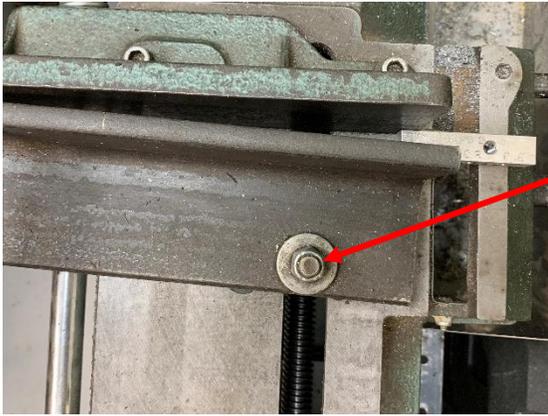


A Horizontal Bandsaw Vise Screw Jack, Version 1.1

By R. G. Sparber

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On my horizontal/vertical bandsaw, the movable jaw has a pivot point. This is helpful when the part is *almost* square because this jaw can pivot to the odd face. However, if the part being cut is not long enough to span the distance from blade to pivot, that movable jaw pivots so it is not parallel to the fixed jaw and won't secure the stock.

A common solution is to find a bit of material the same thickness as the stock being cut. Stuff it near the far end of the vise jaws. But that little search takes my focus away from the task at hand so is not welcome.



My favorite solution is to add a jack screw to the far end of the movable jaw. This can be adjusted to any depth in moments.

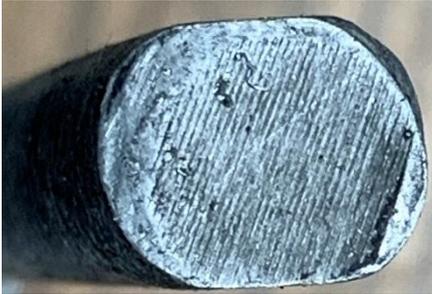
What makes this jackscrew so nice is that it slides in and out, yet, with a quarter turn, engages threads for the final adjustment.

I would like to give credit to the author that told me about this arrangement but have so far failed to recall the source.

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The screw is a piece of ½ inch diameter ready-rod with a nut plug welded on the end. Loctite would have worked.



Looking at the end of the screw, you can see that the top and bottom threads have been removed.

There are numerous ways to do this removal. Given enough time, a hand file will work. So will a bench grinder if you have good hand to eye coordination. It is not easy to get it to

look good although the jack screw will still work if the surfaces are not flat.

A belt sander will eventually remove the metal. And, of course, it can be done in a few minutes on a milling machine. It can also be done right on your saw, but I'll leave that for another article².



The hole in the movable jaw is first drilled and tapped to match the screw. A round file is used to remove the threads on the sides.



In the unlocked position, the screw's flats are horizontal. This disengages the threads and permits sliding in and out.

² See <https://rick.sparber.org/SawingThreadedRod.pdf>



Rotate the screw 90° and the threads engage.



To use, I feed the screw in until it touches the fixed jaw. Then turn the screw until it is snug.

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Rick Sparber

Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com

Rick.Sparber.org