

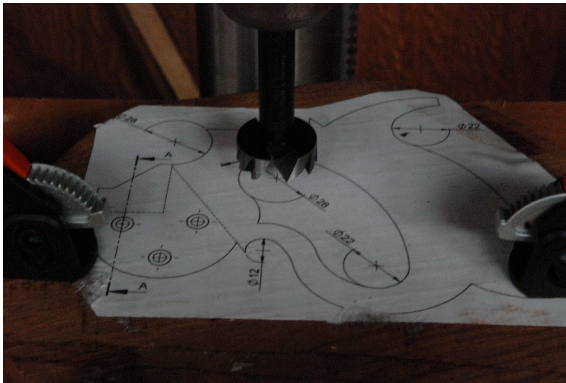
WORKSHOP HEAVEN

Fine Tools

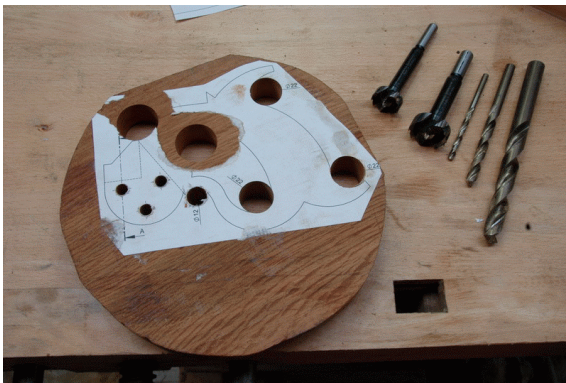
Atkinson Walker 168 Saw Kit Instructions



1. Begin with a blank of straightish grained hardwood 24mm thick and quite a bit bigger than the handle will be. Cut out the handle drawing and stick it to the blank with PVA taking care to ensure that any defects are in the waste and that the grain runs in the direction indicated on the drawing.



2. Bore all of the holes, ensuring that the blank is firmly clamped to the table of the drill press. The accuracy of your drilling is essential to the success of the project. A hammer is useful to make minor adjustments after the workpiece is clamped. Allow the glue to dry fully before you start drilling – I didn't and the forstner tore the paper on entry, but I knew the holes were spot on and enough remained to work out where the lines should go.



3. Once the holes are drilled you can saw out most of the remaining waste with a bandsaw, scrollsaw or coping saw. For the closed handle it may be easier to remove most of the waste inside the handle by drilling interlocking holes.



4. It's a good idea to leave a tail of waste material on the bottom of the handle to make it easier to hold in the vice while you do the majority of the shaping.

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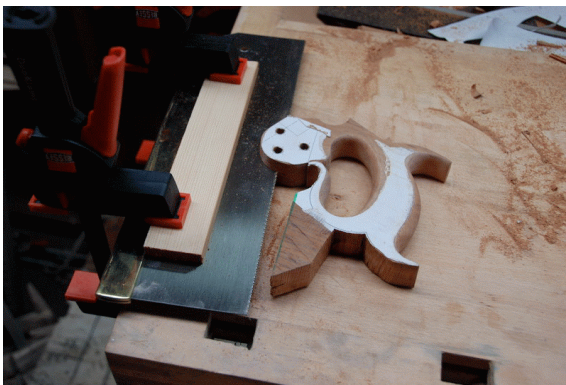


5. A coarse hogging rasp will rapidly bring the blank to shape. Keep it square to begin with and then remove chamfers from either side of the curved areas so you can see that the shape is broadly symmetrical before rounding off.



6. Use finer rasps, chisels, scrapers, files and abrasives to refine the shape of the blank. It is much easier to do all of the surface preparation now before you saw the tail off.

Next, plane a piece of timber to half the thickness of the handle and less half the thickness of the blade. Place the saw blade on top, place another piece of scrap on top of that and clamp the whole sandwich firmly to the workbench.



7. Run the blank along the bench and gently introduce it to the teeth. This is a cumbersome job but worth taking the time to get right. If it is all aligned correctly you should be able to engage the blade in the kerf with the blank either way up. For this process I cut the tail of waste back to provide a stop so that I didn't cut through the lambs tongue under the handle.



8. Next mark out the slot for the blade back as shown here....

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9. ...and carefully chisel out the waste. You can undercut the inside surfaces of the slot for clearance but try to keep to your layout lines at the visible surfaces to ensure a neat fit. Lots of trial fitting and adjustment are the order of the day.



10. If the blade is fouling at the back you can deepen the kerf slightly by gently hammering a 0.6mm scraper into the bottom of the slot. Alternatively a little judicious draw filing of the back edge of the blade may allow it to seat properly.



11. Saw away the tail and finish the underside of the handle, then lap the sides using a roll of abrasive paper.



12. A final check to ensure that all the details are crisp and there are no remaining scratches and you are ready to apply a coat of tung oil and install the blade.

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13. Be careful not to get any oil into the saw kerf. The timber on the outside surfaces will expand slightly when the oil is applied and make the timber squeeze in onto the blade. The male half of the saw nuts should just cut their own thread into the timber, the female halves should be a slightly looser fit.



14. The teeth of the blade are supplied machine sharpened and set. Instructions are supplied with the kit for how to hand sharpen and use your new saw. Another application of tung oil to the handle after a few months will ensure thorough protection. If you need to make slight adjustments to the shape at a later stage you can re-oil the surface and the alterations will simply blend in.

Saw Sharpening instructions can be found online at:

<http://www.workshopheaven.com/transfers/Saw-Sharpening-Instructions-R2.pdf>

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