

TOOLS FOR  
WORKING WOOD



# Handyman Vise

## INSTALLATION GUIDE



Thank you for purchasing a U.S.A. Made Vise.

This guide details the installation of the Milwaukee Handyman vise and shop-made, tapered jaw liners. Although liners are, strictly speaking, not necessary, adding a set to the jaws of a vise will protect your work and increase the effectiveness of the vise's clamping pressure.

The included hardware kit will allow you to attach your new vise to a wide range of work surfaces, but will not work in every situation. When installing your vise, make sure the fasteners have enough thread engagement to secure against pulling out or loosening. When in doubt, use a longer screw.

### Letter to the First Timer:

We can hardly think of a better first project than the installation of a vise. Laying out, sawing, drilling and shaping are the basic tasks for all woodworkers. These are also the basic skills honed during the installation of this useful workshop appliance.

All of us at Tools for Working Wood congratulate those about to embark upon their first woodworking project, and thank those sharing the gift.

Sincerely,

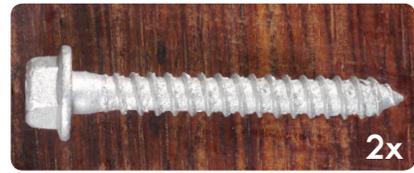
The Technical Staff at Tools For Working Wood

**ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION**

## Tools Used In This Guide:

- Drill/Driver or Brace
- 3/8" Socket Wrench or Driver
- #2 & #3 Phillips Head Screwdrivers
- Straight Slot Screwdriver
- Wood Glue
- Bench Plane for tapering and leveling.

## Included Hardware:



**Lag Screw**  
Flange Head  
1/4" Dia.  
2" Length



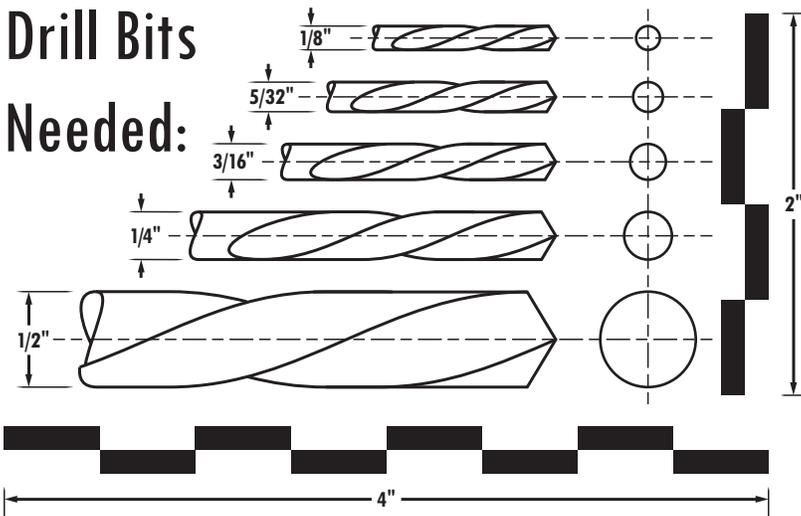
**Wood Screw**  
Flat Head  
No. 12 x 1-1/2"  
Phillips



**Wood Screw**  
Pan Head  
No. 14 x 1-1/2"  
Phillips



**Wood Screw**  
Flat Head  
No. 10 x 5/8"  
Phillips



## Before You Start:

The vise is attached to the bench by two lag screws passed through the back casting, screwed into the underside of the bench. Additionally, two wood screws inserted through the rear jaw are screwed into the edge of the bench. Both sets of fasteners are absolutely essential, especially when the vise is fully opened in use.

Tapered jaw liners help to even the clamping force along the height of the jaw. These are attached to the vise with #10 wood screws, 5/8" in length (4 provided), and will work with liners 1/2" or thicker. The back liner must be installed before attaching the vise casting to the bench, and must be drilled with two access holes for mounting screws.

Adding a spacer block between the vise and the underside of your bench will allow you to set the height of the vise jaws in

relation to the bench surface. The spacer is glued and screwed to the bottom of the bench with #14 pan head wood screws (2 provided).

The vise is attached to bench with 1/4" diameter lag screws (2 provided) passed through the spacer. Also, #2 wood screws (2 provided) are passed through the rear jaw of the vise and screwed into the edge of the bench.

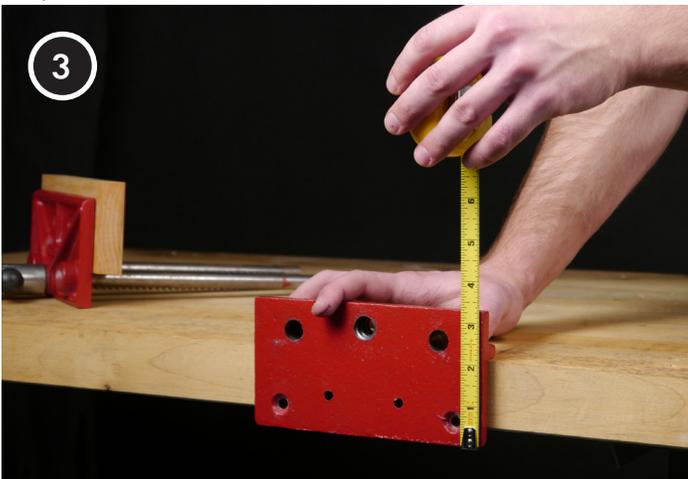
After installation, the vise can be used for its first project: holding the front jaw liner for tapering. Finally, the jaw liners are installed and may be planed flush to the bench surface.

If you intend to use vise jaw liners, cut them to size now. The liners used in this guide are roughly 7-1/2" x 2-3/4" x 3/4". Yours can be as large or small as you like, but leave a little extra height, so they can later be planed flush to each other and the benchtop.

**MEASURE TWICE, DRILL ONCE**



If you are using liners, position them in the vise, and tighten the jaws to hold them in place while you pre-drill six holes (two in the front jaw, and four in the back) with a 1/8" drill bit. Drill deep enough for a 5/8" long screw. Don't go all the way through. You can attach the front liner now, but wait to install the back liner.



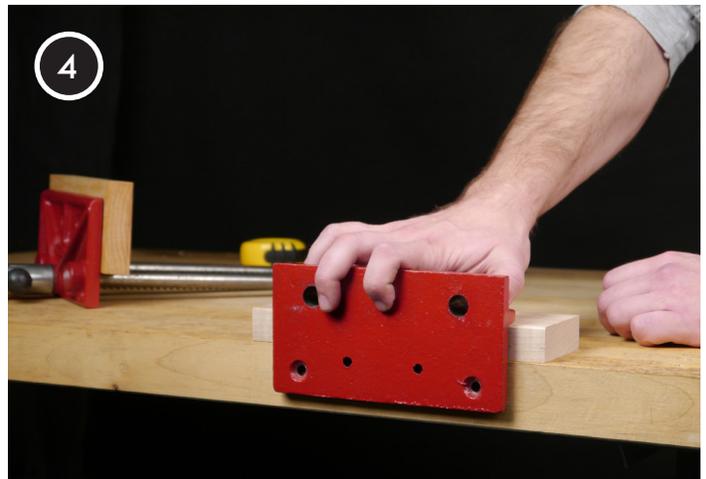
Disassemble the vise by unscrewing it all the way. Place the back jaw upside down and measure it against the edge of your bench top. If your bench top is thinner than the vise jaw is tall, you'll need to attach a spacer block to the bottom of your bench.



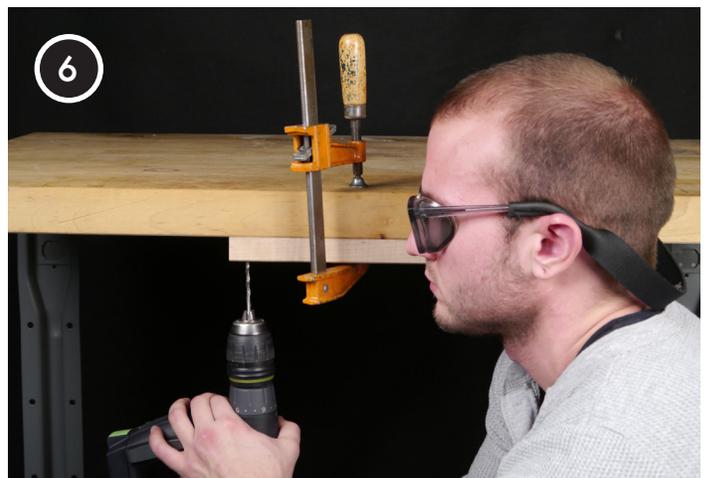
Before gluing and screwing the riser in place, chamfer the edge of the spacer block that contacts the inside corner of the vise casting. The 1-1/2" pan head wood screws (2 provided) will work with a spacer up to 1" thick.



Unclamp the liners, and re-drill the two outer holes in the back liner with a 1/2" bit, to provide clearance for the vise's mounting screws



You can make a spacer from nearly any piece of scrap, but make sure it's wider than the vise so protruding screw heads won't interfere with installation. We used a spacer approximately 2 1/2" wide by 8" long.



Clamp the spacer in place under your bench and pre-drill it into the bench with a 5/32" bit. Place the holes where they won't interfere with the vise. A depth mark or some tape on your drill bit will help to keep you from drilling all the way through your bench top.



Unclamp the spacer, and then widen the holes in the spacer by re-drilling them with a 1/4" bit.



Add a generous helping of glue to the spacer...



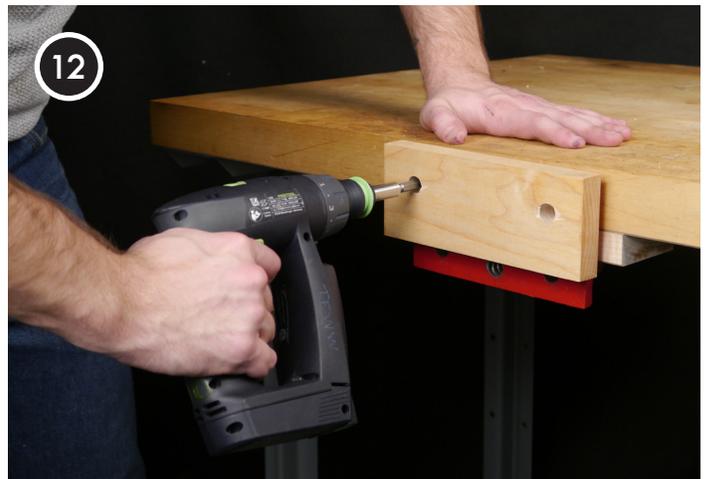
...and screw it tightly to the underside of the bench with a #3 Phillips head driver. While you wait for the glue to dry, screw the back liner onto the back jaw of the vise with two of the 5/8" #10 wood screws.



When mounting a vise to a bench, a secure attachment is critical. **MAKE SURE THE LAG SCREWS HAVE ENOUGH THREAD ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BENCH AND THAT THE SPACER IS SECURELY ATTACHED.**



Get a friend to hold the vise in place while you pre drill for the #12, 1-1/2" mounting screws (2 provided) with a 5/32" bit.



Drive the mounting screws through the casting (and jaw liner) and tightly into the front edge of the bench.



On the underside of the bench, pre-drill for the two lag screws with a 3/16" bit. Make sure you drill to the full depth of the screw, but not all the way through your bench top.



Install the lag screws up through the casting into the bottom of the bench with a 3/8" socket on a driver or wrench.



Lay out between 1/16" and 1/8" inch of taper (thicker at the top, thinner at the bottom) on the front vise jaw.



Use the vise to hold the front jaw liner while you plane the liner so it has a single smooth face tapering evenly over its entire height.



Re-install the tapered liner with the remaining 5/8" #10 Wood screws. Close the vise tightly while you plane the jaw liners flush to the top of your bench. Congratulations!

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING  
A U.S.A. MADE VISE FROM

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