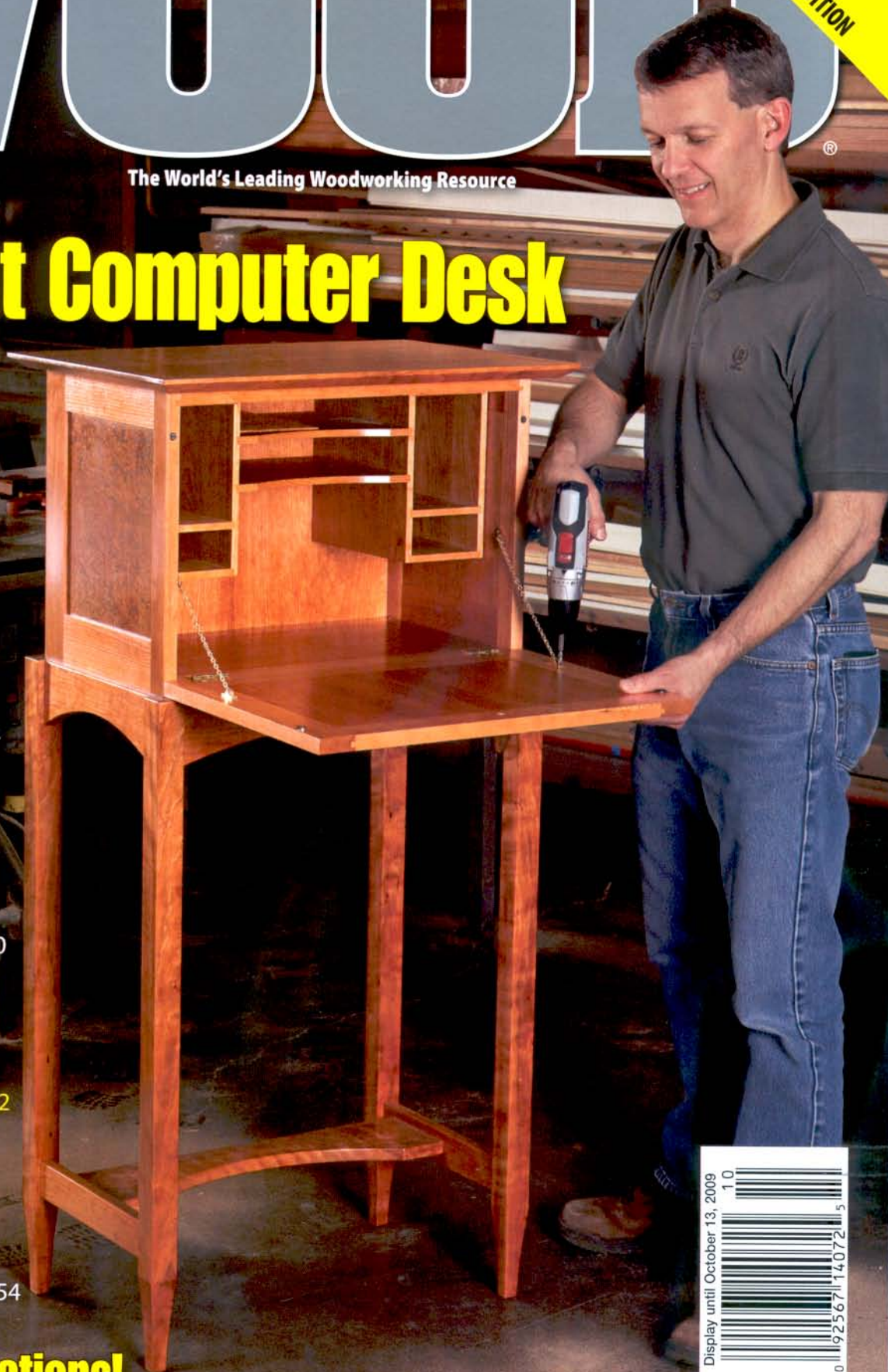
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Display until October 13, 2009

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\$6.99 U.S.

Shop-Proven Products

These woodworking wares passed our shop trials

About our product tests

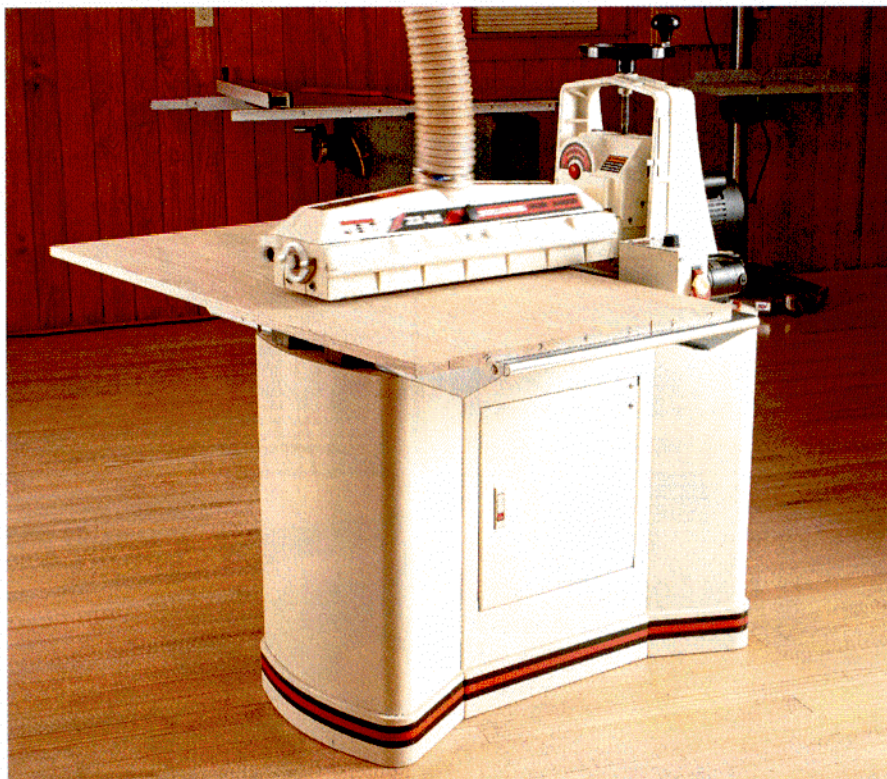
We test hundreds of tools and accessories, but only those that earn at least three stars for performance make the final cut and appear in this section. Prices are current at the time of article production and do not include shipping, where applicable.

Oscillating drum sander flattens us with its stellar showing

When I tested five drum sanders recently (issue 190, May 2009) I was pleasantly surprised at how uniformly thick and smooth I could get workpieces with them. A couple of months later I tested Jet's 22-44 Oscillating Drum Sander, and I'm stunned by how much quicker and smoother it gets the job done. You can use the machine in standard mode, or engage the oscillating feature and the drum glides back and forth 1" as it rotates. This side-to-side motion eliminates straight-line scratches—common with standard drum sanding—because it smooths in two dimensions simultaneously.

Regardless of what wood I ran through this machine, I got much smoother surfaces using the oscillating action than without; so smooth I only needed a quick 220-grit sanding with my random-orbit sander to finish the job. Occasionally, the 22-44 left squiggly "snake tracks"—curvy high and low spots—but a second pass at the same depth setting removed them and left the panel dead flat. And even when I sanded a 44"-wide panel, the thickening accuracy across the workpiece never differed more than .008"—more than acceptable.

This machine requires a significant investment, but the \$600 premium (compared to Jet's standard 22-44) can be recouped in time saved by not



needing to use a random-orbit sander for several grits of smoothing. You can also save about \$100 by skipping the optional infeed and outfeed tables. I tested this machine with them and without and got equal results. Plus, the infeed table made it tougher to reach the drum to change sanding belts.

—Tested by Doug Hicks,
a former shop teacher and
woodworking magazine editor



22-44 Oscillating Drum Sander

Performance	★★★★★
Price	\$2,000
Jet	
888-804-7129; jetttools.com	

Lock those chair joints with Tenon-Lok

Chair joints endure more stress than any other joint, often to the point of coming apart. Rockler's Tenon-Lok solves that problem by creating incredibly strong and durable self-locking blind-wedge mortise-and-tenon joints. The system has two parts: one for machining, and the other for assembly. To make the joint, begin by crafting your legs, stretchers, and rails as you normally would, including tenons. Bore matching mortises. Next, use the spring-loaded Tenon-Lok bit to bore out a cone shape inside the mortise.

To assemble the joint, tap a Tenon-Lok metal ring—ground sharp on one end—to the end of a tenon using the

provided bushing to center it. Remove the bushing, apply glue to the joint, insert the tenon, and then drive it home with a mallet or clamp. As the joint closes, the force drives the ring into the tenon, spreading it snugly against the cone-shaped mortise walls, effectively locking the joint.

Rockler sells the bits in four diameters: 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, and 1". Insert rings sell in packs of 12 for \$5 to \$8.

—Tested by Matt Seiler,
a custom-furnituremaker



Tenon-Lok joinery system

Performance	★★★★★
Price	\$19-21
Rockler	
800-279-4441; rockler.com	



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