

## Cutting Perfect Tennon

Most of us cut our tennons with tools like these:



Scrapers, skews, spindle gauges, and calipers. We cut, measure, cut measure, cut and on and on until we get where we hope to be. Sometimes it works and sometimes we swear a bit.

There's a better and easier way. Someone call Mr Goodwrench because we need to borrow a tool.

And here it is, a simple open end wrench.



We are going to modify the wrench a bit, by grinding the top edge so it will work as a cutting tool.

Next, turn your part to shape and get it close to where you want it, as in the picture below



Now, we take our modified wrench and use it just like we would any other lathe tool. Set it on the tool rest and push it into the work gently. As your piece comes to the correct size, the wrench will slide forward onto your part and stop cutting. Pull it out and move to the next spot. You can also move it up and down the tool rest to cut a wider area. Once it hits the right size, it wont cut any more off. Be sure to keep your wrench straight up and down. Do not tilt it when cutting your tennon.



The end result



This works well and you should give it a try. You will be surprised how easy it is.

It is an especially good technique when you are making shop spacers for your mandrels as you can get a very good fit and a square end.

Good Turning

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