

Hard Rubber Jaw Liners for a Bench Vise, Version 1.0

By R. G. Sparber

Protected by Creative Commons.¹



While steel vise jaws grip the sides of a piece of stock, rubber jaws wrap around it. This added support permits the user to apply force parallel to the vise jaws and not just perpendicular to it. There is also little chance of marring the stock.



These jaws were cut from one of my favorite materials: worn-out hockey pucks. They are found discarded around ice rinks. The rubber is dense and saws nicely. My belt sander easily smooths the surfaces.



Each slab of rubber has two 1/4 inch diameter holes drilled in them with an end mill. The holes are deep enough to accept 1/8th inch thick neodymium magnets. I put a dab of adhesive in each hole and pushed in the magnet.

When the slabs are placed on the steel jaws of the vise, they stay put. Nothing worse than having jaw liners that fall out before the vise is tight.

The thickness of the rubber slabs is a tradeoff. If too thin, they won't be able to wrap around the stock. If too thick, they will deform too much and not hold tightly. Mine are about 1/4 inch thick and seem to work well.

¹ This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Nelson Collar for getting me to think along these lines. Thanks to my wife, Donna, for finding so many hockey pucks at the local rink.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Subscribe" in the subject line. If you are on this list and have had enough, email me "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Rick Sparber

Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com

Rick.Sparber.org