

0.25" = 1.0"

I am left handed, but simply flip the bench around and the tail vice is now better for right handed use. The legs and cutouts are the same on each side. It can be used from either side.

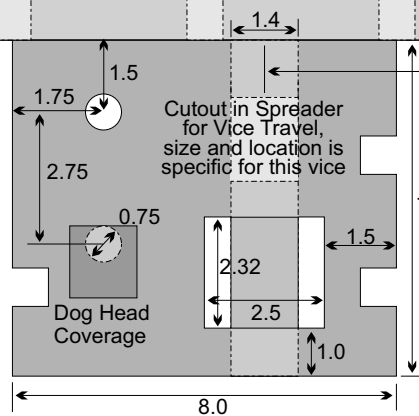
Bench length is a function of what is needed for the type of work you do. 36 inches is all I need at this time. **Latta's Bench** is 9.5 x 42 by 11.875 high. This bench is 9.937 x 36 x 8.4 high.

Spacer thickness for the vice is determined by vice jaw height, it should be just below the bench top

This secondary workbench has the top, 4 legs, and 2 spreaders all made up of two layers of 0.7" Baltic Birch plywood laminated together. So the thickness of each piece is 1.4".

The dado depth and stretcher length are a function of top width. The depth of the spreader dado is such that it allows the legs to be flush with the top on both sides. This takes advantage of the stability of Baltic Birch.

This allows for vertical clamping surfaces on both sides. Small cutouts are placed on the legs to support F-style clamps for vertical clamping. There are added leg dog holes to support vertical clamping. My primary bench adds to the support options with its top, left shoulder vice, and its own leg dog holes. This bench has equal sides so the bench can be used in various positions depending on what is needed. The vice can therefore be used either left or right sided, and in front. A 7" Rockler Quick Release Vice is mounted on



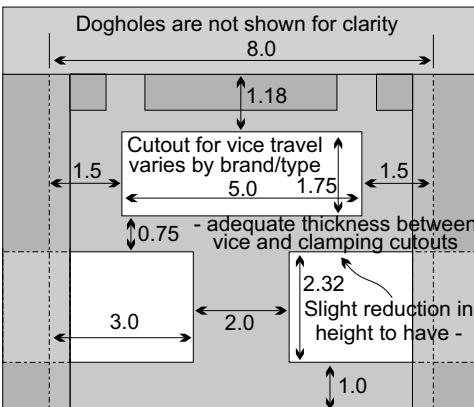
one end. This vice was chosen for the reduced required clearance under the bench top. The 7" leg height with the cutouts were space limiting for the type of quick release vice used. The adjacent stretcher has a cut out to allow for vice travel. The planned 10 inch bench top width ended up just a fraction narrower (a corrected mistake). The stretcher and leg cutouts, and the dog holes were cut with templates by either a router or drill.

The height of the legs was set by the primary bench height (33") plus my height (5'9"). With your elbow at 90 degrees, the final height should be roughly even with your hands. The combined height of the two allows me to work without bending over. My primary bench is 33" high and the secondary bench adds another 8.4". My primary bench is 60 x 24 with a left sided 9" Record Quick Release shoulder vice and a custom 24" wide tail vice on the right. I'll push the mini-bench to the back, or remove it if the regular bench is better suited for what I'm doing.

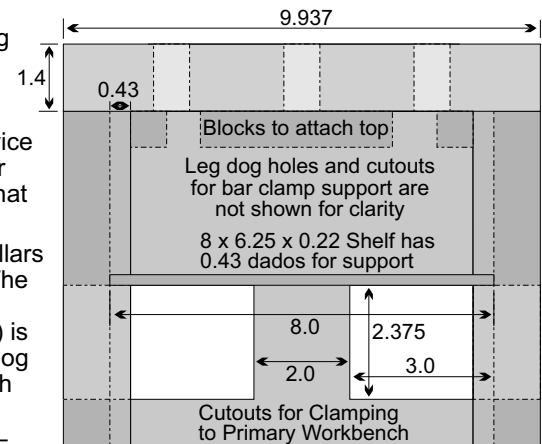
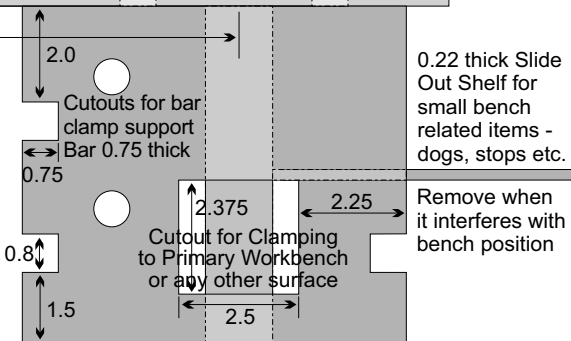
I have Record #146 hold down clamps with four collars inset into my regular workbench on 21" centers. The primary bench also has 3 rows of dog holes on 7" centers. The distance between the stretchers (21") is such that the hold downs or F-style clamps in the dog holes will clamp the mini-bench to my regular bench using the cutout mortises (see photos).

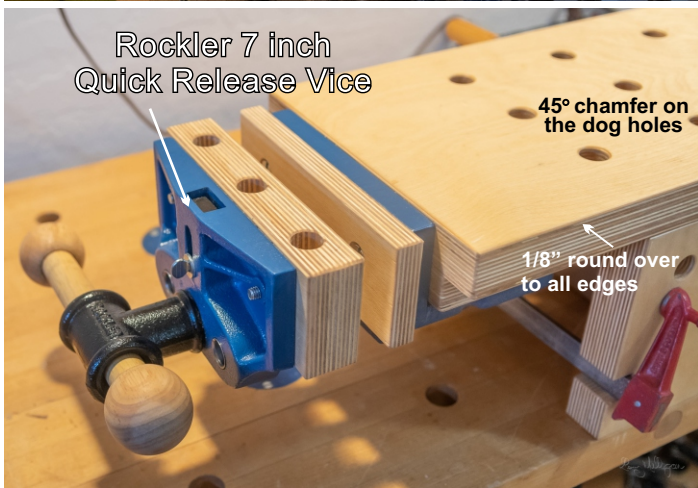
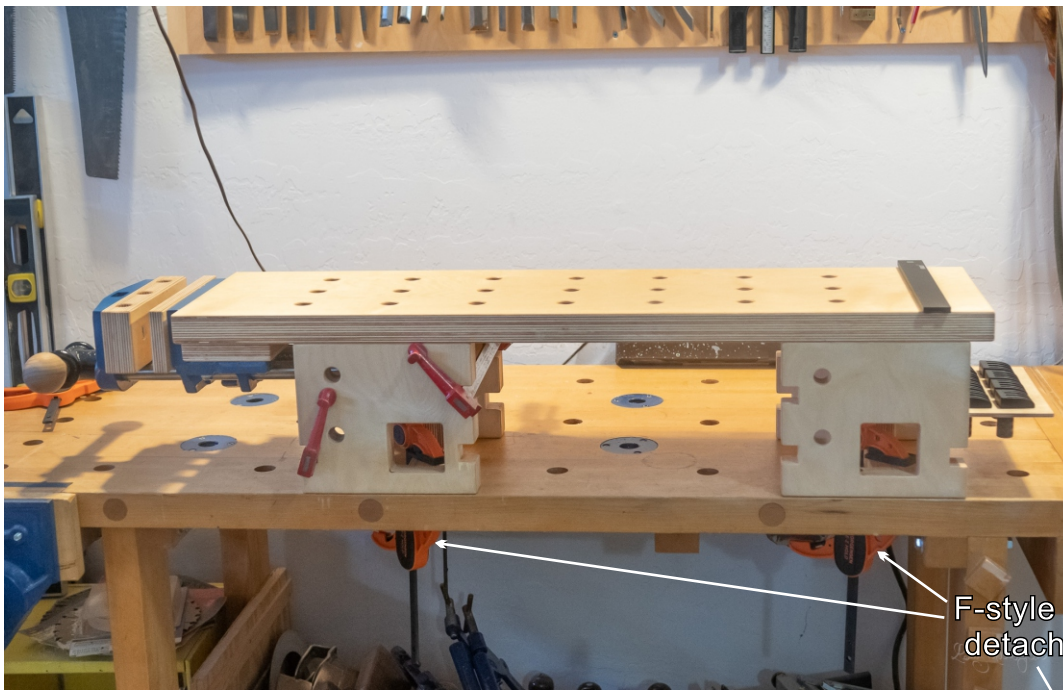
- Gerry Mulligan -

This bench was adapted from **Steve Latta's Bench** as featured in **Fine Woodworking** - "Minibench Works Wonders" - 2014



I cut the legs and spreaders the same size for simplicity, and cutting accuracy





This mini-bench is portable and can be clamped to any flat surface with an edge via the leg cutouts. It also works well on a Black and Decker Workmate portable bench. I elected to use baltic birch plywood since I do not have a thickness planner or joiner in my small single garage stall work space. It's stability also became important with the flush leg positions with the top. Vertical clamping is versatile and secure. It's very stiff, solid, and doesn't flex, move or vibrate with pounding.

There was a minor problem with the vice. The bench side vice jaw was slightly off 90 degrees with the base. I simply shaved a minimal bit off the bottom edge of the bench and spacer to give the end a minimal angle matching the vice jaw. The top of the vice jaw is now tight to the bench top edge. Several thin veneers (1/64th") were placed at the bottom of the vice bench side wood face. That face is now a true 90 degrees to the bench surface. I may add the taper attachment to the vice in the future, if needed (see the article on Steve Latta's mini-bench in Fine Workworking). The bench is sealed with 3 coats of Watco Danish Oil.

This mini-bench was designed to work with my primary bench. (Ex: Leg spreader separation matches the hold down and dog hole distance on the primary bench). I built that bench 37 years ago out of hard maple. It has many beginner mistakes that I've lived with over the years, but it has stood the test of time. It has survived two moves, and has generally worked quite well. It's my age and my back that have changed. It can be difficult to work bent over with hand tools for an extended period of time. I can sit for small part assembly work at the main bench, but the leverage from standing is needed for other work.