

Workshop Tips #1

Painting Wheels

Making a Jig

Painting little wheels can be a messy job. It seems impossible to keep finger out of the paint. To avoid smudging one has to waste time painting half of the wheel and letting it dry before painting the other side. Sometimes paint runs and makes the wheel get stuck to the surface requiring touch ups. Spray paint puts more paint on your fingers then on the wheels, or they fly off the surface (unless you use tape to glue them down.)

Holding the wheel like a lollypop on a stick is a easy way to paint it in one go, all sides, top, around and even underneath. All you need is sticks (dowels) and a place (base) to put the painted wheels for drying.

Here are instructions for a jig to make it easy:

Making the base

For the top-part almost any piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) or more scrap wood will do. Different wheels have different arbor holes. The home made ones, cut with a hole-saw are usually $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). Store bought wheels, mainly the bigger ones have $\frac{5}{16}$ " or $\frac{3}{8}$ " (8 mm or 9.5 mm) therefore we need two sizes of dowel and two sizes of holes in the base.

The holes should be a bit bigger than the dowels you use. Drill the holes straight through.

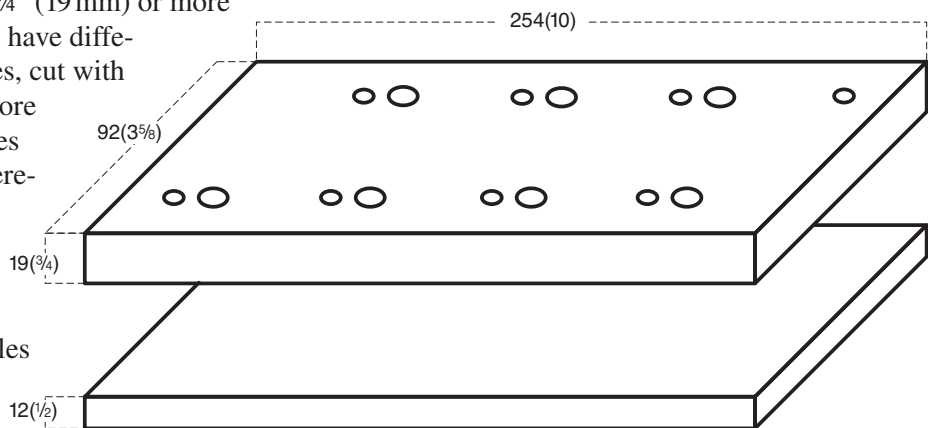
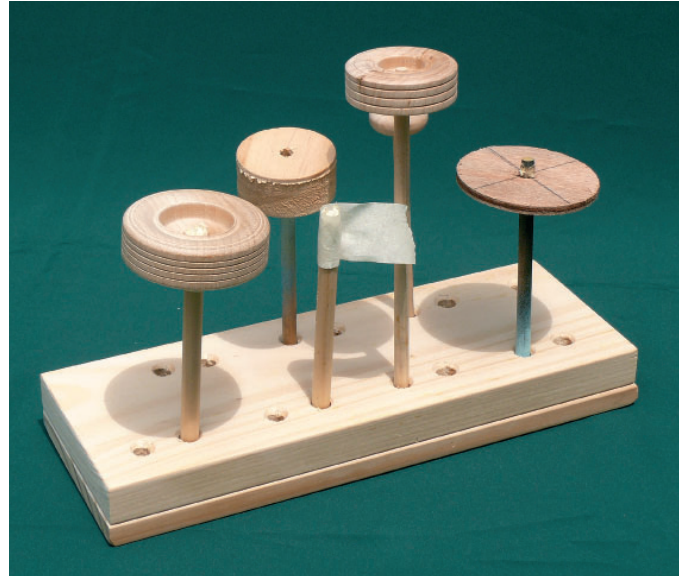
For our sample we have used a $3\frac{5}{8}$ " x 10" (92 mm x 254 mm) in size. The distance between the holes should be at least $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". Next to a small hole is a bigger hole.

The bottom part of the jig is just any wood in the same size as the top. Glued under the top-part it prevents the dowels from falling trough and gives the jig a bit more weight and therefore a better stand.

Making the sticks

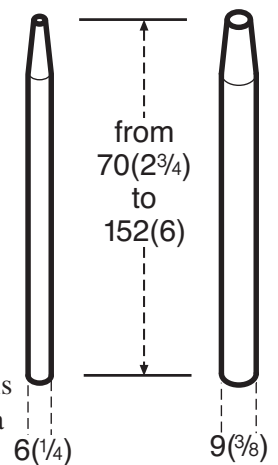
Cut a number of dowels the length as shown in the drawing, sand to a cone shape. If some wheels slide over the dowel, use masking tape around the cone until the wheel can be stuck on firm.

This jig can be used for not just wheels, but for any small parts as long as it has a hole for a stick, or if one can be drilled in a place that is covered up later.



It is easy to use spray paint or a brush painting the whole wheel at once, holding it up like a lollypop. Even painting rims in a different color like on our *Classic Tractor* is not a problem. Holding the brush steady in one hand and turning the dowel with the wheel in the other hand gives a good result.

Taking just a little time to make this jig will make it much easier to do a good job.



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