

Building a New Workbench

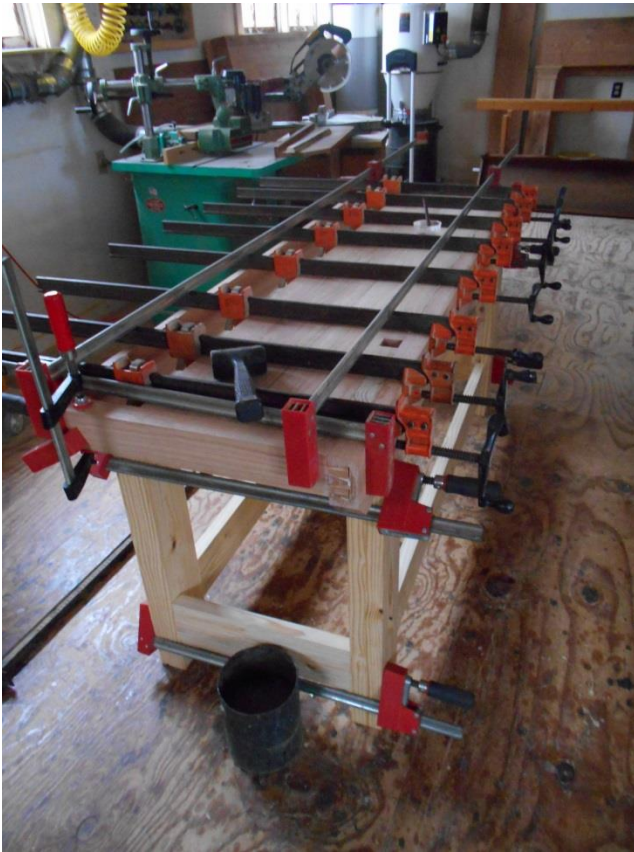
by Terry Landry

I've been planning to build a second workbench for some time now, primarily to have the additional workspace for classes. There are some requirements which I thought this new workbench would need to meet. First of all, for some folks to use more comfortably, it must be shorter in height than my present bench. I want it to have a leg vise. I personally am not a big fan of the leg vise but it is different and if people are coming to my shop to learn something, they'll learn about another type of vise. Also, I wanted to incorporate holdfasts for the same reason. Lastly, the top needed to be at least 72 inches long. I asked around, looked at workbenches of other club members, checked YouTube and magazine articles. I sketched out some ideas and dimensions but much of the joinery details were worked out "on the fly". All parts were cut to finished sizes. Notice that all the joinery has been cut and the hole for the vise screw has already been drilled. The entire workbench was dry fitted during the building process so that all of the joinery was marked, cut and fitted before any glue ups. Final gluing and clamping started with the long stretchers (front and back). Once the glue had dried I continued on with the rest of the workbench.



The entire leg structure is clamped together. The top and front apron go on next. The tool tray bottom is already attached to the top.





All clamped together (do you ever have enough clamps?). The next day, clamps removed.



Details at one end and back of tool tray. I'll next layout and drill holes for the holdfasts, make the vise jaw and fit boards between the stretchers to form a shelf. That will come at a later date. By the way.... Nowadays we seem to be concerned about the type of workbench one has. For this one I would have to say it's a lot like our dog, bit of this, bit of that. I borrowed features from several types of workbenches to meet the requirements which I had set for myself. This I can tell you... even though I thought and sketched and planned, no sooner than I will have completed this workbench I will be telling myself "I should have done this part different".