

SANDING OR SCRAPING A PICTURE

by James Colter

For those of you who tuned in expecting a debate on the merits of sanding versus scraping, sorry Charlie. This is about something a little more mundane, how to hold the picture while sanding or scraping it. Well, sure, you could hold it, but what if you want to use both hands? That's the problem.

When using a good palm sander in the early stages of sanding, or using a scraper, or even a sanding block, the picture has a tendency of travelling in the direction of your force. How do you stop it, you ask? There are many ways of achieving this end. If you are not married, there is that plush carpet in the living room. Nothing will skid on that sucker. I find, however, if you are married you have to be a little more creative in problem solving.

There are still many ways to solve a particular problem. First, I tried nailing the picture to the work bench. Won't work you say? Yes it will. You just have to be sure to counter-sink the nails or the scrapper gets a little nicked. After getting tired of finding the right colour nail filler, and fixing the side of the picture (claw hammer), I decided to get smart, and glue the work to the table. Hey, you only do that three or four times (OK, four) before you realize those suckers don't come up. All was not lost, however. (See my upcoming article on Marquetry Designs for your Workbench).

It was then that I stumbled on the incredibly simple device whose design I lay before you here. It will allow you to apply pressure without the picture slipping.

