

Defect or damage? Don't lose hope

Nobody's perfect, not even nature. So as well as self-inflicted damage, someday you'll face a beautiful board marred by a loose knot or a large wormhole. Learn ways to overcome both.

Online Extra

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Smart scoop, invisible patch

When **Chip Ogg** drilled through the top of a 48-in.-dia. tabletop, he knew his boss, Charles Shackleton, wouldn't be happy. So he did some fast thinking. Using nothing but a carving gouge, he created a repair that was so good, he challenged his fellow cabinetmakers to find it.



Scoop around the hole. Take a deep carving gouge that is slightly wider than the damage, in this case #8/10mm, and carve out a shallow depression around the hole. Practice on some scrap first.



Create a patch. Place the piece you just removed on a piece of scrapwood that closely matches it in grain and color. On a tabletop, your best bet is the underside. Using the same gouge, scoop out a slightly deeper patch.



Glue and clamp. After dry-fitting the patch (it should fit evenly and be slightly proud), glue it and clamp it in place with plenty of pressure. Waxed paper prevents the caul from sticking to any squeeze-out.



An invisible repair. After the glue has dried, sand the patch flush with the tabletop. Even under a finish, a good repair is hard to find.