



# West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

May 2021  
Newsletter

## President's Corner

By Les Derusha

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021  
7:00 PM

Online meeting via ZOOM

Available on any device that can  
access the internet.



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/82684056283?pwd=aXgxdFd-  
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Meeting ID: 826 8405 6283  
Passcode: 452723



The Guild's  
Facebook page :

[www.facebook.com/groups/  
wmiwwguild](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild)

For our May Guild meeting we will have Greg Tamm from SawStop to talk about their products and why they should be considered in your next table saw purchase.

We had a Guild Board meeting and discussed a number of issues:

We are hoping things settle down so we can meet in person this coming fall. Our current plan is to have our annual picnic at John Pflug's place again on September 14th. And hopefully start meeting again in person at Ideal Park CRC Church Activity Center in October. Stay Tuned.

We are looking for someone to share cameraman duties with Steve Babcock. This would include setup before the meeting, running the camera during the meeting and packing things up after. Contact me at [les@svideo.org](mailto:les@svideo.org).

We discussed the issue of new and not so new woodworkers that may have questions on skills, techniques and general advice. We are looking at coming up with a solution to provide in person kind of help to further increase the value of Guild membership.

We are also looking for input on presentation subjects or speakers of interest to you.

In the meantime there is always the workshop. OR shopping for the workshop.

Stay Safe.

# April meeting recap

by Steve DeVries  
presentation by Greg Johnson

No matter who you are, or what tools you own, there is always someone out there with better gear. The point is not to have the greatest tools, but to do great work with the tools you have. There are a lot of old bandsaws out there with great motors and frames, but have tires and guides that are just worn out. It might be tempting to spend a lot of money on a shiny new machine, but there is a great deal of satisfaction and savings to be had upgrading some of those old components to give an old tool new life.

If you are one of those who is frustrated with your old saw, but really can't afford the saw you would like, check out some of Carter Products bandsaw tires and belts. You can get that old machine running better than it ever has for a lot less money than a new machine.



Sadly, stock bandsaw fences are often just afterthoughts : notoriously terrible at being strong, straight, able to lock well, or even sit at 90°. If you do a lot of resawing, you know how frustrating this can be. A magnetic fence might be a good option for you.



Carter bandsaw blade guides are top of the line. If you have old friction guides or a flattened thrust bearing, these will be a huge upgrade.



The West Michigan Woodworkers Guild has neither asked for or received any sort of compensation for this article. Carter Products is a local company and we are happy to have them come talk to our guild and give them a bit of a shout out because they make great accessories.



The Carter stabilizer is designed for blades that are too small to work with traditional blade guides — such as scrolling blades (boy, I wish I had one of these).



Blade tension quick release

Circle jig



# The Guild is looking for some help

In the fall when we plan on going back to in-person meetings we plan on continuing to stream our meetings on ZOOM for those who either don't feel comfortable meeting in person, or those who don't even live in Michigan year round. Believe it or not, the Guild gets inquiries from all over the world, and even though we think of ourselves as a small, local group, we want to be available to anyone who can benefit from our meetings.

**We need people to help with technology.** Our main need at the moment is someone to help run the cameras for our meetings. This would involve :

- Charging batteries
- Showing up to meetings early to set up equipment
- Running the camera during meetings
- Taking down equipment after the meeting

I realize that everyone feels that their lives are busy and might not want to commit to something like this, but if you have the skills, we could really use your help.

Contact

Les Derusha : [les@svideo.org](mailto:les@svideo.org)

or

John Pflug : [johnpflug2@gmail.com](mailto:johnpflug2@gmail.com)



# DIY Drum Sander

by Steve DeVries

Of all the power tools available today, the drum sander is perhaps the easiest to build yourself. A typical drum sander will cost upwards of \$1000 and require expensive rolls of sandpaper, making them unaffordable for most people.

With my DIY drum/thickness sander, I can do everything a commercial drum sander and planer would do without ever worrying about damaging blades or needing to sharpen them. And since I use sheet sandpaper which is cheap and easy to change, I can use any grit I want and never need to try to clean out a gummed up strip — I just replace the sheet.

My DIY drum sander

Less than \$100

Accurate to .0005" (1/2 of a thousandth - no joke)

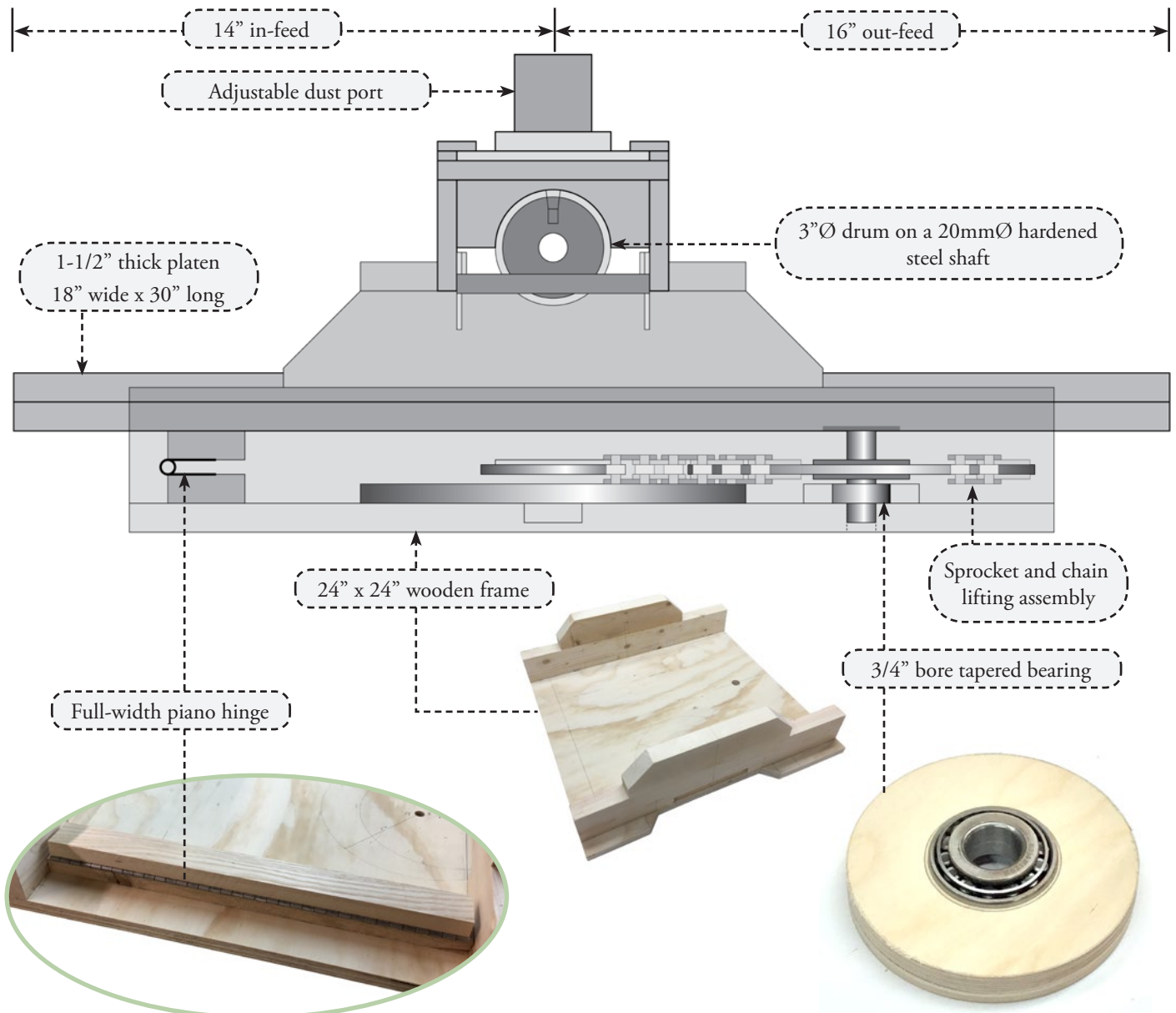
Uses standard off-the-shelf sheet sandpaper

Will accept two different grits at the same time

0" to 3" thick and up to 18" wide capacity

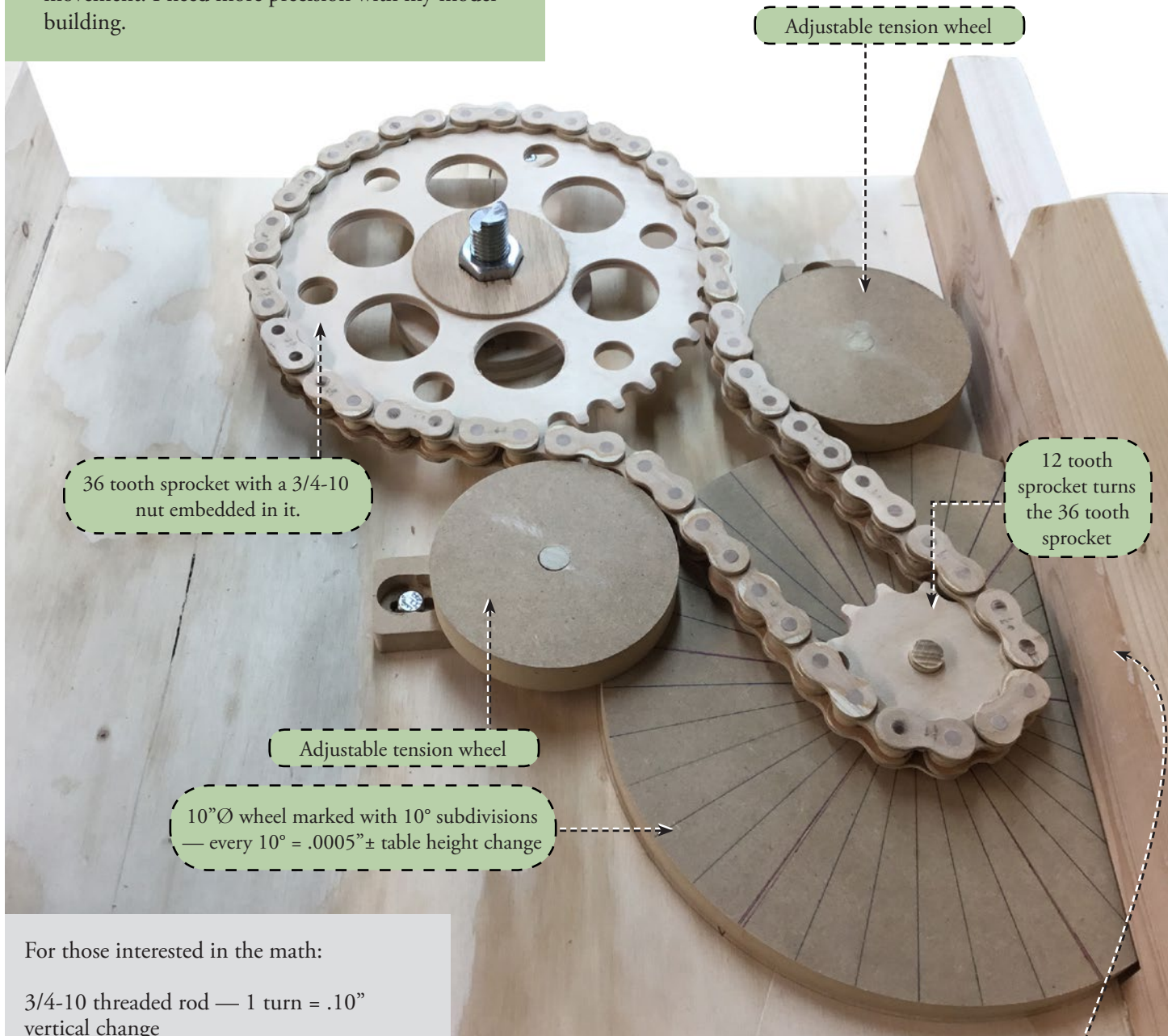
14" infeed and 16" outfeed platen

Disclaimer : I freely admit that for taking off large amounts of stock, a planer is faster. It takes about 8 passes through a drum sander like this to remove 1/16" of material (.008" max per pass).





The lift mechanism consists of sprocket and chain assembly which turn a short section of 3/4-10 threaded rod. I chose this more complicated lift mechanism because I wanted to gear down the movement. I need more precision with my model building.



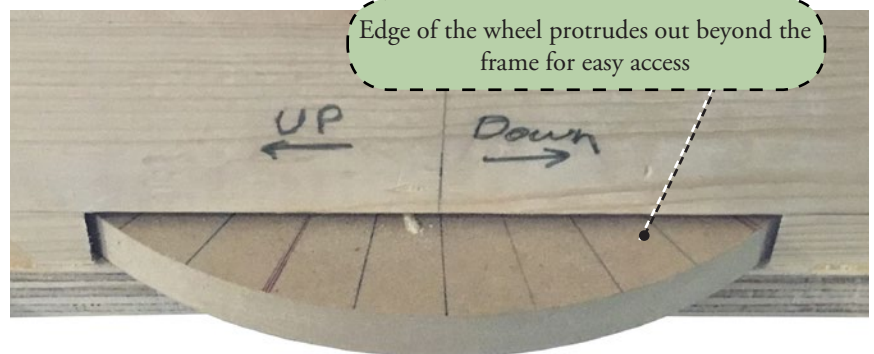
For those interested in the math:

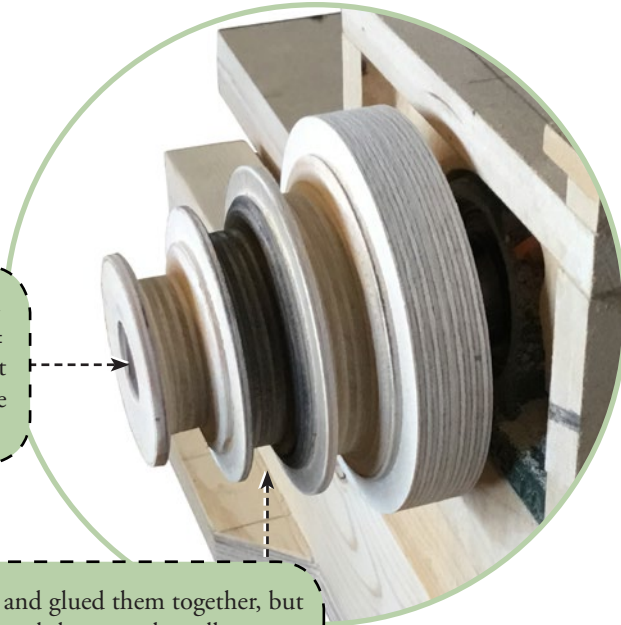
3/4-10 threaded rod — 1 turn = .10" vertical change

36 tooth sprocket turned by a 12 tooth sprocket — one turn of the 12 tooth sprocket =  $.0333"(.10"/3)$  vertical change

10"Ø wheel — every 10° on the wheel = .00094" ( $.0333"/36$ ) vertical change


The sanding drum is halfway between the hinge and the threaded lifting rod, so that .00094" vertical change of the threaded rod results in .00047" ( $.00094/2$ ) change in table height at the drum.



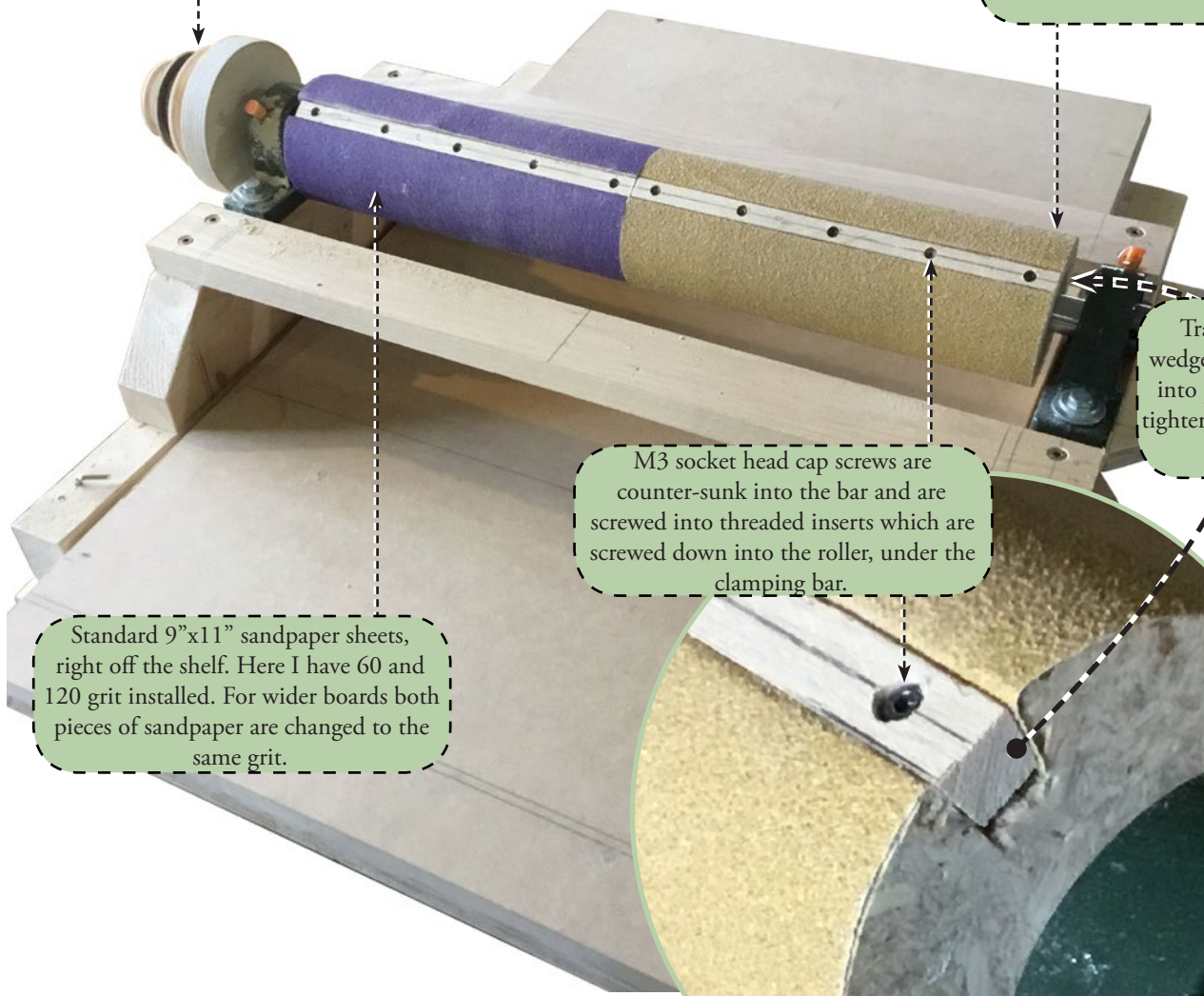


20mmØ hardened steel linear motion rod (25"± long). This was the most expensive element of the build at \$20.

I turned a 4 stack pulley and glued them together, but found I only really used the second smallest.



The rollers are made from 3/4" MDF, cut into circles and glued together into two 9" sections. After the roller is installed, sandpaper glued to a piece of MDF is run underneath the rollers to smooth them and level them with the table.



Trapezoidal bar wedges the sandpaper into place, pulling it tighter as the screws are tightened.

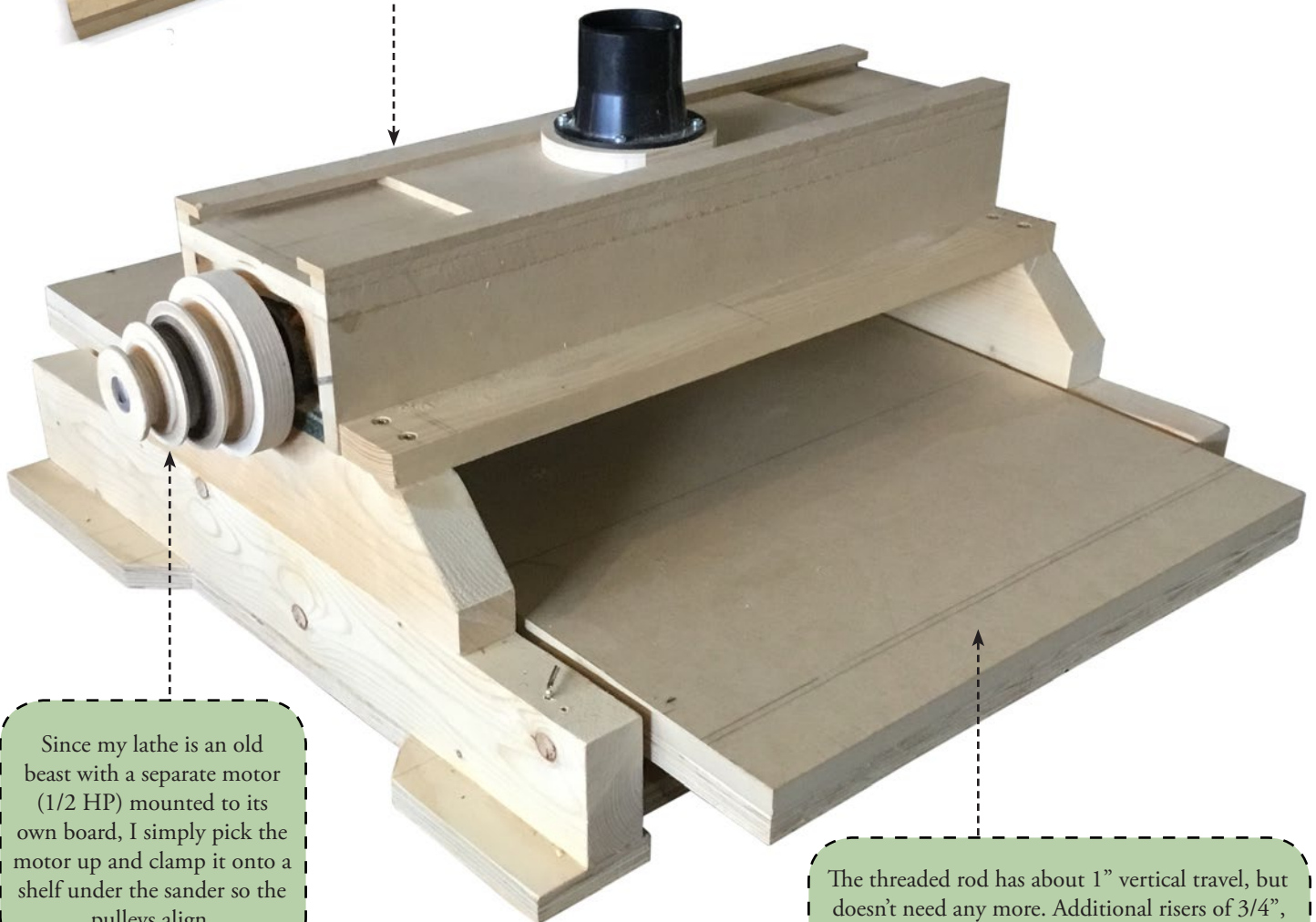
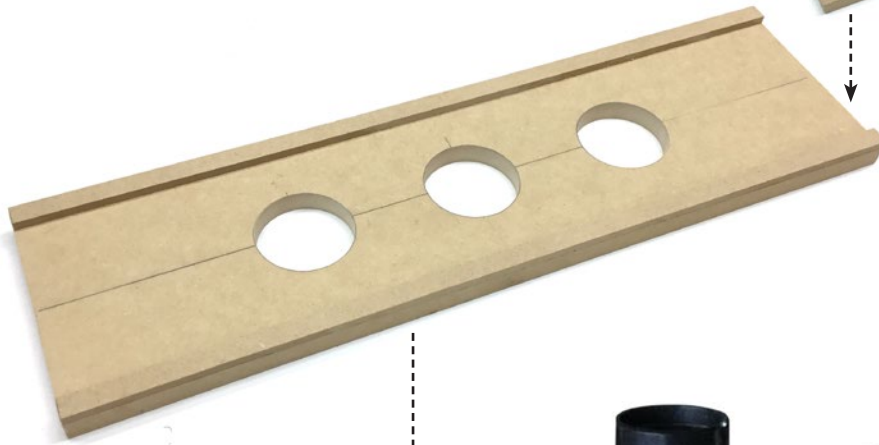
M3 socket head cap screws are counter-sunk into the bar and are screwed into threaded inserts which are screwed down into the roller, under the clamping bar.

Standard 9"x11" sandpaper sheets, right off the shelf. Here I have 60 and 120 grit installed. For wider boards both pieces of sandpaper are changed to the same grit.





A sliding plate with a dust port mounted to it slides into the top of the dust shroud. The port can be positioned over one of the side holes for sanding narrower pieces, or the center hole when sanding wide boards.



Since my lathe is an old beast with a separate motor (1/2 HP) mounted to its own board, I simply pick the motor up and clamp it onto a shelf under the sander so the pulleys align.

The threaded rod has about 1" vertical travel, but doesn't need any more. Additional risers of 3/4", 1/2" or 1/4" MDF are placed atop the platen depending on the thickness of the material being sanded.

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[President@westmichiganwoodworkers.org](mailto:President@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)

**Vice President** - Dale Smith

[ahumanoid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahumanoid@hotmail.com)

**Secretary** - Chris Taylor

[taylor.christopher.james@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.christopher.james@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - Case Vander Maas

[case.vm@gmail.com](mailto:case.vm@gmail.com)

**Program Director** - John Pflug

[johnpflug2@gmail.com](mailto:johnpflug2@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor** - Steve Devries

[newsletter@westmichiganwoodworkers.org](mailto:newsletter@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)

**Guild Contact** - Tom McDonald

[information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org](mailto:information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)

616-706-8057

**Board Members at Large**

Patti Dooley

[Rosepedal27@comcast.net](mailto:Rosepedal27@comcast.net)

Greg Quist

[Gquist43@gmail.com](mailto:Gquist43@gmail.com)

Mltch Hoogland

[mitch.hoogland@gmail.com](mailto:mitch.hoogland@gmail.com)

## Web information

The Guild's Facebook page :  
[www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild)

The Guild's website :  
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