

Fine
WoodWorking

15 tips for basement shops, p. 56



Tools & Shops

ANNUAL ISSUE

Best-ever outfeed table

New cabinet saws
are much safer

Innovative workbench
is easy to make

6-in. sanders
offer speed
and finesse

4 bench jigs
for handplanes

Winter 2008/09 No. 202

U.S. \$8.99/Canada \$9.99



A Taunton Publication

DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 31, 2009



Versatile
workstation is
big on storage, p. 36

tools & materials

■ MACHINES

Mini-lathe has extra capacity and power

I RECENTLY TESTED A NEW MINI-LATHE from Jet, the model 1220VS. It features a ¾-hp variable-speed motor (270 rpm to 4,200 rpm), a 1-in. by 8-threads-per-inch (tpi) spindle, and No. 2 Morse-taper centers. It also has a 12-in. swing over the bed (9½ in. over the tool rest) and a 20-in. capacity between centers. A sister mini-lathe, model 1220, has a six-speed (500 rpm to 3,900 rpm) motor.



Mini in name only. Jet's new mini-lathe weighs 125 lb., making it more of a midi-lathe.

A 24-position index pin doubles as a spindle lock, a real time-saver when removing faceplates and chucks. Jet has also included a plastic tool caddy, a flexible work lamp, and both a 6-in. and a 10-in. tool rest.

Other standard equipment includes a faceplate, a spur center, a knock-out bar, and a live center. All that good stuff adds weight; the 1220VS is about 125 lb., so it won't be portable

for everyone without help.

Options include a bed extension that increases the capacity between centers to 48 in. and a steel stand that adjusts from 43 in. to 45 in. tall. Both were sturdy and well-made.



Accessories add capacity. An optional bed extension allows longer turnings, while a sturdy stand is height-adjustable.

Once fired up, the 1220VS was a pleasure to use. I turned spindles and bowls with very good results. It ran quiet and smooth, with no noticeable vibration. And it had plenty of power throughout the entire speed range, with no drop-off in torque at the lower speeds.

The 1220VS sells for around \$550; the 1220 for about \$445. For more information, check out www.jettools.com.

—Andy Barnum teaches wood turning at the State University of New York at Purchase.

■ HAND TOOLS

Hand-cut rasps work smoother and faster

GRAMERCY TOOLS HAS INTRODUCED a new line of hand-cut rasps. Unlike the evenly spaced teeth on machine-cut rasps, the barbs on hand-cut rasps are randomly spaced. When it comes to rasps, randomly spaced teeth cut smoother and faster.

Gramercy offers seven cabinetmaker's rasps and a handle-maker's rasp. The handle-maker's rasp (top right) is unique:

The blade is curved along its length and has teeth only on its half-round side (the back is smooth). Those features make it ideal for sculpting the inside edges of closed pistol-grip tool handles.

All the rasps have nicely shaped ash handles. The blades are surgical-grade stainless steel, so they are tough (the teeth won't break), long-wearing (the teeth stay sharp), and won't rust. Stainless steel doesn't take quite as

Random, not rows. Rasps with hand-cut teeth have a random pattern. As a result, they cut faster and smoother than those with machine-cut teeth, set in rows.

keen an edge as carbon steel. Even so, I was more than satisfied with the performance of the rasps.

The cabinetmaker's rasps range in price from \$54 to \$110; the handle-maker's rasp is \$50. More information can be had at www.toolsforworkingwood.com.

—Chris Gochnour builds custom furniture and teaches woodworking in Murray, Utah.

