

Making a Small Parts Hand Vice

Thanks to Roland Kuhn of Fox Valley Woodworkers Club

I shape a lot of small parts on a drum and mop sanders. It can be very frustrating having little parts ripped from your fingers and shot across the shop not to mention the safety issues and the time-consuming searching for those missing parts. I found this tip on making a hand vise in wood magazine and thought it might be useful.

While making it, it was quickly apparent that simple upgrades could make this tool much more convenient to use.

I quickly ditched the washer spacers and replaced them with a spring to make it adjustable quickly for parts of differing thickness. The wedge proved frustrating to use and seemed like it would be easily lost and also limited the adjustability. I replaced this wedge with an adjustable screw and a tee nut. I recommend drilling a receiving hole in the opposite jaw to help locate the screw keeping the jaws aligned.

Here is a picture of my modified version of the hand vise. I am very happy with its performance and usability. It is made with a 1" hardwood dowel. I did add PSA sandpaper to jaw faces for even more grip.

