

# BENCHCRAFTED

## SPLIT TOP ROUBO WORKBENCH

### BASIC SETUP AND USE

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Congratulations on taking delivery of the Benchcrafted Split Top Roubo Workbench! We thank you for choosing Benchcrafted.

Designed and built with great care and attention, it's the culmination of over a decade of research, testing and daily use in the Benchcrafted workshop. Built to the highest standards from American hard maple and outfitted exclusively with, and specifically designed around our vises, the goal of the STR workbench is to allow your woodworking to be performed effortlessly, to be a silent partner in your creative process.

If you've taken white glove delivery of the bench, follow these steps to complete setup:

- To attach the knobs to the Glide and Tail Vise handwheels place a shoulder bolt through each knob, slip on the thick steel spacers, then thread the whole assembly onto the handwheel. Cinch them down tight. The three Glide knobs include thin black spacer washers that install under the shoulder bolts' head. These prevent the knobs from spinning. If you prefer that they spin, simply leave the washer out.
- The bench ships with three dogs. You may want to make more dogs (one for every hole) for convenience. One dog goes in the Tail Vise sliding block, the other two in the bench top.
- The shelf boards simply rest on the rails' ledger strips.
- Install the deadman by inserting the top tongue into the groove in the underside of the bench top, then swing the bottom in and then lower it onto the V-shaped runner on the lower rail.
- Install the gap stop between the tops with the ramped sections

down so they come to rest on the upper rails.

The workbench is supplied in-the-white, without finish applied. If you glue or finish projects on the bench, or simply want it to stay as clean as possible, you can apply a finish of your choice. Any finish works. We would urge you however to keep the top work surface finished to a minimal level so it doesn't become slippery. You want some grip on that surface. The rest of the bench can be finished to whatever level you like.

We build the STR in a controlled shop environment, but the humidity level and conditions in your shop will be different than our's. Expect some wood movement. You may need to tighten the bolts that join the long rails to the end sections during dry periods. The Tail Vise may also need some slight adjustment if your shop is in an especially humid climate. Consult our Tail Vise installation instructions for details, which you can download anytime from [www.benchcrafted.com](http://www.benchcrafted.com).

The tops of your bench are milled to precise tolerances and are coplanar and flat when we build each bench. But depending on your shop environment you may need to flatten the bench tops slightly once the bench reaches equilibrium in your shop. Let it acclimate for a couple weeks before determining if it needs further flattening. And then once a year check it for flat.

The gap stop may also change dimension slightly over the seasons or once it reaches equilibrium in your shop. It should fit loosely enough in the gap between the tops that it can be slid left and right easily. You may need to plane the entire gap stop to achieve this. Paste wax on the outside faces help it to move smoothly.

To keep the deadman sliding smoothly, apply paste wax to the runner on the lower rail and to the V groove at the bottom of the deadman.

The vises require very little maintenance. They are made primarily of steel and iron and will rust with exposure to moisture.

To keep this in check you can apply a very light machine oil to the surfaces, but keep it light and thin. After some time the screws will need to be cleaned of dust. Simply brush them off to clean them. To lubricate the screws, apply a few drops of dry-type bicycle chain lube to the threads and operate the vise to distribute the lubricant. For further details, consult our installation instructions for each vise, which you can download anytime from [www.benchcrafted.com](http://www.benchcrafted.com).

To break down the bench for moving or storage, first remove the tops by removing the four lag bolts (two in each top) from the upper rails. You'll need a T40 Torx bit, commonly available at any hardware store. Remove the gap stop by lifting it out. Remove the deadman. With a helper, lift each top from the base (loosen the leg vise slightly first.) Remove the shelf boards. Loosen two bolts in one end section that joins the lower rails. Pull the bolts completely out. Carefully pull away the end section while supporting the rail. Now loosen the two bolts in the other end section and separate it from the two rails. You can remove the chop from the leg vise by removing one of the snap rings from the central pivot pin that joins the Crisscross arms. Unscrew the vise all the way, lift up on the chop to take weight off the pivot pin, then pull the pivot out. The chop will separate from the end section. Installation is the reverse of removal.

If you have any further questions about your workbench, please email us at [technical@benchcrafted.com](mailto:technical@benchcrafted.com)