

# The Benchtop Workshop

Getting into woodworking with power tools can be a challenge. Either you have a dedicated area to fill with space & power-hungry machines, along with an equally large budget, or you'll need to think creatively. Some options may be community or guild shared spaces, begging a neighbor (*if you're lucky*) or finding that rare someone willing to let you borrow their tools.

For the space, budget & time constrained, we offer the Benchtop Workshop. These power tools don't require a static space in a workshop or two-car garage. Rather, they are meant to be pulled out & used as needed, then stored until you need them next.

The only requirement is a solid work surface to put these tools on while in use. A fold up card table or some 2x4s on sawhorses aren't ideal; instead, you'll need a custom-built or purchased space saving workbench or a sturdy stand or table. Whatever option you use, make sure it's reasonably close to a standard home power outlet (110-120 V; 10-20 A) & is rigid enough to keep these tools from shifting while using them.

In this, & forthcoming, catalogs, we will feature 2 options to consider for your benchtop workshop.

Getting started, the place where most woodworkers run into trouble is wood. Fundamentally, most issues with wood come down to contraction & expansion. What appears to be a straight board under the fluorescent lights of the lumberyard warehouse, may not be that straight in your shop after a couple of days. Or, you pick up an 8/4 or 12/4 board with the intention to resaw it straight yourself, & find your 'new' 2 or 3 boards lose their straightness the same day! What's going on here!?

To contend with this movement against you, there are a million different recommendations from half-a-million different woodworkers that are a mix of science, experience, wisdom, & magic. That is to say, there really isn't a method or technique that will work for every board. However, all of these recommendations generally shrink down to - let wood acclimatize to your work space.

Once your boards seem like they've lost interest in moving, it's time to make them into useable wood. A jointer & a planer are like milk & cookies or peanut butter & jelly. Separately, they're all okay, but when paired they become something exceptional. Which leads to the jointer & planer. For many space and finance constrained woodworkers, this is more of a chicken or egg question.

In most cases buying a planer first is the best option. If you have access to wood that is surfaced on one side, you may be ready to go straight to planing the other side. If you can't get surfaced boards, or don't want to pay the upcharge, there is a world of DIY planer flattening jigs that can be used to flatten one side of your rough board. What is key about a planer is that it makes the thickness of the board uniform so that each end, & all along the board measures the same width. Pretty critical for putting projects together! But, if you surface both sides of a board with a jointer, you'll end up with one side of the board being thicker than the other side. In summary, you can make (*with effort!*) a planer work like a jointer but you can not make a jointer work like a planer. So, let's go planer shopping first!



## RIKON 25-135H 13" PORTABLE PLANER with HELICAL-STYLE HEAD

The helical-style head on this planer is what separates it from most planers that you will find in the portable planer format. Consisting of 6 rows & a total of 26 inserts, the 2-sided High-Speed Steel (HSS) inserts afford you the option of rotating a single insert 90° to reveal a fresh cutting edge should you nick a hidden nail or other embedded detritus. To make insert rotation & replacement easy, each one is indexed to perfectly align correctly on the cutterhead. Once both sides of an



EASY ACCESS TO  
INSERT CUTTERS

insert are done, you can replace them with new HSS or Carbide inserts, just don't mix-and-match types. The 2" dia. cutterhead is mated to a 15 A, 120 V motor that spins the head at 10,000 rpm producing 32 cuts per inch.

Moving on from the planer's cutting ability, you'll find useful features abound. The dust hood attaches by tightening 2 built-in knobs, making it easy to remove for long term storage. Additionally, you'll find tool storage for things like the insert hex key built into the hood along with support for 4" or 2.5" dust ports. With the hood removed, the infeed & outfeed tables fold up nearly 90° for storage. At 68 lb, & with built-in handles, the 25-135H is relatively easy to move around & store.

Adjustments to not only the infeed & outfeed tables but also the depth-stop turret are easily made with the included tools to ensure that the measurements you see are accurate & the indexing surface is flat from start to finish. To make planing as effortless as possible, you will find rollers on top of the planer for easily transferring boards from outfeed to infeed to take the next pass.

Finally, with support for boards up to 13" wide & 6" high you'll find this planer has ample space for most projects. We do recommend that for any board size, you clamp or bolt the planer down to mitigate the possibility of tipping as weight shifts.

Rikon 25-135H has a \$93 shipping surcharge.

191386 Rikon 25-135H  
Portable Planer \$799.99



5 YEAR WARRANTY

Fast forward a few months. The 25-135H has done a great job planing wood. Within the first month of owning it, you began to see the value of having a jointer too. So, you searched the internet, found some ideas to make a jointer sled, built it & have used it ever since. But gosh, it sure was tedious to keep setting up boards to joint on a planer! But now, now you have scrimped & saved and it's time for your planer to have a new workshop buddy. The answer to chicken or egg doesn't matter anymore.

Now you can have milk & cookies!

**RIKON**

5 YEAR WARRANTY



19-1/4" X 4-3/8"  
FENCE

**NEW!**

**NEW! RIKON 20-800HSP  
8" HELICAL-STYLE BENCHTOP JOINTER**

The Rikon 20-800HSP is our flagship benchtop jointer. For a benchtop tool that weighs only 49 lb, you will find stout rigid steel construction that is complemented by beefy machined flat aluminum tables that are coated with a synthetic polymer. Power comes from 10 A, 120 V motor which spins the cutterhead at 12,000 rpm. The 2" dia. cutterhead is a 6-row helical-style with 16 two-sided Carbide inserts for long lasting jointing action. When a cutter goes dull, simply rotate it 90° once to expose a fresh edge. When it goes dull again, easily replace it using the indexed cutter heads available from Rikon.

Capacity is no slouch either on this benchtop jointer. It can handle stock widths of 3/4" to 8" with a minimum stock thickness of 1/2". The built-in extensions give you an overall bed length of 51-1/2", just over 4 feet. The aluminum fence is 19-3/4" long & 4-3/8" tall providing ample support for most common board thicknesses. When needed, the fence can be adjusted from 90° down to 45° & can freely move horizontally across the table to accommodate different board widths, or more importantly, to keep you from using the same inserts over & over to joint boards. Seriously, the fence is not a set it & forget it option unless you want to regularly replace inserts!

Dust can make its escape through the 4" dust port (or with included 2-1/4" & 2-1/2" adapters) on the outfeed side of the jointer. On the infeed side is a knob for adjusting the table height for how much material you want to remove with each pass. While it supports a depth of cut up to 1/8" the best setting is to remove as little as possible - Like 1/64". The jointer won't struggle, wood won't be wasted, & you won't risk injury. Speaking of safety, the 20-800HSP includes 2 push blocks to ensure your fingers stay clear of a very dangerous exposed blade, & make sure to install the included pancake-style safety guard. Keep it on at all times. Trying to joint overly wide boards by removing it is not a good idea no matter what YouTube shows you!

Rikon 20-800HSP has a \$89 shipping surcharge.

191499 **Rikon 20-800HSP  
Benchtop Jointer** \$699.99



**HELICAL-STYLE  
HEAD WITH  
16 TWO-SIDED  
CARBIDE  
INSERTS**

Fast forward one more year. Every month or two now you try to take a pleasant long weekend and attend a craft show. You have found producing quality work so much easier with your Rikon 25-135HH Planer and 20-800HSP Jointer that what started as gifts for friends & family has evolved into a fun side-business that allows you to do a little weekend travel & meet other craftspeople.

Over time though, you find more & more craftspeople showing up to these shows. Showing up with a lot of the same kind of stuff. What you were bringing in each weekend begins to dwindle. This used to be fun. How can you make it fun again?

You think for weeks about it. One day it hits you: you have a portable jointer and planer! Why not do a live demo of building your product! People would love to see that! And then they could buy the finished products right then and there from you! You look over at your Rikon planer and jointer, conveniently stashed away under a table and you think to yourself, 'milk & cookies indeed'.



**STAND FOR  
RIKON 13" PLANERS**

This bolt together, metal angle steel stand is made for 13" planers. It can also work for other tools if you screw a piece of plywood on the 23" x 14" top. The stand footprint is 31" x 22". 29-1/4" high.

191175 **Stand for 13" Rikon Planers \$105.00**  
models 20-600H, 25-131, 25-131H, 25-130H & 25-130



**RIKON 2-SIDED  
CUTTER INSERTS**

These 2-sided cutter inserts are for both the Rikon 25-135H Planer & 20-800HSP Jointer. Sold in packs of 10, select HSS or Carbide.

191168 **HSS Cutter Inserts 10 pk \$63.00**  
191169 **Carbide Cutter Inserts 10 pk \$105.00**

For Rikon's 25-130H & 25-131H Planers & the 20-600H, 20-800H & 20-800HSP Jointers.

