

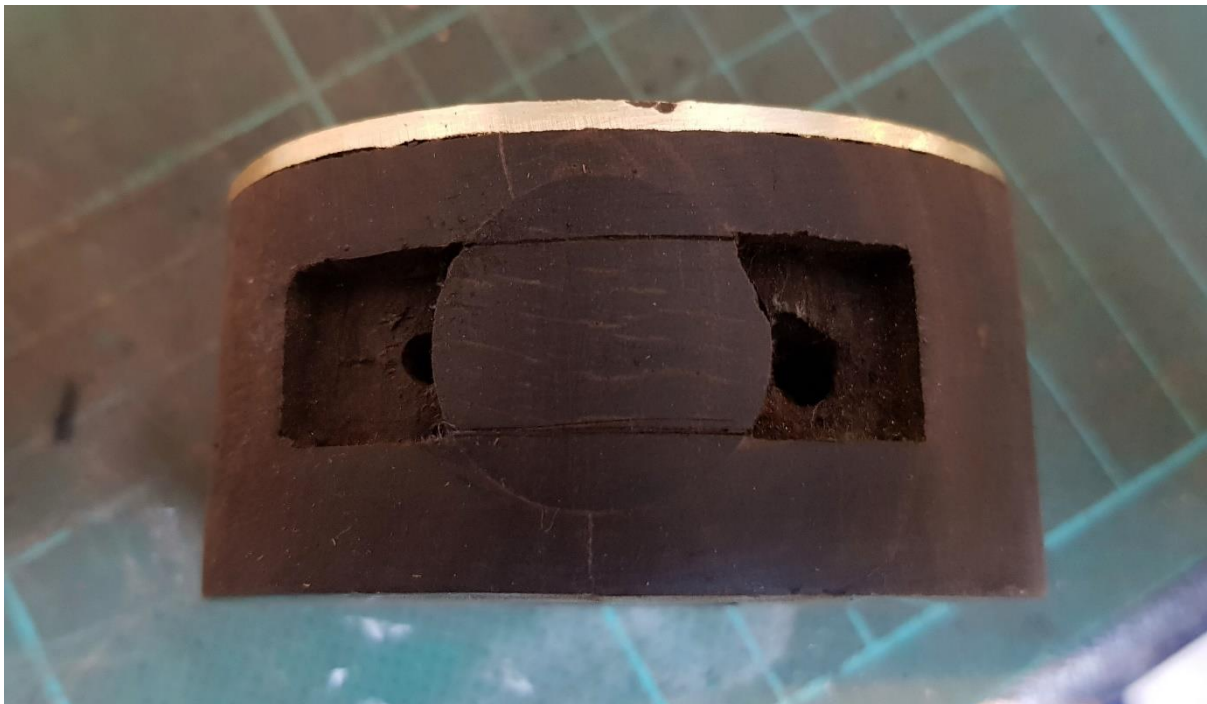
Mortice Gauge restoration by Walter Hall

My good friend Geordie the joiner who for some reason has chosen to live in exile in Halifax sent me this old mortice gauge for restoration that had been languishing in his cellar for the past 20 years or so.

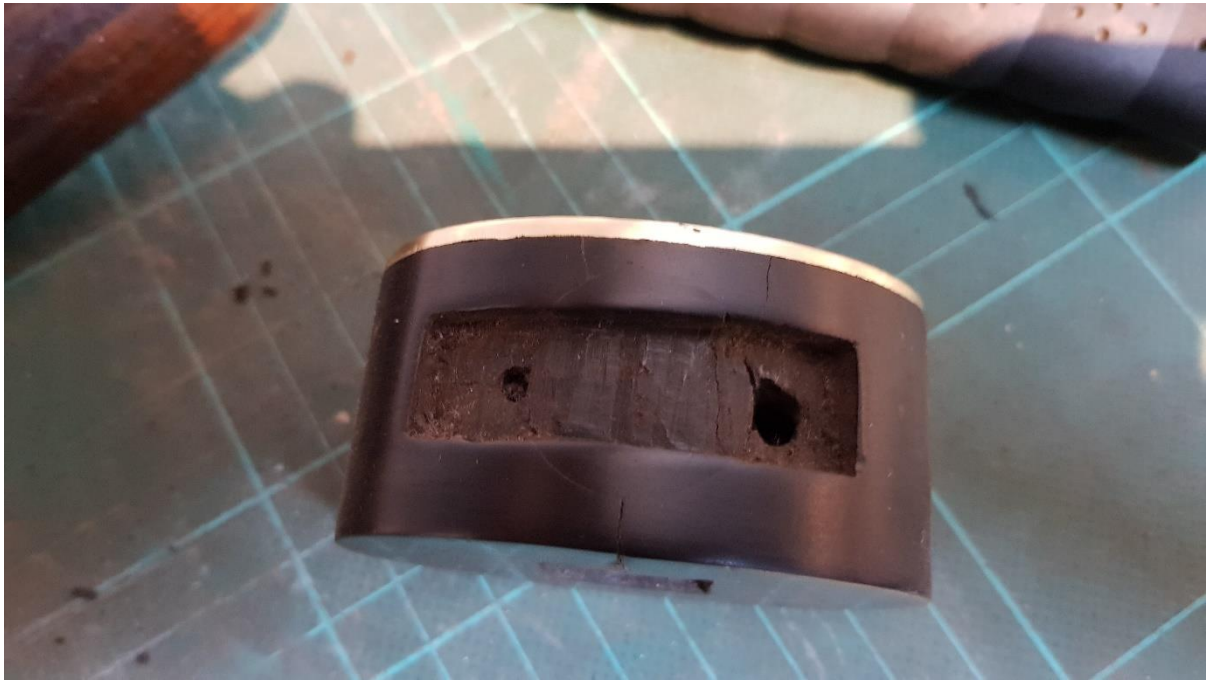


When I first saw it, I knew that I had not seen one quite like it before and it soon became clear that it had once been a fine tool in brass and ebony but had had a hard life and at some stage had been broken and a quite good repair effected using a brass plate on the top of the head.

Careful dismantling revealed that the head had split and that over time the screws holding the repair plate had worked loose and one of them had gone AWOL. The wood around the hole for the original fitting and the replacement plate was badly damaged so I decided to bite the bullet and start again by drilling out and plugging the hole with a matching piece of ebony.



The next job was to cut out the recess to re-fit the brass plate.



I polished up the brass repair plate and faceplate, drilled and tapped the repair plate for a new locking screw and reassembled the body.



The stem just needed a bit of cleaning, polishing and lubrication. I could find no trace of a makers mark but several previous owners have left their initials stamped on both the stem and body of the tool. I was careful not to remove these or too many of the marks that clearly show that this tool has had a long and useful working life.



Once reassembled, although it is once more in full working order I think it deserves to rest quietly on display.

