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Instructions for building a portable bench for WoodRat®
using our Mounting Kit, spiral bits and dimensioned lumber

Most WoodRat owners mount their machine on a wall plate. No wall space, no problem. In this demo we build a portable bench from 2-by-8, 2-by-3 lumber and MDF to mount the machine. When the 'Rat is in use this bench can be clamped on top of your regular workbench. Otherwise, quickly disassemble and compactly store it under the workbench.

Cut 2-by-8 boards and dado ends

Cut a 2-by-8 board (about 1-½" by 7") into two boards 36" long (24" for LittleRat) then cut a ¾" by ¾" dado on each board end. We did this in two passes with ½" spiral bit. The boards will be front and back of bench.

Then rabbet top of each board

Cut a 3/8" by 1" rabbet on top side of each board and on same side as the end dados. We used a mortise rail and ½" spiral bit. This rabbet is for supporting bench top.

Drill a hole for dust collection

Drill a dust collection hole in middle of board to be used for front of bench. We used a drill press and 2-½" hole saw with top of hole located ¾" below the top rabbet.

Attach hose adapter

Attach a hose adapter fitting for your shop vac over the hole drilled for dust collection. The fitting should be below top rabbet.

Size and cut bench sides

Determine dimensions of bench sides then cut ¾" MDF to size. Our workbench is 37" high and 27" wide. We wanted the machine to be 51" off floor so our sides were cut 14" high. We wanted to allow 5" on each side (no more) for WoodRat machine overhang so our sides were cut 17" wide.

Attach sides to front and rear

The sides fit into end dados of front and rear 2-by-8 boards. We used glue and nails to attach them.

Measure for top and cut

Measure inside dimensions to determine size of top. Our top was cut from ½" MDF about 16-¼" by 34-½". When inserted the top will be recessed ½" in the 1" top rabbet.

Insert top

Top is supported by the rabbets. You may want to nail or glue in place.

Attach 2-by-3 side supports

To prevent bench from tilting under weight of the machine, attach 2-by-3 supports on sides. In use, the supports will be clamped to workbench so they should extend to sides of bench (up to the 5" overhang of machine extrusion). We drilled two ¼" holes and attached with lag bolts and wing nuts.

Attach machine mounting brackets

Attach mounting brackets for WoodRat machine to front. We used the aluminum brackets from our Mounting Kit. Attach with included ¼" lag screws 1-¾" long and position brackets ½" below top and 1" from side (screw centers are 1-3/8" below top).

Mount WoodRat extrusion on bench

The WoodRat aluminum extrusion with sliding bar hangs on the Mounting Kit brackets.

Drill and countersink router plate

Before assembling your WoodRat machine you need to drill and countersink WoodRat router plate to fit taps in your router base. Starter holes exist for DeWalt 625 and 621 routers. Countersink from reverse side.

Bit center is between inside starter holes.

Mount router plate to router

Mounting Kit includes screws for attaching WoodRat router plate to popular routers.

Groove in plate is located to front of router.

Complete machine assembly.

Follow instructions in manual to complete machine assembly. Attach shop vac to hose fitting and cut Styrofoam or other material to block both inside ends of the aluminum extrusion.

Partially disassemble for storage

For storage; slide router off machine, lift aluminum extrusion with base plate off the portable bench and detach side supports. You can then store compactly under your workbench or in other convenient location.

Please email us at info@thecraftsmangallery.com with any corrections or improvements to these instructions. Check our web site www.chipsfly.com for our products and additional information.