

Tapering Masts, Yardarms and Booms

By Jerry Smith

The other day, while working on my boat, I ran across something I had never done before. That is, put a taper on the end of a mast. Having tried several ideas, which didn't work out, I came up with this one, which will grantee you success the first time you try it. The tools required are a hand drill and a disc sander. Just chuck the dowel in the drill, turn on the disc sander and drill and have at it. You'll be surprised how easy it is; and with good results. My very first one turned out great and saved me a lot of sanding time, the hard way to do it.

Tips For Success

1. Don't be in a hurry, stop frequently and look at your progress.
2. Rest the dowel you are turning down on the table next to disc at a slight angle and hold against the disc.
3. Both disc and drill should be turning counter clockwise for more aggressive sanding. If not reverse the drill.
4. Make sure to mark the dowel where you want the taper to start and work from there.
5. Again, don't be in a hurry and check frequently at your progress.

Passing on what I have learned to my boat-modeling friends is what I like to do. Why keep it a secret when many others can benefit from good ideas. Hopefully I can submit more worthy suggestion to help others.



