

Workmate

The Black & Decker dual height Workmate® in the higher, workbench position.



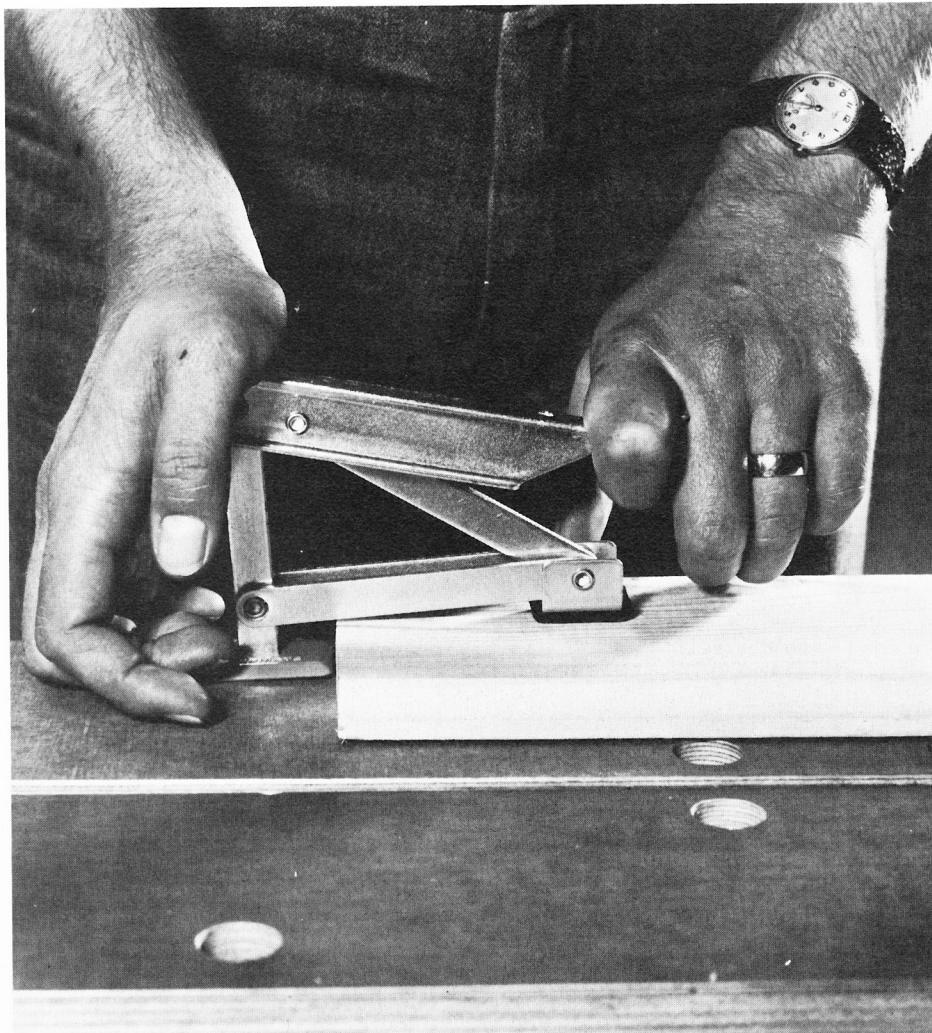
For anyone who enjoys carpentry and wants to organize his workshop more efficiently, a Workmate® will prove a valuable addition to his equipment.

The Workmate® is not just a workbench, but a giant vise and sawhorse, as well as being a completely portable bench. It folds flat for easy storage and can, in fact, be hung on hooks on the wall. Its other great advantage is that instead of having to take the work to your bench, you can take the Workmate® to the location where you want to do the work, be it workshop, garage, any room in the house or even outside in the garden. Yet, despite its portability, any model of the Workmate® is strong enough to take loads up to 350lbs (159kg).

The basic construction is a framework, either of aluminum or pressed steel, with two long, flat vise jaws which enable it to be used either as a working surface or a vise. Independently operated handles at each end allow it to hold wedge-shaped objects – a big advantage over a con-

ventional vise. A series of holes is drilled into each of the vise jaws to take swivel pegs, which not only extends the maximum width of the object which the Workmate® will hold securely, but enables it to grip irregularly shaped objects firmly, even something as awkwardly shaped as a guitar! Horizontal V-grooves along the inner edges of the vise jaws permit tubular objects to be securely gripped. The more expensive models have a dual-height facility: a set of folding legs, which, when folded away, give the lower height which is more appropriate to use as a sawhorse and, when erected, raise the height of the whole structure to a more comfortable height for bench use. Also, on more expensive models, adjustable feet are provided at both heights to permit the Workmate® to be levelled on uneven surfaces.

Apart from its versatility in being capable of holding large objects – such as a door – or irregular shapes, another great advantage is that, unlike many con-



The Gripmate™ clamp fits into holes in Workmate vise jaws to hold work pieces securely.

ventional fixed benches, you can walk around it to work on your project from any angle.

Attachments

To add to the versatility of the Workmate®, a range of attachments is available.

The Gripmate™ is a device for clamping work down to the working surface of the bench, similar in function to a C clamp. It consists of a vertical shaft, which, seated in a plastic liner, can be located in any of the swivel peg holes. A horizontal arm is lowered to the necessary level to grip the workpiece securely to the bench top, and a lever action then clamps it firmly in place. A rubber pad at the point of contact prevents damage to the work.

The Mitremate Saw Guide™ is designed for use with the Workmate® and any Black & Decker 7¼in (184.14mm) circular saw, and provides a much greater degree of accuracy than more traditional methods. It can be used for cutting mitres from 30° to 90°, and adjusts at increments of 5°.

When sawing at 30°, the maximum width of material is 7¾in (197mm), but this increases to 17in (432mm) at 90°. The base of the Mitremate™ clamps to one of the Workmate® vise jaws, and the protractor is set to the required angle. The workpiece is then held against the protractor, while the saw, clamped to the flat metal base, is fed into the work to give a clean cut and an accurate angle. The maximum thickness of board which can be cut is 2⅞in (73mm).

The Routermate Shaping Guide™ is designed to be used with most routers with a base-plate diameter of 6in (152mm) or less, to perform routing and shaping in conjunction with the Workmate®. The guide fence is clamped between the Workmate® vise jaws and the guide plate, with the router secured to it, slides along the channel in the guide fence. This can only be used with wood less than 1⅝in (41.3mm) thick, but enables one to route edges, make beadings, and carry out your own freehand designs.