

When I need a Flat Surface More than a Bench Vise, Version 1.0

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About fifteen years ago, I built this odd workbench. It is very short, with one leg formed from nine 4 by 4s on end. My bench vise bolts on top. At the other corner is my arbor press. This bench has enough flat space for hammering small items and drilling. My box of screws barely sits on it, and I'm always concerned that it will slide to the floor, followed by an explosion of screws.

At times like this, my bench vise is a liability.



My solution is to throw together a vise-mounted table. It is a tradeoff between having a lot of work surface and being easy to store.



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The support leg was cut-to-fit for length. As I install the table in the vise jaws, this leg flops down, read to support the end of the table. It flops back flat when I raise the table for storage.



A piece of scrap 1/8" X 1 1/2" X 1 1/2" angle 5" long engages the vise jaws. I chose to drill and tap the angle in three places 10-32, and cut the screws flush after installation.



I only had round head screws, so I used a 3/8" drill and drilled down about 1/8" so the heads would not snag anything I slid on the surface.

As you can see, I'm focused on making a useful addition to my shop and not a thing of beauty or precision.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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