

## Making a Moxon Vice

by Bob McKee

About a month ago on the EMGW Website, Andy Davis advertised a Moxon vise made by Lake Erie Toolworks, which produces beautifully made tools of all maple. In addition to my home shop, I take Open Woodworking at The Eliot School in Boston where they have very poor vises in an otherwise well-equipped facility. So I bought Andy's Moxon and donated it to The Eliot School.



Moxon vises are essentially two parallel boards that are brought together with screws at each end, so they can accommodate wide or long pieces without any obstructions. They are great for dovetailing, planing, etc. Upon using the Moxon I was so impressed that I decided my home shop needed one as well. Having blown my budget for Moxon's, I decided to make one.



My vise was constructed in four hours from random pieces of Maple (the jaws), Applewood (base), and Walnut (the handles) with some  $\frac{3}{4}$ " threaded rod and a couple nuts purchased at the local Ace Hardware for \$17.00. The nuts were mortised into the back jaw and epoxied in place. The octagonal walnut handles were cut on the table saw and finished with a hand plane, then drilled out to fit on the threaded rod. The back jaw is attached to the base using floating mortises. The lack of a base on the Lake Erie Toolworks version was a weakness, since having your clamps on the top of the back jaw can get in the way. The base on mine solved that issue.

Not every shop needs a vise like this, but if your woodworking includes a lot of hand work you should try one out!