



TECHIE TIPS

JIGS AND FIXTURES

I often hear '*...I'm not a tradesman, nor even much of a handyman ...*' so this month's Techie Tips is for newbies.

Jigs and fixtures are things to help make life easier while making something - especially at home.



Simply put- a **Jig** is a device which guides the tool, while a **fixture** is a device that securely holds the job in position while you do something

If all you have is a battery drill, a tenon saw and some F-clamps, here are a few simple ones to get you started.

SQUARE DRILLING JIG

Nail together a couple of 38mm x 19mm scrap pieces about 80mm long to form a right angle as shown. It's important to make everything true and square. For a more robust jig, add some glue to the joint. When the jig wears out, make another one.

To use: Position the drill bit tight into the corner of the jig as shown and drill your hole.

BENCH HOOK



A **bench hook** minimizes the need for a vice or clamps and allows you to make quick cuts while protecting the worktop. You can use this on any surface with a square edge or even a stair tread if you don't have a work bench.

To make this simple bench hook find a plank or scrap ply at least 16mm thick for the **platform** and determine how long you'd like it to be. A suggested size is 300mm long by 240mm wide but go with what you have to hand.

Cut the 38mm by 19mm **hook piece** at the bottom to the width of the **platform** and the **top fence** about 25mm shorter than the platform width. Next, fasten them together with wood glue to opposite ends of the platform as shown in the picture. This allows for the bench hook to secure to the front edge of your work surface.

To use: Put the bench hook on the worktop, place the timber to be cut against the top fence, lean forward and use the palm of your hand to hold the workpiece in place as you cut.

Safety tip: Keep your thumb **away from the saw blade**

CORNER CLAMP FIXTURE



This handy little fixture is self-explanatory in layout and uses any timber offcuts with square ends.

Make them in pairs with holes to suit your F-clamps. Mark out the position of the two holes and cut with a suitable **holesaw**.

If you don't have a holesaw you can use a **spade bit** but first drill a 6mm **pilot hole** using your **square drilling jig**.

The spade bit will follow the drilled pilot hole through the material. Make sure you **firmly clamp** the workpiece to a worktop. **Don't** force the spade bit through the timber and hold the drill firmly

Finally, you can cut the diagonal by clamping to the top fence on your newly made **bench hook**.