

Workshop Tips #4 **Making a Sanding Drum**

It's easy to go to the hardware store or tool shop to buy a Drum Sanding Kit, but aside from the cost it is sometimes more time consuming than just make your own. Making a sanding drum is cheap and quick. It can be made in any sizes you need and you can use any grade of sandpaper.

Cut 2-4 wheels in the desired size, $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) or more thick. Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) bolt with nut long enough to go through all wheels plus enough lengths to use as shaft for the jig on the drill press.

Stick the washer, then the wheels onto the bolt; tighten up with the nut to firmly press all the wheels together. Put the assembly into the drill press and sand it smooth. Hold sandpaper behind the drum, using both hands. Pull paper towards yourself; slowly moving up and down. The next step is cutting a groove into all wheels, using a fine saw like coping saw or hack saw.

The edge of the groove needs to be sanded off to avoid the sandpaper making a bubble at the corner.

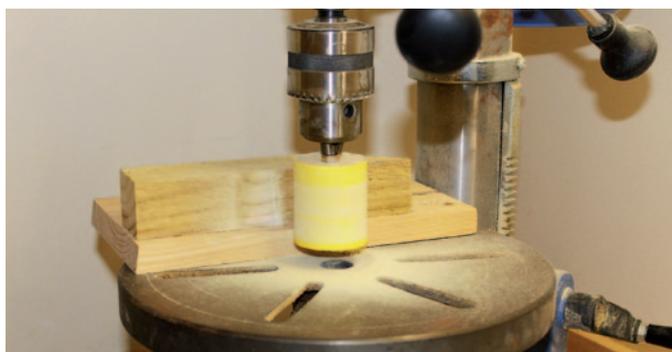
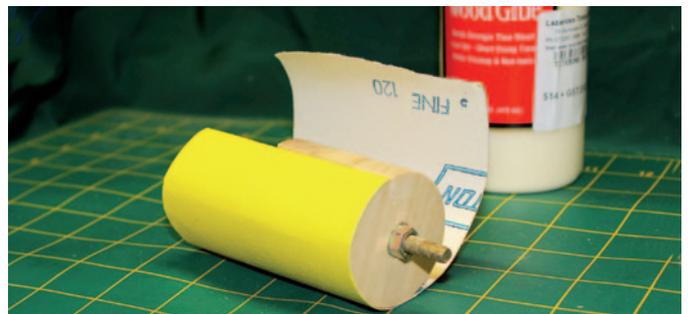
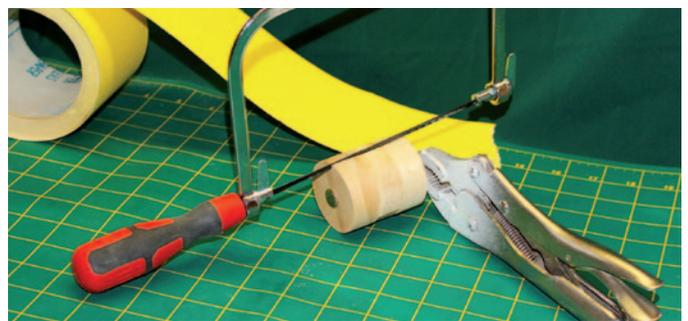
Now cut a strip of sandpaper long enough to wrap around and fit into the slot. The sandpaper strip has to be inserted and glued into the slot. After the glue has set, glue the rest of the paper around the "drum".

Cut off the strip just a fraction before the slot. Use rubber bands to hold the sandpaper in place until the glue has set. Coarse 80 grit sandpaper is a good starting point, for rougher sanding use coarser paper, finer paper for smoother finish.

There are two ways to do the sanding. To simulate oscillating, hold the piece of lumber with one hand and turn the spindle wheel, moving the drill chuck up and down.

It is safer to have both hands on the project. The better way is to use different size pieces of scrap lumber as spacer under the part you sand.

This is a simple way to make sanding drums for wheel arches, fenders and much more in sizes you really need.



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