

## Plugging Fastener Holes

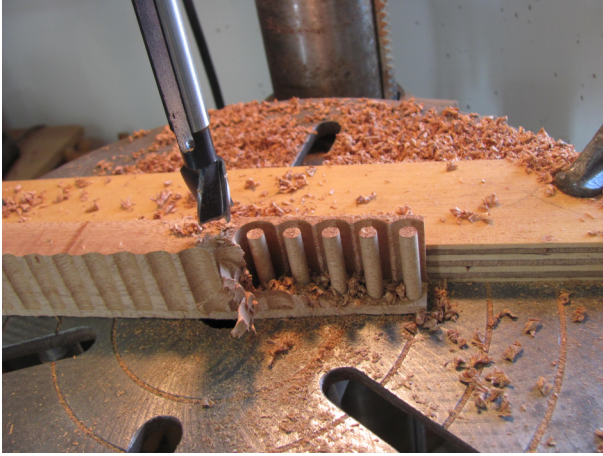
At the start of this project, I decided to plug the old fastener holes when I removed a plank. This may be overkill and it's certainly time consuming, but I feel a bit better doing it. I try to locate the new fasteners away from the old holes, but in case I miss at least I'll hit wood/epoxy not air. Also, it might just strengthen the frames a bit.

In any case, here is what I do:

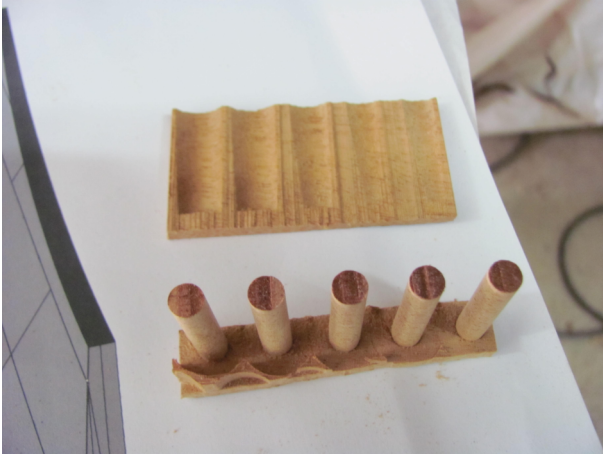
1. I make 6 mm plugs out of scrap H. Mahogany, using a (expensive) cutter that I ordered from Germany. The planks fasten to the frames with #12 x 2" screws and into the backbone with #12 x 2.5" screws. These leave holes about 1.25" deep, so ideally the plugs should be 1.25" long or longer. Unfortunately, most of my scrap Mahogany is 5/4, so my plugs end up being about 1.125" long.
2. I then use a letter "C" twist drill to clean out the old fastener holes. I mark a depth of 1.125" on the drill with a piece of tape. A letter "C" drill makes a hole just over 6 mm.
3. I mix up some 105/206 epoxy and, using a pipe cleaner, I coat the inside of the holes.
4. I then use my 50/50 G-flex blend to coat the plugs and nudge them into the holes with a small hammer. After the glue dries, I trim the plugs flush.

In making the plugs, I start by truing up the stock to achieve a straight edge that rides against the fence. The adjoining two faces should be parallel and approximately square to the straight edge. This insures that the length of the plugs will be uniform and that the top of the plug will be square (so that the hammer doesn't break the plug).





After making a row of plugs, I use a band saw to remove the row from the stock and again to separate the row of plugs from the straight edge.



Finally, I separate each plug, leaving a plug with a little square top. This top makes it easier to hold the plug when applying the glue.



If I'm going to produce another row of plugs from the same stock, I first run the stock through the joiner to achieve another straight edge.