

Tote Template for Veritas® Bench Planes

Instructions

This template can be used to make a replacement handle for the line of Veritas® Bench Planes, including the #4 Smooth Plane, the #4½ Smoothing Plane, the #5¼W Bench Plane, and the #6 Fore Plane.

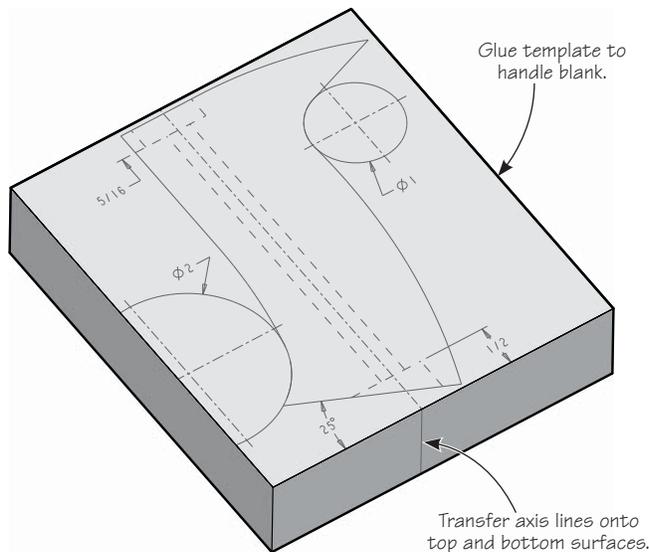
The shape shown is that used on the standard production planes. Providing the critical dimensions (i.e., handle rod hole and associated mortises) are maintained, the outer shape can be modified to suit the user. The template has a ¼" scale printed along both edges of the sheet. These should be checked against an accurate rule to ensure that the template is at full scale before it is used. There are many reasons that a printed template may be off scale, including printer accuracy and humidity (like wood, paper moves with moisture content). In most cases, scale the output from the printer, or use a scaling photocopier to make any necessary adjustments. Also, **do not** print the template until you are ready to use it.

Start by cutting a blank to slightly larger than the dimensions shown on the template (4⁹/₁₆" x 4¹/₁₆"). Note the correct grain direction. The thickness shown is that of a stock handle, but feel free to make any adjustments to suit your grip.

Cut out the template along the outer box lines and paste it to the handle blank. Spray adhesive is suitable for this. Avoid using white or carpenter's glues, as their moisture content will deform the template.

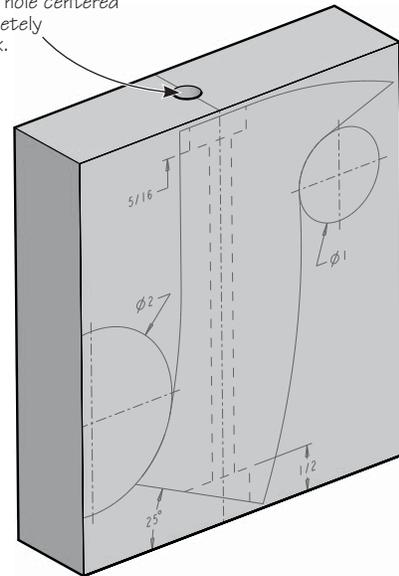
Trim the blank to match the outer template.

Transfer the handle rod hole axis onto the top and bottom edges of the blank and mark the center point.



Bore out the handle rod hole. Long narrow holes can sometimes be a problem to keep aligned. It may be easier to bore halfway through from either end of the blank, providing the blank is perfectly parallel and carefully aligned in the drill press.

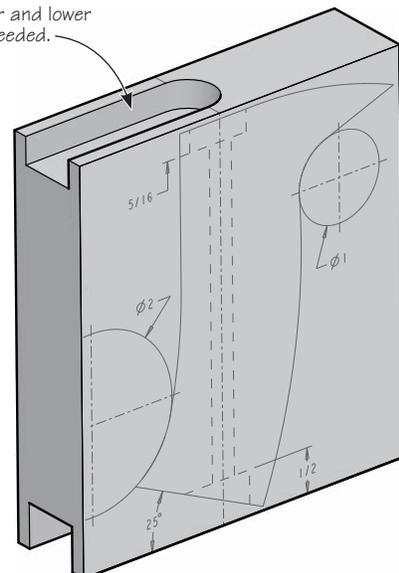
Drill tote rod hole centered on and completely through blank.



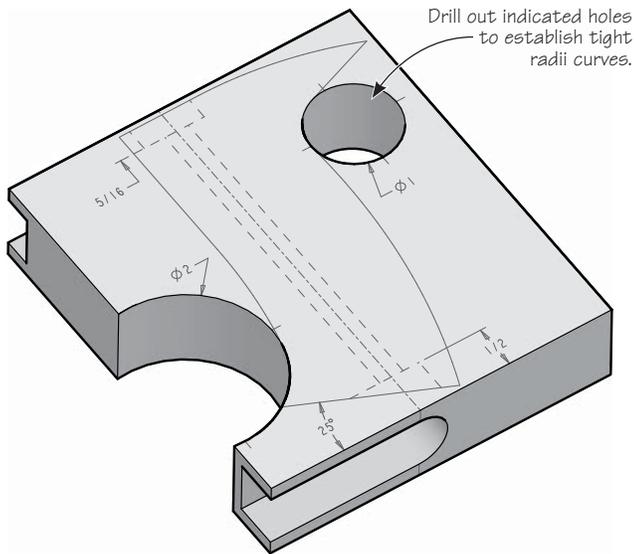
Lay out the top and bottom mortises and remove the required material.

Note: Depending on the method you use for forming the mortises, it may be easier to do this step before boring the handle rod hole.

Mill out upper and lower cavities as needed.



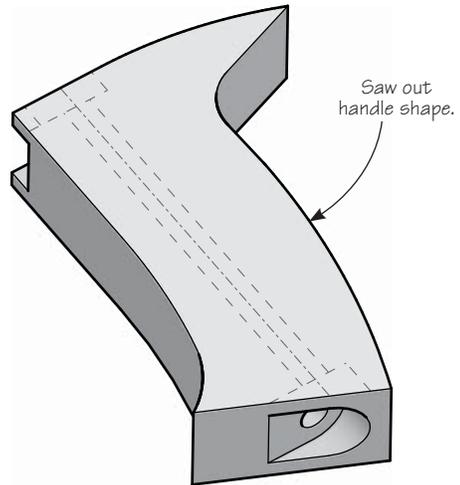
Bore out the two holes that form the tightly curved parts of the handle contour.



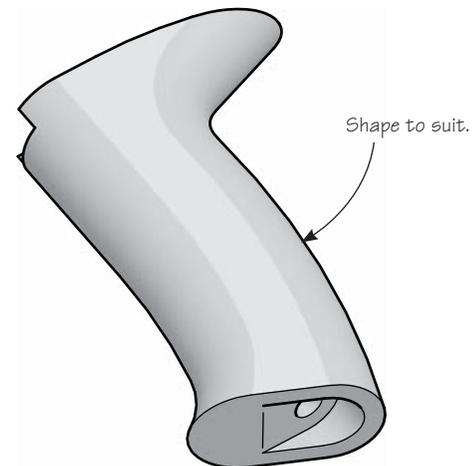
Trim the workpiece to the top and bottom contours of the handle.

Trim the workpiece to the front and back contours. Trim the front contour first and then do a trial fit on the plane. Any errors are easier to correct while the blank still has flat reference surfaces. Also, if the error is not correctable, the minimum amount of work has been wasted.

Depending on the final shaping method, it may be worthwhile to cut the contours slightly oversize.



Final shaping can be done with a combination of round-over router bits, rasps, carving tools, sandpaper, etc. Proceed carefully, testing the grip often to ensure a comfortable handle. Sand the final shape smooth and finish as desired.



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