

Small Workshop Tips by Ian Elliott

Stan has been asking for the last few weeks for tips, I take it that he wants workshop tips not racing tips! So here are some of the things I do, you may already do something similar, or they may give you an idea that would work in your setup.

If you are a regular reader of our Bulletin you will probably know that my shed is small (2mt x 1.5mt) with a sloping roof. So, most of my tips are things I do to best utilize the available space and to have things within easy reach.

Pencils



As you can probably guess from above, I get my pencils from that Swedish Pencil Co. I have turned several pencil holders in Corian only because I had some, wood would be just as good! The one at the top is wood, I did not make that one I acquired it about 45 to 50 years ago and its been in my toolbox ever since. So, I cannot claim that idea is mine. They live in a little rack hot glued to the shed roof just to the right of where I stand when working at the lathe, I am right-handed, so they are within easy reach ready to use.

Disposal Gloves



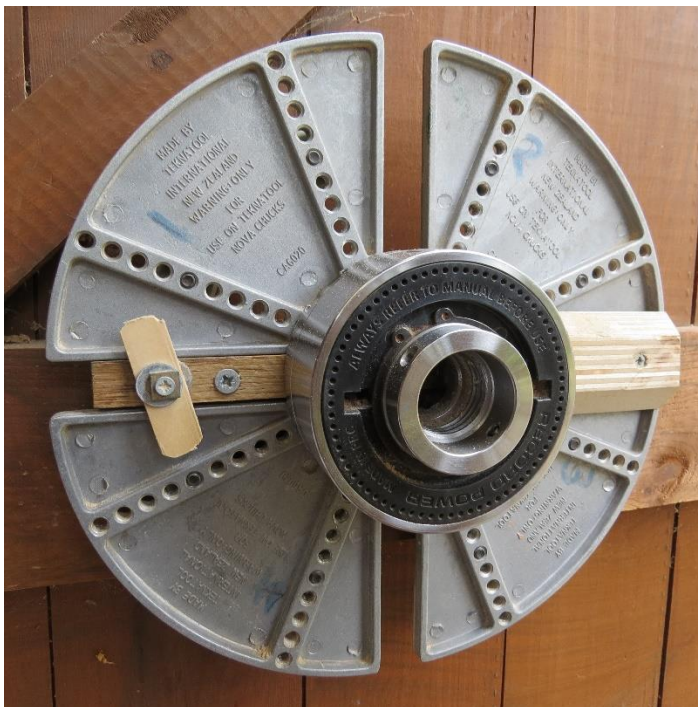
Like my pencil rack, my box of disposal gloves is hot glued to my shed roof. So, I have not got to go racking about in the cupboard when I need a pair like I used too before I thought of putting them there.

Tool Racks



I suppose like most of you a lot of my tools are on some sort of proprietary system (most of mine are magnetic). Though all my woodturning chisels are in holes drilled into the end of my bench with only their handles sticking above the bench.

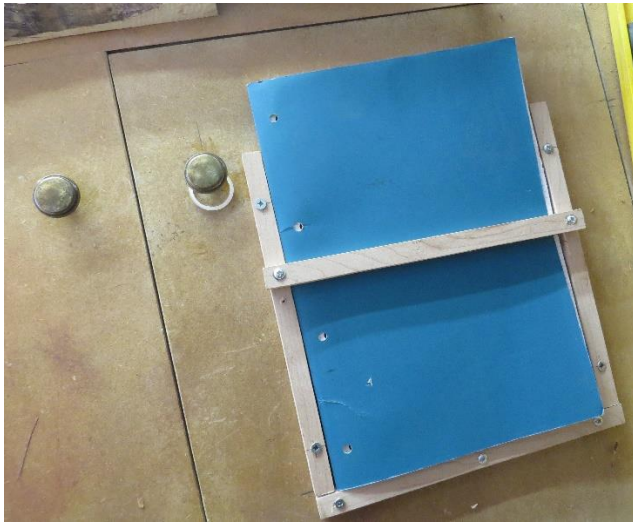
Chuck Storage



Since I got my new lathe, I am back down to one chuck for the time being.

I did have three chucks with my old lathe. One was normally set up with my Coles jaws. I stored this one on the inside of the shed door. A lath screwed to the door a little thicker than the jaws + buttons with a larger lath screwed to one end and a turn button at the other end. This allow the chuck to slide into place.

Notebook



I always have a graph paper notebook in my shed, as I make sketches and drawings of things I am making or ideas I have. My notebook now lives on one of the cupboard doors. Three laths screwed to the door + one lath to keep the book in place. I got this idea from the Axminster store they had one of their catalogues in a similar set up in the shed they had on display.

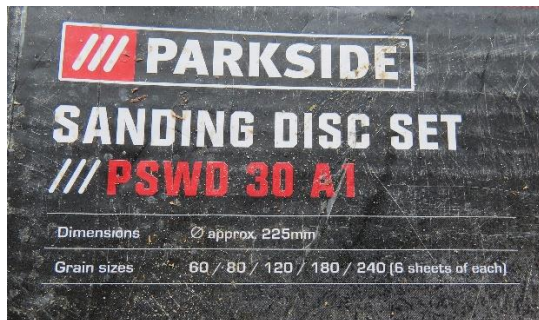
Drill/Screwdriver



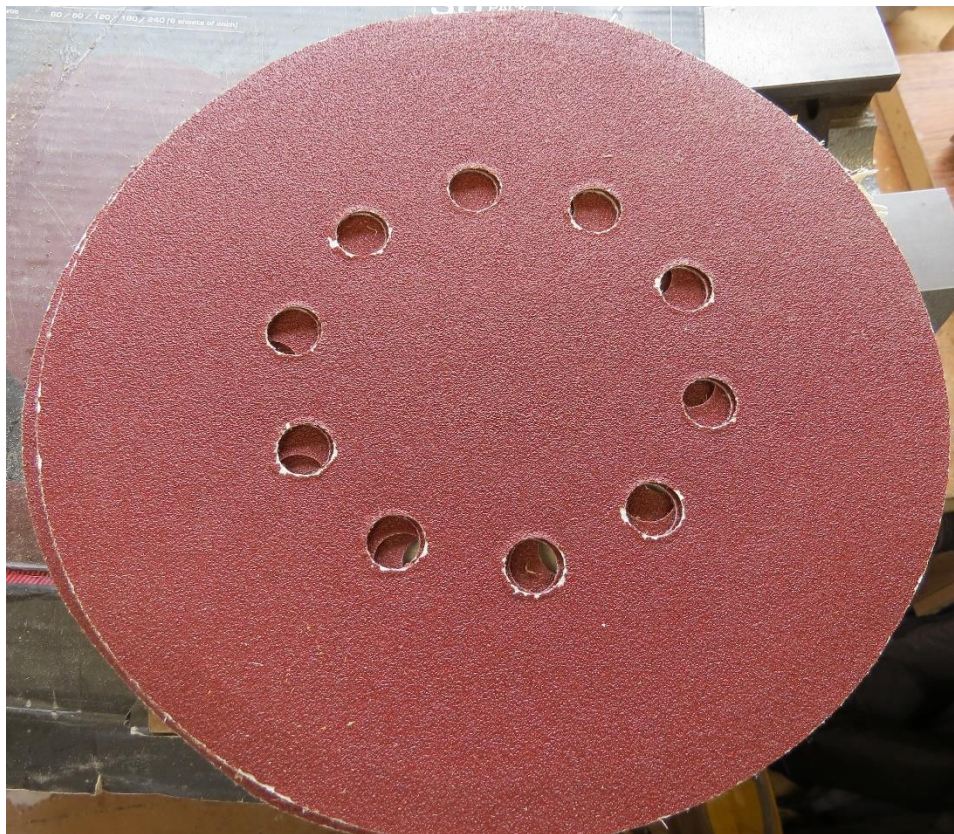
This is currently my favourite non-turning tool; it is a cordless drill/screwdriver it lives in a holster on a bench cupboard door at the other end to my notebook. I purchased it from Lidl about two years ago for about £30. (Model No. PBSA 12 C2) What I really like is that by just pulling back the red collar on the chuck the chuck comes off revealing the screwdriver bit, you do not have to remove either bit. It also keeps its charge for ages!



Disc Sander



I purchased again from Lidl a box of 30 number 225mm diameter loop backed sanding discs 6 of each grade 60/80/120/180/240. I used them on the lathe with a Faceplate Ring fixed to an MDF disc plus hook backing on the face. I think they cost around £3 to £4 that is a fraction of what you would pay elsewhere. They were originally being sold for use with a dry lining system sander but are ideal for our usage.



As you can see very few are my original ideas. We all learn from each other and adapt what other do to suite our own needs. Keep making shavings safely.