

# TIPS & QUERIES

Send your tips and questions to [tips@britishwoodworking.com](mailto:tips@britishwoodworking.com)

## TIP

### Metal Bench Dogs/Bars

We saw these unusual bench dogs or bars at Furze Down School in Winslow, Bucks. They fit on school benches with a well in the centre, a series of holes drilled along the edge at the front of the bench and in the well. On one side the bent metal is longer than the other to protrude into the holes, but be removable. You can just see a metal stop on the left-hand side of the rear one in the photo below right. This stops the bar falling out. Has anyone seen these before?

Phil Francis at Furze Down has had more made locally. The school raises money with projects pupils make.



## DON'T DO THIS

### Saw Round

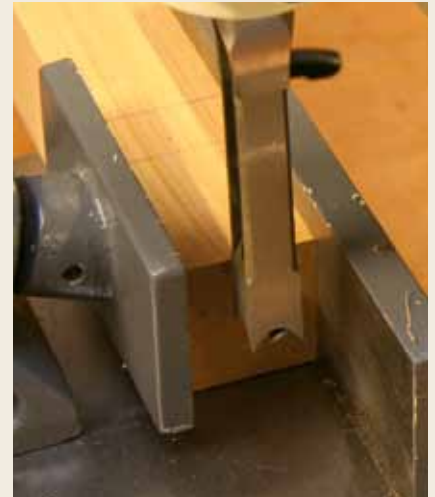
Bandsaws are not always the safest machine

Bandsaws are generally considered one of the the safest of woodworking machines. However you must never try cutting a cylinder (dowel, or perhaps a log, or a piece of turning). The blade may well catch the unsupported leading 'edge' of the cylinder and twist it in your hand. Your fingers can get pinched between the wood and the table, or worse get pulled into the blade. Instead, make a simple V-block, which you can hold against the mitre fence for much safer cutting.



**Danger!** Trying to cut a cylinder on a bandsaw is an invitation for trouble (left), but a V-block makes it safer. This one has a bar in the mitre guide channel (above)

## Reader Tips



Use chainsaw oil for lubricating mortiser drills, as being stringy it stays put.  
**Peter Bagg**



Make a trammel bar from a ply offcut with a dowel drilled into the bottom of the round tabletop where it won't be seen.  
**Doug Kennett**



Let a block of construction silicone harden and use it to clean abrasive belts and discs.  
**Derek Willis**