

Wooden Morse Tapers

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Morse tapers turned from wood can come in handy for mandrels, jigs, and small projects.

Some advise to never put a wooden Morse taper into a self-ejecting tailstock because you may have great difficulty removing it. I have never had a problem with my wooden Morse tapers, mainly because I drive an upholstery nail into the end of the mandrel and use my knock-out rod to release it from the lathe's Morse taper.

To make the jig, all you need is a scrap of plywood about 3-1/2" square and a scrap of 3/4" square stock about 7" or more in length.



Cut the square stock in half. Place the Morse taper on your live center on the plywood, and glue the two pieces of square stock to the plywood, making sure they are snug against your live center. I shot a couple of nails in to hold them in place while the glue dried.

To use the jig, put a spindle about 4" or more in length between centers, and turn it fit in the jig.



Hardwoods work best ... I generally use maple or oak.