

# WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

"America's leading woodworking authority"™

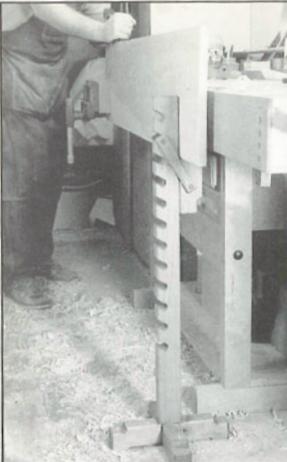


## Classic Project

### In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

## Workbench Helper

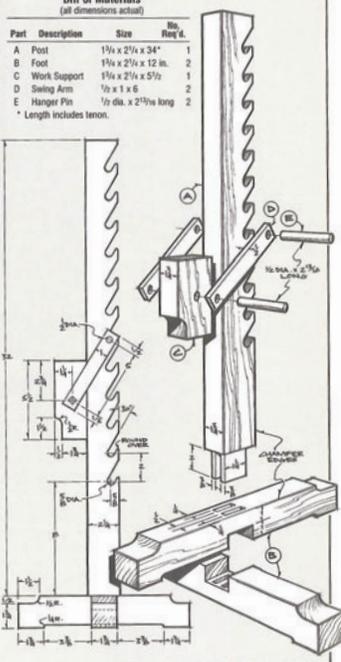


### Workbench Helper

**Bill of Materials**  
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	Qty.	Ref. #
A	Post	1 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 34"	1	
B	Foot	1 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 12 in.	2	
C	Work Support	1 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 5 1/2	1	
D	Swing Arm	1/2 x 1 x 6	2	
E	Hanger Pin	1/2 dia. x 2 1/2 in. long	2	

\* Length includes tenon.



**G**enerations of craftsmen have used these handy helpers to hold the other end of the board. They're especially useful for hand planing or jointing boards too long for a vise to support. Once you make this shop project, you'll wonder how you got along without it.

The inspiration for this helper has a cracked and blackened surface that bears witness to untold years of service. There's no telling how many craftsmen the ancient device has outlived.

We used rock maple salvaged from a pallet for our helper. The maple wears like iron. But the helper dimensions are hefty enough to allow use of a softwood for all but the swing arms (D) and hanger pins (E).

A double mortise and tenon is used to set the post (A) into the half-lapped feet (B). A tenon jig will be needed to support the post while cutting the 2 in. tenon length. You can also use a single tenon. The work support (C) moves freely on the swing arm and hanger pin, so bore a 7/8 in. diameter hole for the 1/2 in. diameter support pin. Make the angled slots in the post 3/8 in. wide so the pins move easily. To make the slots, use the drill press to bore 5/8 in. diameter holes located as shown, then make the 30-degree angled cutouts with the band saw.

A finish isn't necessary for the Workbench Helper, although we chose to seal the wood with a coat of Minwax Early American stain. The stain keeps it looking new a bit longer.

The Woodworker's Journal

Published in *Woodworker's Journal* July/August 1990

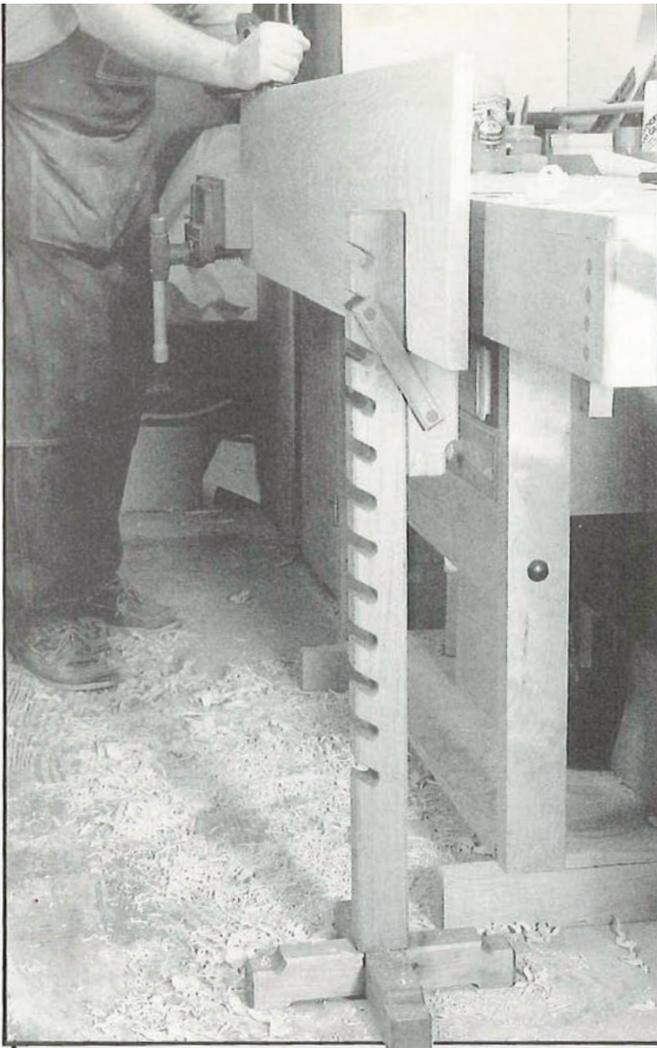
Get Adobe Reader To download these plans, you will need Adobe Reader installed on your computer. If you want to get a free copy, visit: <http://adobe.com/reader>.

**Having trouble downloading the plans?** Right click on the download link and select "Save Target As..." or "Save Link As..." (depending on the web browser you are using) to download to your local drive.

Copyright *Woodworker's Journal* © 2010  
This pattern is copyrighted by *Woodworker's Journal*.  
Purchasers of this plan may make three copies for personal use in the shop. The pattern itself, however, is the property of *Woodworker's Journal* and is not to be reproduced for distribution or resale. Doing so, including via any electronic methods, is a violation of copyright law.

[www.woodworkersjournal.com](http://www.woodworkersjournal.com)

**\$1.00**  
WJC039

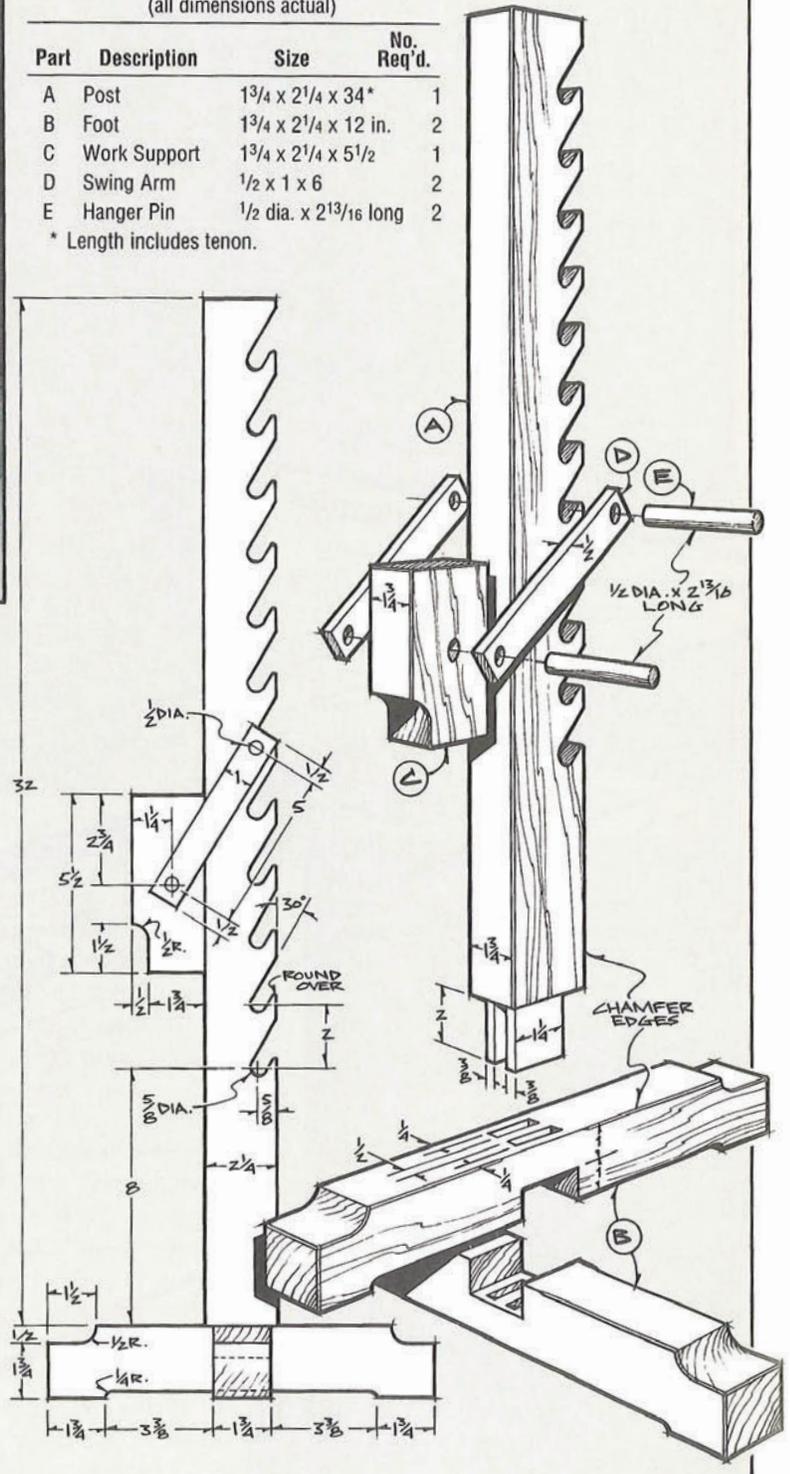


# Workbench Helper

## Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Post	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 34*	1
B	Foot	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 12 in.	2
C	Work Support	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1
D	Swing Arm	1/2 x 1 x 6	2
E	Hanger Pin	1/2 dia. x 2 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>16</sub> long	2

\* Length includes tenon.



**G**enerations of craftsmen have used these handy helpers to hold the other end of the board. They're especially useful for hand planing or jointing boards too long for a vise to support. Once you make this shop project, you'll wonder how you got along without it.

The inspiration for this helper has a cracked and blackened surface that bears witness to untold years of service. There's no telling how many craftsmen the ancient device has outlived.

We used rock maple salvaged from a pallet for our helper. The maple wears like iron. But the helper dimensions are hefty enough to allow use of a softwood for all but the swing arms (D) and hanger pins (E).

A double mortise and tenon is used to set the post (A) into the half-lapped feet (B). A tenon jig will be needed to support the post while cutting the 2 in. tenon length. You can also use a single tenon. The work support (C) moves freely on the swing arm and hanger pin, so bore a <sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. diameter hole for the 1/2 in. diameter support pin. Make the angled slots in the post <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. wide so the pins move easily. To make the slots, use the drill press to bore <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. diameter holes located as shown, then make the 30-degree angled cutouts with the band saw.

A finish isn't necessary for the Workbench Helper, although we chose to seal the wood with a coat of Minwax Early American stain. The stain keeps it looking new a bit longer.

# WOODWORKER'S WJOURNAL

Thank you for purchasing this *Woodworker's Journal* Classic Project plan.

*Woodworker's Journal* Classic Projects are scans of much-loved woodworking plans from our library of back issues. Please note that specific products and sources cited in a plan when it originally appeared may no longer be available.

If you experience any problems with this plan, please contact: [info@woodworkersjournal.com](mailto:info@woodworkersjournal.com)

or

Attn: Classic Projects  
Woodworker's Journal  
4365 Willow Drive  
Medina, MN 55340

Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker  
Internet Production Coordinator