



# My cuttingbench

described by Niklas Karlsson  
(in a free interpretation)

One of my favourite tools is the adze. It is a flexible tool with which you can work in many different ways: if you are working with a big, heavy piece of wood you hardly need to fasten it at all, if you are working on a small bowl you can use the ground and your feet as support, round bowls that are hard to attach you can brace against a notch in a log etc. Of course, the best option is still to fasten the piece. You often see, however, that the piece of wood is fastened in an ordinary carpenter's bench. I recommend that you, wheater you are working with an adze that you take hold of with one or two hands, place the workpiece much lower.

I have made a cuttingbench that is quite easy to do and that has been working well for me.



## Material for the bench:

A cuttingbench should have some weight in order to keep still while cutting. I have used massiv wooden logs, leftovers from logging, construction and so on.

In order to avoid fitting together moving parts or using expensive barclamps i have put a screw at the end of the bench. The screw goes through a hold that is attached to the bench. This is the only part you have to fit in. On top of the bench there are holes where you can place a benchdog, made of wood, in different distances from the screw.

## The hold:

The notch in the log is made like an oversized dovetail-joint. The bottom of the notch is wider than the opening, which makes the sides of the notch inclining. The notch should also narrow in the end, so that the hold (in which the screw goes) is easier to fit in.

Measure out the notch and saw and carve away the material with a chisel. The piece of wood for the hold is measured out with some allowance for the planing. Then fit in the hold with a handplane by planing and testing, planing and testing until it fits in the notch. Then drill the hole for the screw/threads. The screw should be places only a few centimetres above the surface of the bench.



## The screw:

I have made the screw of wood. The screw and the inside threads, in the hold that the screw goes into, is made with a special tool for wooden threads.

To make the inside threads you drill a hole, a bit smaller than the threading tool, in the piece of wood. The threading tool is screwed in and the threads are cut. For the outer threads (the screw) you carve or turn a tenon that is a little larger than the tool for the inside threads. That is, it should be as thick as the finished screw including the threads. The tenon is screwed in to the threading tool and the outer threads are cut. As easy as that. If you have an old threading tool you will probably have to adjust it to make it work well.



*Detail of the screw. Between the screw and the bowl/through there should be a kind of bearing to keep the piece of wood from sliding sideways when you turn the screw. A simple wooden stick with a cavity and a small elevation on the screw does the trick.*



*Two threading tools. To the left the tool that was used on this bench. To the right an older threading tool on which the handle and the tool that cuts the inside threads are made new.*

## The benchdog:

I think that anyone who reads this text understands how to make the benchdog that is used as a stop. Just try to make the holes in the bench vertical. If the benchdog/stop is leaning backwards the piece of wood will be squeezed up when you tighten the screw. If one of the holes should be crooked all the same you can adjust the benchdog by carving a vertical surface afterwards.



***Finally an advice when you are cutting your bowl or through.***  
*Since you only shape the bottom of the bowl rough before you hollow it, it is easily done that the bottom gets a little roundness. This makes it difficult to get the bowl to stay still. So even if you shape the bottom roughly with an axe. Try to get it plane.*