

# Gouge Grinding Jig

When sharpening the bevel on my turning gouges, I generally use my bench grinder with an aluminum-oxide wheel. And I'll be the first to admit that the free-hand technique I've used is probably less than ideal.

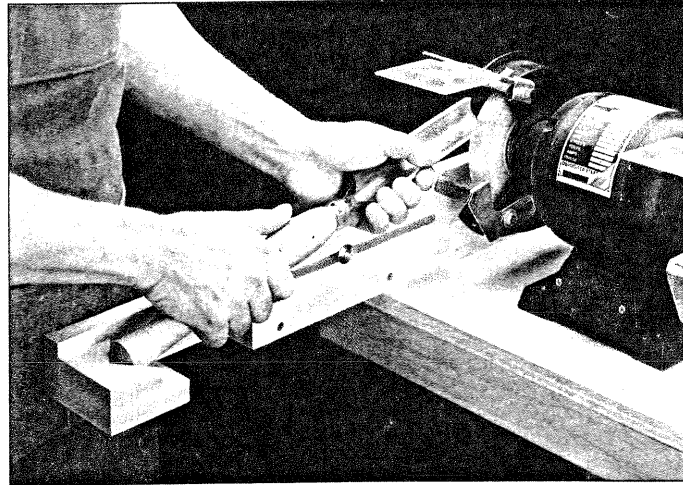
Maintaining the bevel angle on a gouge, while rolling the bevel across the wheel, is just about impossible. I'm sure there have been times when I've ground away too much material, or altered a bevel or two.

So when I received a photo of this jig from **Harry DeFuria**, of Livingston, New Jersey, it looked like it might solve my problem. Harry's jig can accom-

modate most turning gouges — without *unintentionally* altering the bevel angle.

This jig can be set up quickly. But best of all, it allows you to check your progress during the grinding process without having to worry about placing the gouge back on the wheel at the proper angle. The jig automatically maintains the angle.

**THE PARTS.** A **support arm (A)**, with a **handle stop (B)** and **rest (C)**, are used to support the tool against the wheel, see Fig. 1. An **arm guide (D)**, with a groove cut on one side, holds the arm in place. And to mount the jig to the workbench, the guide (D) is screwed to a **base (E)**.



**SET-UP.** To set up the jig, I placed it on the left-hand side of my bench grinder since that's where I keep the wheel used for sharpening my gouges, see photo. If your grinder is set up differently, you may have to build a mirror image of the jig shown here.

When positioning the jig, it should be parallel to the grinding wheel, see Fig. 2. And the V-notch in the handle stop must be straight out from the face of the wheel.

Next, with the grinder turned *off*, place the gouge on the handle rest. Then adjust the support arm so the bevel rests flat against the wheel. Once the arm is in position, tighten the wing nuts.

**USING THE JIG.** After the jig is set up, it's just a matter of turning on the grinder and lowering the gouge onto the wheel.

Once the bevel touches the grinding wheel, begin sweeping the bevel back and forth across the wheel, rolling towards the outside edges of the wheel between sweeps, see Fig. 3. Note: As you're sweeping across the wheel, keep the gouge rolling. If it's kept in one place too long, you may end up heating up the gouge and taking the temper out of the metal.

Also, check your progress often. What you're trying to get is a smooth, consistent bevel all the way around the gouge.

