Subject: Using Hole Saw w/o Center Bit
Posted by GarMan on Tue, 15 Mar 2005 13:37:24 GMT
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Is it safe to use a hole saw on wood without the center drill bit?I'm looking for ways to make some 2" round knobs and was thinking of drilling them out from 1" stock with a hold saw. Problem is, I don't want the hole made by the center drill bit.

Subject: Re: Yes that's my Bugle knob
Posted by BillEpstein on Tue, 15 Mar 2005 17:25:08 GMT
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I put a switch and a couple exra inputs so I can dial between CD and LP.You can make an 'almost round' knob like mine by cutting a X" square, drilling the center hole and tapping threads for the set screw. Then trim the corners to make an oct'n, insert a bolt in the center hole, chuck it in your drill (still with me?), clamp the drill in a vise, turn the drill on and then (this is the best part!) carefully hold a belt sander with 60 grit to the spinning block of wood. Trust me! It works!Go ahead and use the hole saw and fill the visible hole with 12 or 10 gauge copper wire. Looks good.You can buy hole saws that have an arbor attached but no center bit. They're not meant to be used w/o a center bit, but, only in a drill press with the work securely clamped you can.My knob is Cocobolo and the indicator on the knob as well as the 2 positions are marked with 10 Ga. wire. Looks good with a cheap digital camera.

Subject: Re: Yes that's my Bugle knob
Posted by GarMan on Tue, 15 Mar 2005 17:53:40 GMT
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Spin the wood on a drill and shape with a belt sander! Bill, you are a crazy man.I think I'm going to try the hole saw with the center bit to start the cut and then complete it without. I'll need the centre hole for the pot and switch attachement.

Subject: Re: Yes that's my Bugle knob
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Thu, 17 Mar 2005 02:57:23 GMT
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You can have good luck using a hole saw with noe center drill if you pre drill a hole with 'that hole saw' and clamp on the top of the new part you want to drill. The top guide wood should be 1/2 -

3/4 thick and clamped firmly onto the new piece to cut. A drill press is important for this type of work.using a hole saw with no center drill is hospital visit waiting to happen!Bill

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Subject: Re: Sissy - Mary's!!!
Posted by Lefty on Thu, 17 Mar 2005 10:21:12 GMT
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Didja ever see the video where Frank Klausz makes an old-fasioned workbench and cuts the dovetail ends by by standing the 24"X72"X2" top up on the table saw? I wanta be like Frank! I cut all 4 ports with a no-drill-bit-hole-saw free hand with my Bosch for these 2Pi's. I was a little nervous but somehow avoided "porting" my legs. Safer to use the drill and belt sander.

Subject: Re: Sissy - Mary's!!!
Posted by GarMan on Thu, 17 Mar 2005 17:25:51 GMT
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Epstein, I'll leave the "Wile E. Coyote" methods of work to someone more experience like you.BTW, I got some dye stain like you suggested and played around with it over the past two weeks. Love the results compared to the gel stain I've been using. I'm going through a black-dyed open grain oak phase.
