

Folding Unit Can Be a Workbench, Sawhorse or Vise —Goes Anywhere

By BERNARD GLADSTONE

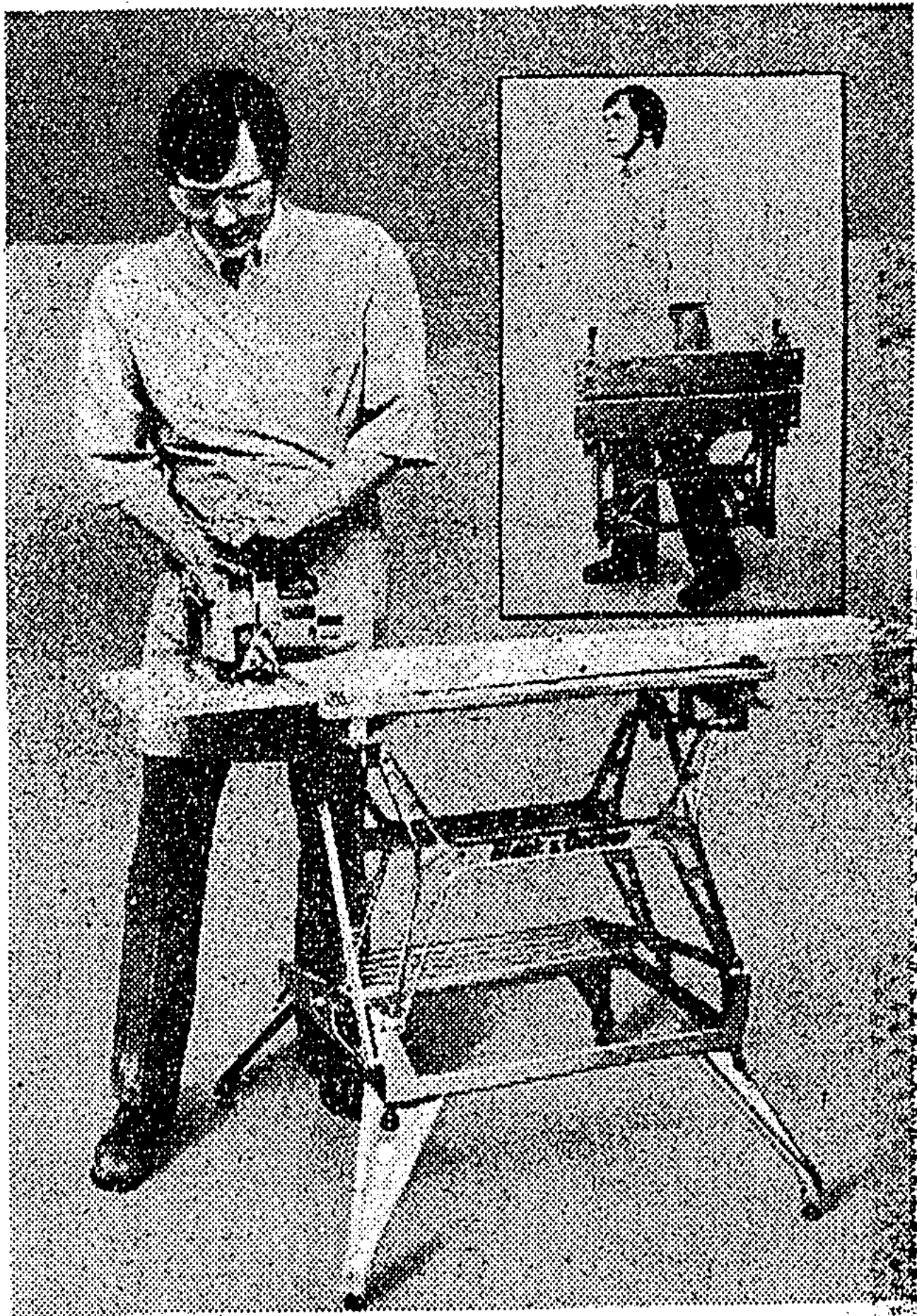
Designed to serve as portable workbench, sturdy sawhorse, folding tool stand, or multipurpose worktable that can be used anywhere, the unique work-center pictured above also has a built-in large capacity, full length vise in the top. It can be set up at either of two heights—a 23¼-inch "sawhorse" height, or a 32¼-inch "workbench" height.

Called the Workmate, and made by Black & Decker, this versatile unit unfolds automatically into the lower position with legs locked securely. It can be quickly raised to its full height by unfolding the extra legs at the bottom, and adjustable feet permit compensating for uneven floors. When set up, a metal baseboard or footrest enables the user to press down with his full body weight when added rigidity is needed while sawing, planing or doing similar chores.

The most useful feature of the Workmate, which sells for about \$70 to \$75, is probably the large capacity woodworking type vise that runs the full length of the top

and that has jaws that open to as much as four inches. Since the two jaws are controlled by handles at each end that work independent of each other, the jaws can be adjusted to accommodate tapered or irregular objects easily. All kinds of hard-to-grab objects (such as chairs or bicycles) can be firmly held at a comfortable working height, while movable pegs in the top further extend the vise's capacity to grip large flat objects which are wider than four inches.

The vise can be used to grip a door securely by one edge, while resting on the floor, to simplify trimming or fitting, and the Workmate is ideal for holding work firmly at a comfortable height while using a power saw, electric sander, drill or router. The jaws also have horizontal and vertical V-grooves to enable it to grip tubular pieces. A great time and step-saver on outdoor projects or chores where a convenient work surface or large vise are needed while away from the basement or garage workshop, the Workmate can be quickly folded up for carrying and stores easily on large wall hooks.



New Workmate is made of aluminum and folds for carrying.

The New York Times

Published: January 26, 1975

Copyright © The New York Times