

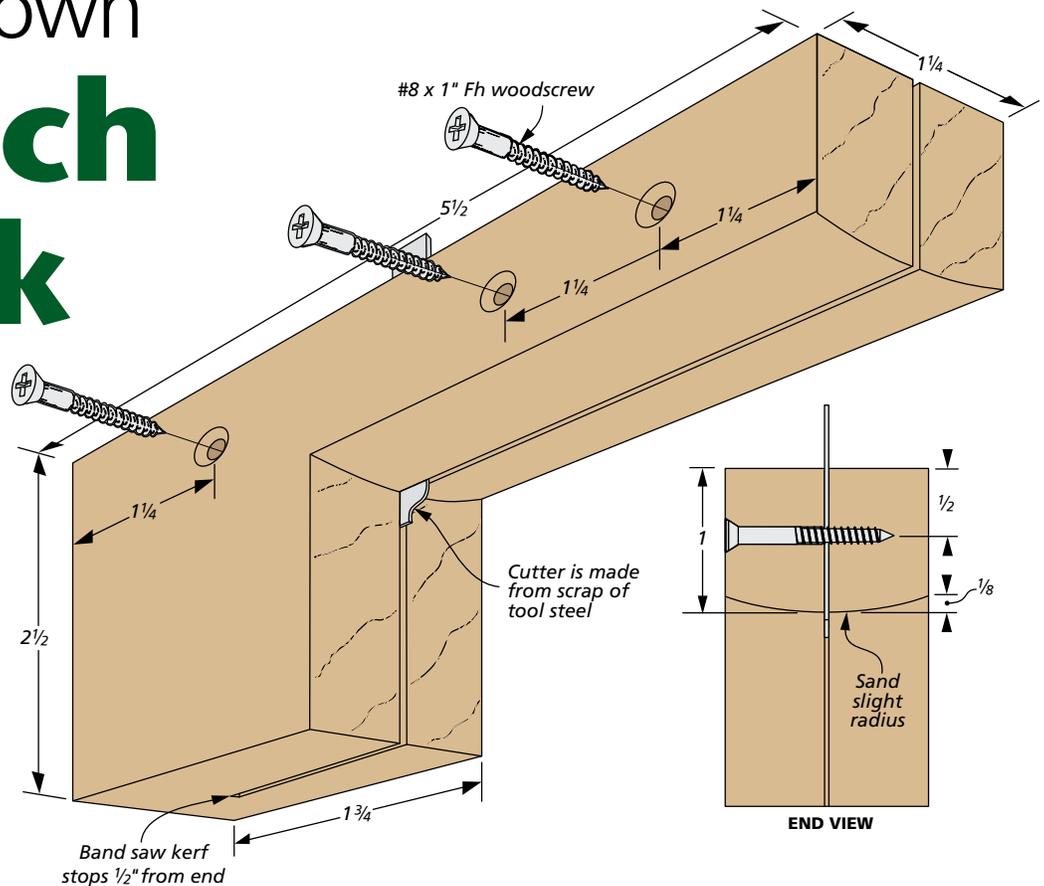
# Online Extra

## make your own **Scratch Stock**

A scratch stock is a handy tool for creating a custom profile on the edge of a workpiece. Scratch stocks were traditionally shop-made tools, often for a unique profile on a single project. Here's a design for a basic scratch stock that you can make in less than half an hour. All you need is a block of hardwood, a piece of steel for the cutter, and a few ordinary woodscrews.

**BODY.** You can start by making the body of the scratch stock. This begins as a block of wood about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Using a band saw, cut a large notch out of the block to create the L-shape of the scratch stock, as shown at right. Then, while still at the band saw, cut a kerf down the center of the block, stopping about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end. This kerf will hold the cutter that you'll make later.

Using a chisel and a sanding block, round over the bottom surface of the long arm of the block, as shown in the end



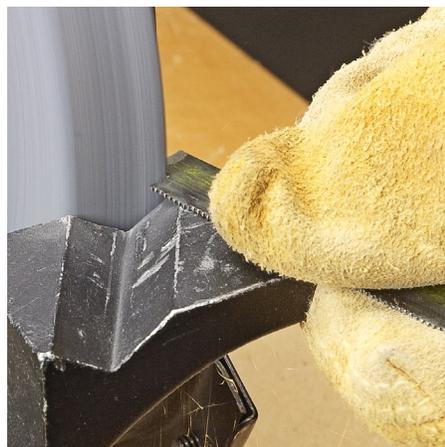
view detail above. This will allow you to rotate the scratch stock forward or back to achieve the best cutting angle.

**CUTTER.** The photos show how the cutter is made. You can make cutters out of a scrap piece of tool steel. Old hand saws or card scrapers are excellent sources of material for cutters. You can even use a worn out hacksaw or band saw blade.

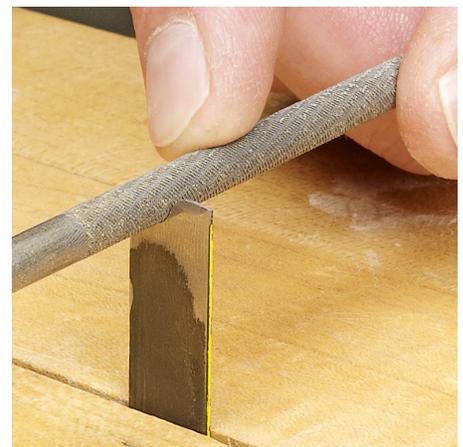
Once you have the cutter shaped and ready to go, all that's left is to drill a few countersunk holes in the side of the scratch stock for some woodscrews. Tightening these screws will pinch the body of the scratch stock around the cutter. You'll want to make sure that you have at least one screw on each side of the cutter so that it's held in place firmly. **W**



▲ Using a scratch awl, scribe the profile onto a piece of tool steel. Here, I'm using an old hacksaw blade.



▲ A bench grinder can be used to quickly grind away most of the waste, as well as the teeth on the blade.



▲ The final profile can be shaped and refined with small needle files. Then you can hone the faces of the cutter.