

WORKSHOP-TESTED TIPS & TECHNIQUES



THREADED INSERT HELPER

I use a drill press (with the power off) to install threaded inserts. But trying to maintain pressure on the quill feed lever while turning the chuck and holding onto the workpiece almost requires three hands. So instead, I use my foot.

I tied a cord around one handle and put a loop in the end of it. To lower the chuck, I insert my foot in the loop and step down. Then I can use my right hand to turn the chuck and thread the insert into the workpiece. This leaves my left hand free to hold the workpiece in place on the drill press table. And I have a clear view of the work.

SAFETY IN THE WORKSHOP Safety devices, such as riving knives, guards on table saws and guards over router bits have been deliberately left out of the line drawings in Australian Woodsmith projects in order to make them easier to follow. It goes without saying that where safety devices have been supplied by the manufacturers you should use them. We encourage the use of push sticks as good work practice.

Exercise vigilance and the greatest of care when using power tools, whether stationary or portable. Keep all your tools sharp and well maintained. Wear protective eyewear, a dust mask and a hearing protector when appropriate. By limiting distractions and developing safe work practices you will go a long way to avoiding workshop accidents. So, work safe fellow woodworkers. -Editor