

## Do It Yourself

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### Finishing the Workbench

From "[Woodworking](#)"

episode DIW-205 -- [More Projects](#) »

To complete the workbench, Johnson adds a shelf and coats the top with satin polyurethane.

**Note:** This workbench originally appeared in *Workbench Magazine*. Complete plans to build this workbench can be purchased at [www.workbenchplans.com](http://www.workbenchplans.com).

Materials:

Hard maple board (for shelf)

Scrap wood

Natural-bristle paintbrushes

Clear satin polyurethane

220-grit sandpaper

Rag

1. Measure bottom tenon and cut maple to fit.
2. Add two pieces of scrap wood (one on each end of shelf's underside) to fit between the tenons and secure the shelf. Use short screws to secure the cleats to the shelf (**figure A**)
3. Use brush to apply protective finish (**figure B**). Allow to dry thoroughly.
4. After finish has dried, sand with 220-grit sandpaper. Wipe away any residue and apply second coat of polyurethane.

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Hard maple is resistant to many finishes, but fiberboard tends to soak them up. To protect the wood, Johnson opts for a clear satin polyurethane -- to guard against stains and the abuse it will take from future projects.



Figure A



Figure B

## RESOURCES:

### Workbench Vise

Model: Record 52 ED

Record Tools

Website: [recordtools.com](http://recordtools.com)

### Setting Up Shop: The Practical Guide to Designing and Building Your Dream Shop

Model: 1561585556

Author: Sandor Nagyszalanczy

### Making Workbenches : Planning, Building, Outfitting

Model: 0806905352

Author: Sam Allen

### The Workbench Book

Model: 1561582700

Author: Scott Landis

### The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

Model: 1561580619

Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

### Workbench Magazine

How-to magazine featuring a wide variety of woodworking projects.

Workbench Magazine

Website: [www.workbenchmagazine.com](http://www.workbenchmagazine.com)

## • ALSO IN THIS EPISODE:

[Workbench: Getting Started](#)

[Workbench: Assembling the Legs and Base](#)

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[Finishing the Workbench](#)