



BENCHCRAFTED

HAND-FORGED HOLDFAST



Thanks for purchasing the Benchcrafted Hand-Forged Holdfast. Our holdfast is based on a French example from the late 19th century. It's designed to work in 1" holes in workbenches from 3" to 6" thick.

Although the use of a holdfast is pretty straightforward, there are a few tips we can offer to help increase the pleasure and ease of using the tool.

As with all holdfasts, a non-smooth surface on the back and front of the shaft aids greatly in helping the holdfast to hold fast. These holdfasts have a coat of shellac to protect against rust, and as such the surface is a bit slippery. You should remove the shellac with denatured alcohol, and perhaps scuff the surfaces with some coarse sandpaper or a file before use. This will help ensure a good grip.

If you're having trouble getting your holdfast to hold firmly, make sure the holes are drilled perpendicular to the bench top surface. If they are off angle, the holdfast will only hold in perhaps one position around the clock face. Also make sure the holes themselves do not have finish inside, this makes for a slippery surface.

Always use a scrap of wood between the holdfast pad and your work. Holdfasts can mar your work if you use them without a scrap of wood.

To use the holdfast simply whack the top of the shaft with a sharp rap of your mallet or hammer. To release, tap the side of the shaft directly behind the arm. See our videos page for a demonstration.

Remember that holdfasts are deceptively simple devices, if you're having problems getting it to hold, its usually an angled hole, or a too smooth shaft.

Also see the Benchcrafted Blog for more info on our holdfasts.

Questions? Contact us: info@benchcrafted.com