

Veritas quick-release tail vice

So good that Andy built a new worktop to accommodate it!



If you can get over the price, this tail vice is a worthy long-term investment

A few months back this Veritas quick-release tail vice turned up on my doorstep, having been sent directly from Lee Valley in Canada, which wanted to know what I made of it. My first thought, actually, was to shelve my plans to fit a normal tail vice to my bench, as this one can be retro-fitted and would therefore have been the easier option. My very next thought, however, was that this plan wasn't going to work: I didn't have the necessary 430mm of clear space beneath my bench because the leg assembly was in the way. So it was on to plan B – build a new benchtop (see *GW238:36*)! That way, I'd be able to factor in this vice and fit it at the same time. Problem solved.

Actually, fitting it was a doddle, with the instructions proving to be clear and easy to follow. As long as you can screw the 6mm steel mounting plate to the underside of the top in the right place, the rest of the assembly is quite simple: a couple of packing bushes in the vice casting locate in registration holes on the plate so that the vice, which is then secured with four coach screws, is set perfectly to the plate. After that things don't get any more challenging than fitting the jaw and apron, drilling the dog holes, and fitting the vice

handle. OK, you may find there is a slight bind on the jaw where it meets the top, but that's down to an error in the initial plate fitting as the clearance allowed is just $\frac{1}{32}$ in. It's easily rectified, though, with a little judicious sanding, or easing the meeting point of the jaw and top with a plane; in the end it's not too much of an issue. You'll also have to reconfigure it if you're left-handed, but again, this is easily done.

A revelation

So anyway, with my new benchtop built and the vice fitted it was time to give it a whirl. I've never had an end vice before, and have always assumed, with the exception of the ability to secure longer work to the top, that I wasn't missing much; I've always managed after all. But it's proved to be a revelation, at least when it comes to end-grain work between the jaws. The solidity of the vice, coupled with the thick jaws and apron, meant that chattering is all but eliminated if you hold the work low enough. The capacity is also decent and should serve you well for most work.

It lacks the L-shaped jaws of traditional end-vice designs, but the options to work along the length of the bench are supremely useful.



▲ When used with bench dogs, the vice can hold long lengths of timber on the worktop...



▲ ...or the jaws can be used conventionally to clamp workpieces solidly to the bench while you work them

You can also use it for spreading applications as well as clamping with equal force in either direction, for which it offers up to 135kg of pressure. I am yet to drill the face of the apron or jaw, but with suitable dogs the whole of the bench can be employed as a vice jaw, allowing you to work wider end-grain, for example, or trap boards in order to mark out dovetails. It's only a matter of time before I have the drill back out!

In use, the vice's operation is extremely sweet: it has a quick release lever to disengage the thread for fast adjustment, which has a silky smooth action. If only the Record front vice lever was so tactile!

So, what's not to like? Well, only one thing leaps to mind – the price. At just over £300, it isn't cheap, but if you're looking to set up a bench that will last you for decades and offer all of the holding options you'll ever need then it's well worth budgeting for the Veritas quick-release tail vice. 🛠️

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Very easy to fit, silky smooth performance
- The price...

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: **£301.96**

Tel: Made in: Canada

Capacity: 195mm

Tel: 0300 100 1008

Web: www.brimarc.com/veritas