

Workshop News



Most woodworkers will make their own sash cramp racks, but Axminster's costs only £9.95 and is very neat and quick to fix to a wall. This model can take 12 cramps and is 590mm long, pre-drilled for quick fixing. They seem to be able to take most type of cramp, with the 'hooked' front edge holding the cramps in place. And you seem to be able to hang the cramps with the jaws facing the wall or the workshop depending on whether or not you have wooden blocks attached. Find out more at axminster.co.uk or call 0800 371822.



Richard Maguire has introduced a new workbench, The Empire (above left), based on old English designs with a deep front apron. Richard favours the large vice on his new bench, as opposed to the leg vice he used to prefer (above right): "It is really quick to use, with excellent grip and capacity." The holes on the apron can be used with a dog, peg or holdfast to clamp long boards. "The bench is designed to work without a tail vice," Richard says, "and has a square bench stop behind the face vice in addition to the usual flip stop and two rows of dog holes, as found on my other benches." There are extra supports on the face, which Richards explains are designed to overcome the problems with twist that are often associated with this sort of vice. "The guide can only remain parallel with the screw and this prevents the jaw twisting." A 6ft version costs £995, and more details are to be found at rm-workbenches.co.uk.

Starrett Portable Bandsaw



Starrett's portable bandsaw, the S1010, is an intriguing machine. It is portable and hand-held. The blade is twisted by about 45°, which diminishes the throat from an apparent 5in to only 2 1/2in. These machines are generally used with hacksaw band blades for cutting metal tubing and ducting on site, but Starrett are renowned for their wood-cutting bandsaw blades.

The saw is really effective, quiet and powerful enough to rip 2in oak with no difficulties. It chugs its way through the wood. So if you can find a purpose for the S1010 it should meet your needs.

Details Starrett S1010 Portable Bandsaw: 240v or 110v; 6kg; 1140x13mm blade; £156 inc.VAT; starrett.co.uk.



WoodRat contest

WoodRat are challenging woodworkers to come up with a joint that the WoodRat can't achieve but a router table can. The best idea wins you a new WR600. To make life easier WoodRat are also selling the Musclechuck for £56 inc.P&P&VAT. This not only extends the depth of cut but also makes cutter changing much simpler with a hex wrench. For details visit woodrat.com.

