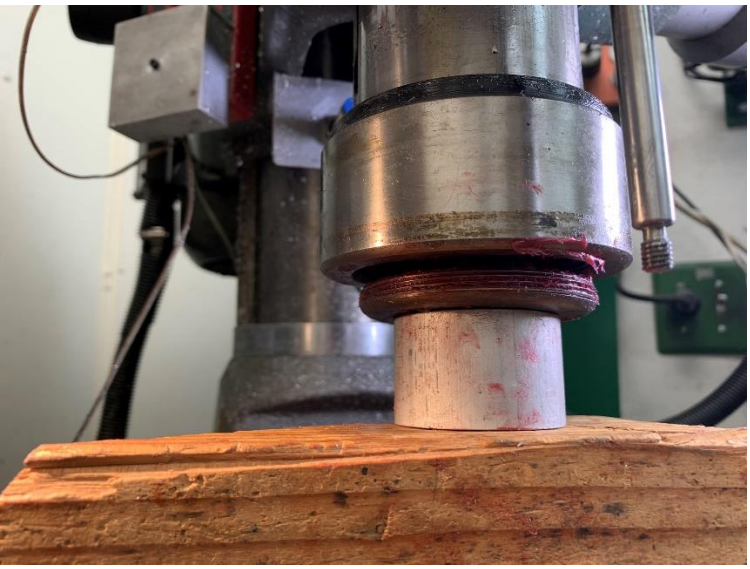
Installing the Spindle Bearing Grease Cup on an RF-30 Mill/Drill, Version 1.0

By R. G. Sparber

What a perfect storm. The spindle-bearing grease cup screws in up-side-down and has fine threads on its perimeter. It is also greasy, making it hard to hold and turn.

After a few frustrating minutes of cross-threading, I decided there had to be a better way. I needed to set the face of the cup perpendicular to the spindle plus at a height that would let me engage the threads.

Well, I do have extremely fine control of the Z axis of the mill, plus the table is perpendicular to the spindle. That's a start.



After the usual false starts, I selected a short length of aluminum thick-walled tubing. It cleared the spindle while supporting the cup.

I placed the tubing on a 4 x 4 because it was about the right height.

I now had the cup perpendicular to the spindle.

Then I slowly fed the Z axis down until the cup was inside the end of the spindle. The trick was to get the threads close enough that I only had to turn the cup to engage the threads.

I hit it right on the second try.

Once engaged, I raised the quill and spun the cup home.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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