

WOODWORKER'S WJOURNAL

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Woodworking
Shop Guide
Learn woodworking from A to Z!
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Lifetime
WOOD?

page 43



Follow a \$200,000
log from the jungles
of Africa to an
American shop!
page 40

15" Planers

Are **YOU** ready for
the big boys? page 62

SAVE BIG BUCKS!

Make your own
kitchen cabinets
We teach you how

page 50

MORE INSIDE:

Shop Projects
Tool Reviews
Techniques

April
2008



Display until May 5, 2008

JET JWP-15DX

JET has incorporated the best feature of benchtop planers into their JWP-15DX Planer: quick-change, self-indexing knives. It's a stroke of genius in my book. You'll never face the hassle of tweaking jack screws, retightening gib bars or correcting uneven knife settings with this cutterhead. Swapping knives is a breeze. Simply unbolt the top plate, remove two steel bars over each knife, and lift the knives out with the included magnetic knobs. The knives have two slotted holes that fit over a pair of pins on the cutterhead, which registers them automatically. They shift left and right slightly to adjust for nicks. I removed and replaced one of the knives in less than five minutes flat. These knives are also double-edged and disposable. They cut clean, smooth surfaces on the test lumber at both speeds, and chip collection was quite tidy.



I was less impressed with the steel-frame, roller support tables. They were finicky to adjust level with the planer's bed, but they do provide plenty of workpiece support once you get them set up properly.

Casters in the base make it easier to move this heavy tool around, and they lock with a foot pedal. The JET also sets the low bar of pricing for the group at \$1,249. Given its easy knife changing and an attractive price, the JWP-15DX has a leg up on its similar cousins in this test.

JET

Model: JWP-15DX

Price: \$1,249

Phone: 800-274-6848

Knives: 3 steel, self-indexing

Planing Capacity: 14 $\frac{7}{8}$ "W x 6"H

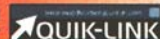
Speed Settings: 16 or 20 FPM

Overall Bed Length: 48"

Average Snipe: .0024"

Weight: 475 lbs

For more info on the web: use our



Pushing or pulling a knob switches the two-speed gearbox from dimensional to finish planing speeds.