

## ***Bandsaw Holding Jig – Mike Brown***

I took the photos for this article some time ago but shortly afterwards a very similar article appeared in (I think) the Model Engineer. The device was inspired by something I had seen in an American magazine a couple of years ago, so maybe the other author had seen the same article. Anyway as some time has passed I have dug out the photos and written up the article.

The metal cutting bandsaw is one of the most useful items in my workshop, I probably use it more frequently than any other machine (shows how lazy I am!). However while it is great for cutting up stock material, the standard vice is hopeless for holding short pieces, castings, and all sorts of other work. The device described dramatically increases the versatility of this already useful machine.

Basically the attachment consists of a flat steel plate with a number of drilled and tapped holes (see *Photo a*). My plate is 150 x 190 x 8mm. I am not sure where it came from, but I might have picked it up in Williams on Builder Street for something else years ago. Anyway it turned out to be the perfect size for my machine. The holes on mine are M8, spaced in a 15 x 15mm grid. Of course the sizes and spacing's are not critical except that I have an 8mm dia. clamping kit for my milling machine (see *photo b*). (To save some effort you do not even have to drill and tap all the holes, most probably you will not use all, or even most of them, so you could mark out and centre punch all the holes, but just drill and tap holes as you need them.) As the plate fits nicely in the vice, I used the saw itself to trim the plate off square.

One feature that is a little different from what I have seen published is the method of location in the vice. It is important that the blade runs as close as possible to the edge of the plate so that the work is supported as well as possible. To ensure that this can be easily set and adjusted, I fitted a small eccentric ring held in place with a hex socket screw underneath the plate (see *photo c*). Thus when the plate is fitted, I simply push the plate to the back of the machine vice so that the stud hits the body. The position of the plate relative to the blade can be fine tuned by turning the eccentric ring slightly. The dimensions of the ring are not critical it could be turned, parted and then held offset for drilling in a four jaw chuck, or more simply just drilled off centre on the pillar drill.

Another addition I made was a simple vee block that could be fitted to the plate to help hold round work. Again the size is not critical, whatever you have should do. You can see the holes to take countersunk hex screws to hold the block to the plate in *photo d* (you can also see that the block was an afterthought due to the spacing of the holes).



*photo a*



*photo b*



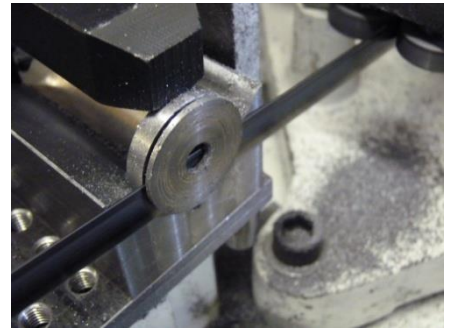
*photo c*



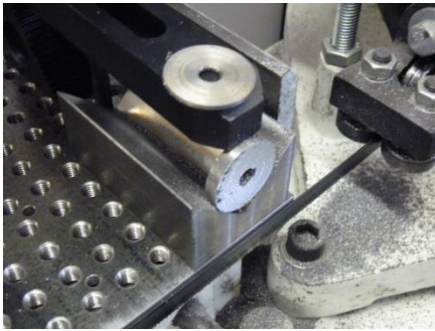
*photo d*



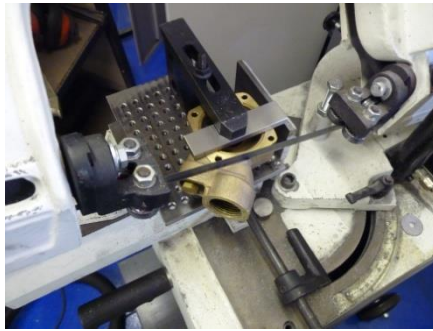
*photo e*



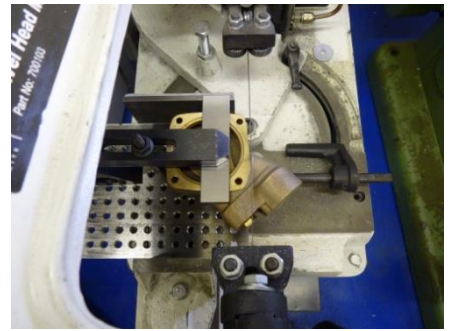
*photo f*



*photo g*



*photo h*



*photo i*

*Photos e to g* show the setup to cut a small amount off a very short offcut. As you can see the results are quite acceptable. *Photos h* and *i* show how easy it is to hold a casting or other irregular object for cutting.

Overall I am very pleased with my addition, it did not take long to make and it makes my bandsaw even more useful – a great result.