

Face Planing a workpiece Even If You Don't Have A Planer

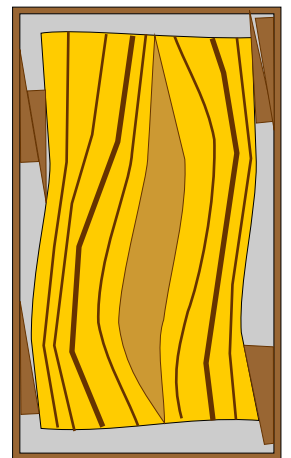
by Don Butler

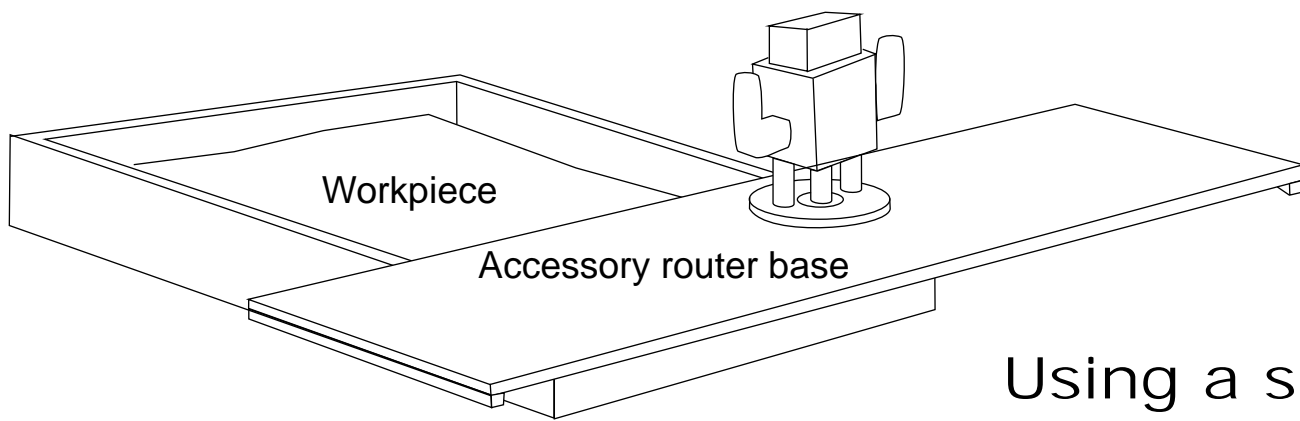
Not everyone can own a planer. That said, it would still be useful to be able to flatten a rough board if one has a particularly pretty one.

In this tip a box is made big enough to contain the workpiece and some wedges to keep it steady. A router is mounted on an accessory base made of rigid plastic or good flat plywood. It should be dimensioned so it will allow the router to go from side to side on the box. Stop blocks on the base keep it from going too far

The drawings here show a short piece, but it can be as long as you need, as long as you keep the sides of the box level.

See the drawing at right, it shows how the work piece is held in the box with wedges that will not interfere with the router bit. Alternatively screws could be used through the box bottom. Just make sure they won't be hit by the bit.





Using a sharp bottom cutting bit, work the router all over the workpiece. work in shallow cuts, plunging a little bit at a time, to keep from getting tear-out.

After the piece is satisfactorily flat, some work with a random orbit sander will take out tool marks. Work from coarse grit (80 or so) to fine (120-200) and keep moving so the piece doesn't develop unevenly.

If desired, flip the piece over and do the other side. The technique should produce a board that has two flat, parallel faces.

Be sure to wear hearing, respiratory and eye protection during the process. Work safe and you'll be happy when you're older (like me).

Regards,

Don

"If I had known I'd live so long, I'd have taken better care of myself."