

This dowel former allows you to make short dowels from any desired wood species, as well as accurately size and shape commercial dowels. The 2<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" diameter steel plate has an integral snap ring that receives an A2 tool steel insert.

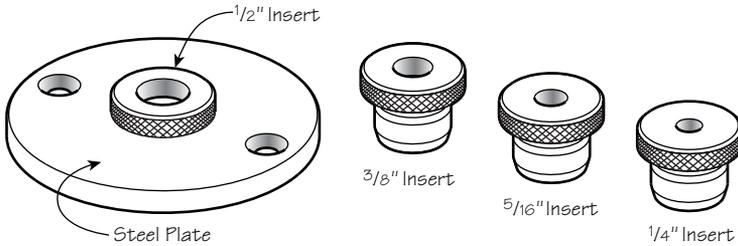


Figure 1: Dowel plate and inserts.

## Installation

To use the dowel former, simply place it on a workbench such that the insert is located over a dog hole. If desired, the plate may be permanently mounted to the workbench top or a dedicated riser block (with a 3/4" diameter hole drilled in the center), as shown in **Figure 2**, using #10 flat-head wood screws in the countersunk holes. The plate may also be inset so that it is flush with the workbench top/riser block, as shown in **Figure 3**; use a saw tooth bit or router to create a 3" diameter by 1/4" deep pocket.

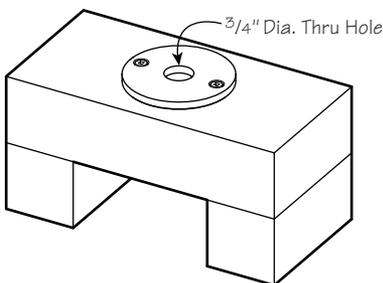


Figure 2: Riser block.

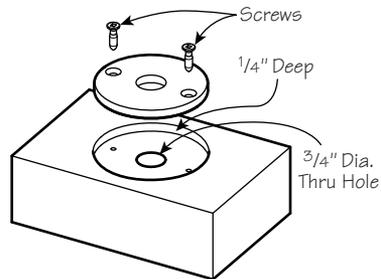
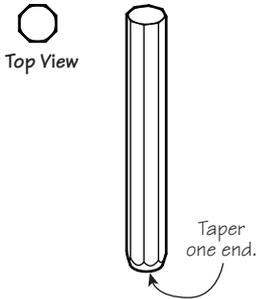


Figure 3: Inset plate installation.

## Preparing the Dowel Blank

Blanks, typically a maximum of 3" in length, with straight grain will yield the best results. You can achieve this by splitting or riving, rather than sawing, the blanks from straight-grained stock. The less material the plate has to remove, the better the results. Take the time to hand plane the blank down to just slightly over the final diameter and then knock off the corners to form an octagon. To facilitate starting the blank in the plate, taper one end of the blank, as shown in **Figure 4**. Tap or drive the blank through, keeping it as square to the plate as possible.



**Figure 4: Preparing the dowel blank.**

## Accessories

- 05J63.20** Imperial Dowel Former Set  
(Plate plus 1/4", 5/16", 3/8" and 1/2" Inserts)
- 05J64.20** Metric Dowel Former Set  
(Plate plus 6mm, 8mm, 10mm and 12mm Inserts)
- 05J63.02** 1/8" Insert
- 05J63.03** 3/16" Insert
- 05J64.03** 3mm Insert
- 05J64.04** 4mm Insert

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