

IDEAS FROM THE

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A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

# Luggage Stand

Reprinted from the ZVW December, 2007 Newsletter

**Turning something useful** may not give a person a way to express his creativity, but you do end up with something that can do more than take up shelf space. The luggage stand that I brought to Show and Tell was a fun project and is very useful. It stands in our guest bedroom and is used by overnight visitors to not only help them get easy access to their belongings, but also to protect our other furniture in that room.

So the tip in this issue is on how to build such a rack. I have included a complete set of drawings and some pictures along with a bit of annotation. I hope you

can get inspiration from this to try your hand at turning something useful and maybe also artistic.

The rack is a folding rack of 4 maple legs, 3 turned maple spindles, 3 leather straps anchored with maple blocks and screws, and a pair of lag bolts hidden by maple plugs. It is stained and then finished with satin polyurethane varnish.

Shown below are the roughed-out spindle blanks, the leg blanks, templates (in white) made from the drawings printed full size and glued to hardboard, and strap leather. The drawings are on the following pages and are followed by pictures of some of the construction details.



**Finished Luggage Stand**

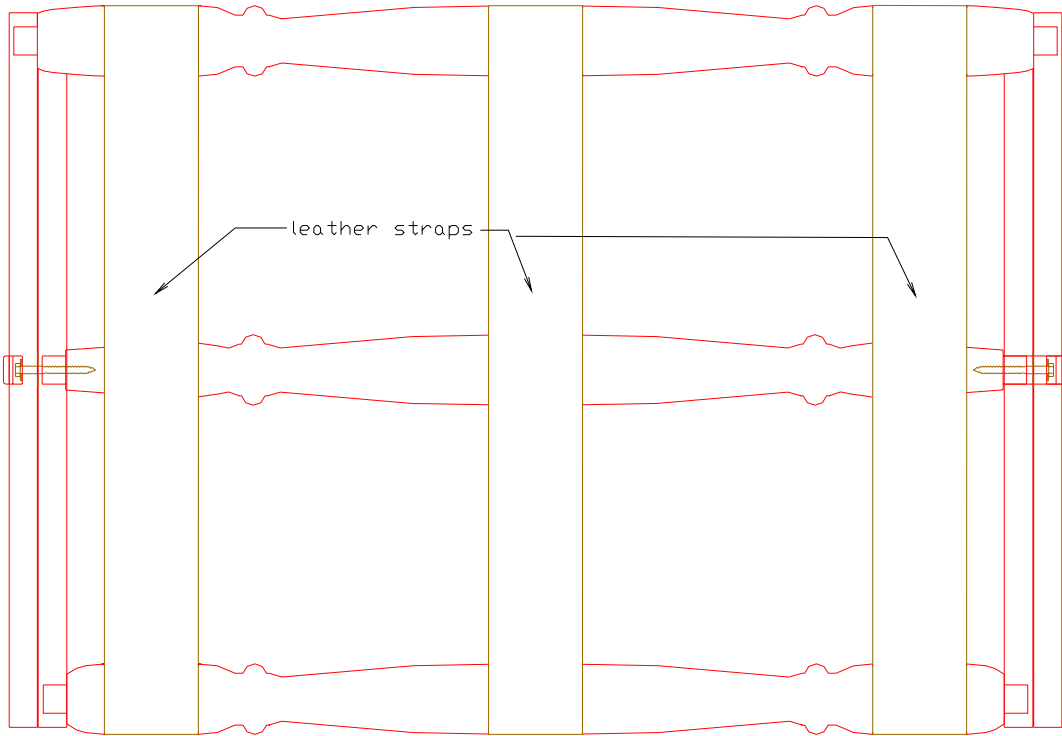


**Parts and Templates**

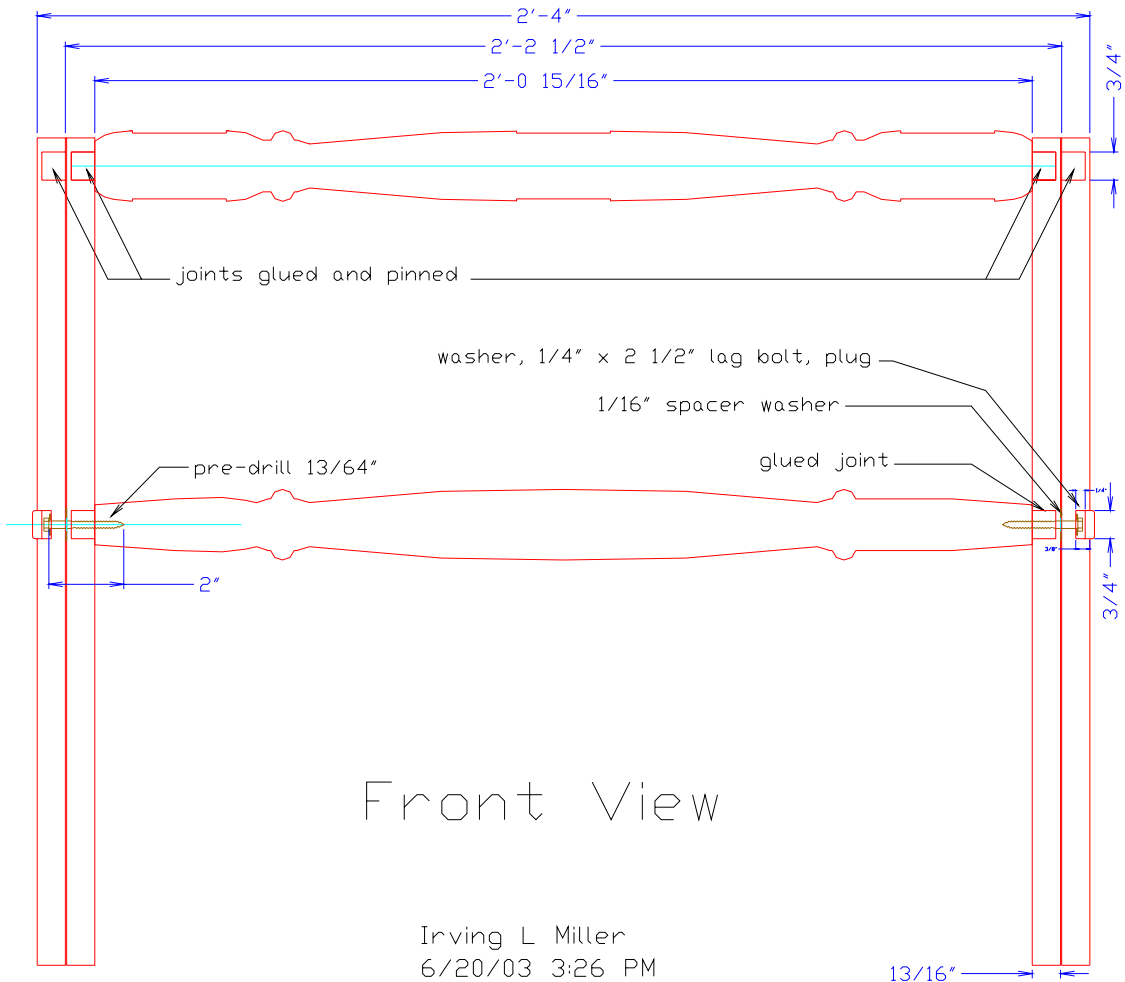
For new designs, I usually model the pertinent features. This often leads to changes and to modifying the drawings. For this stand, I turned a partial spindle to get a visual feel for the flow of some of the beads and coves; mortised a slot for a leather-anchoring block in the process of developing a mortising set-up; and tested the stain I would use. I try to get a lot of mileage out of one model.



**Model of Pertinent Features**

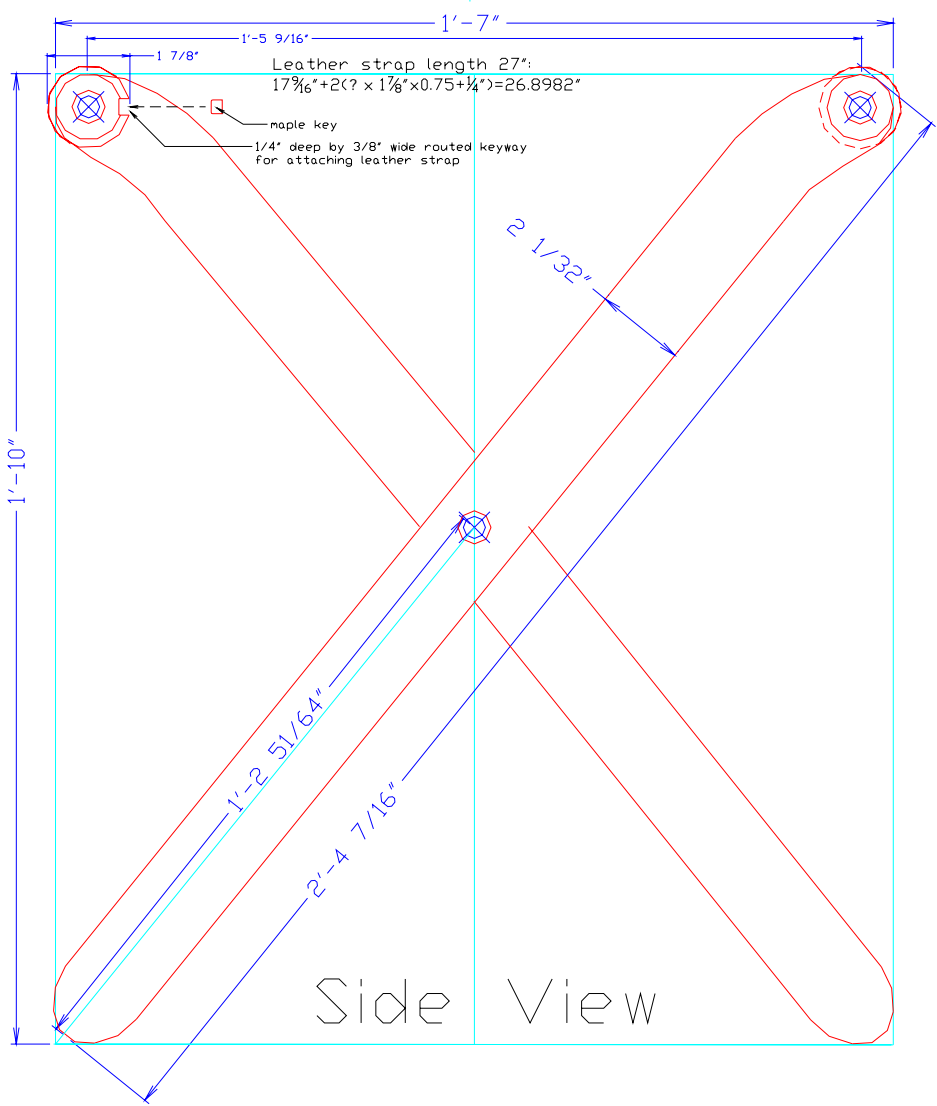


Top View



Front View

Irving L Miller  
 6/20/03 3:26 PM  
 Luggage Stand.dwg

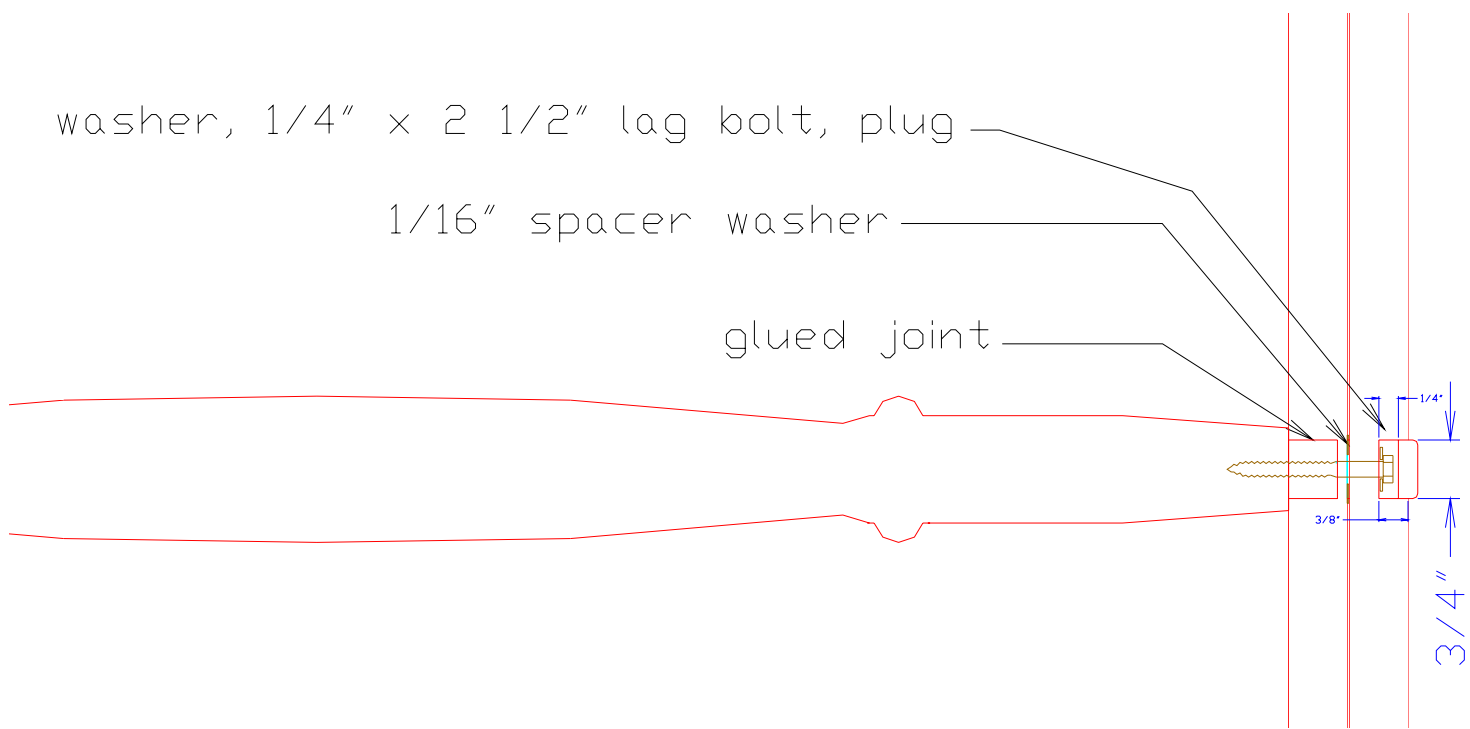


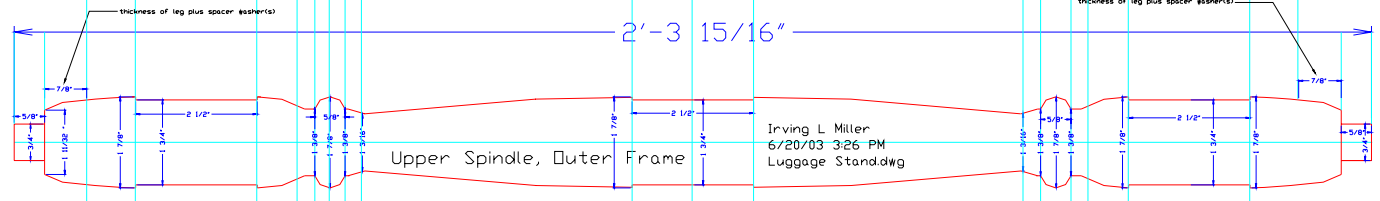
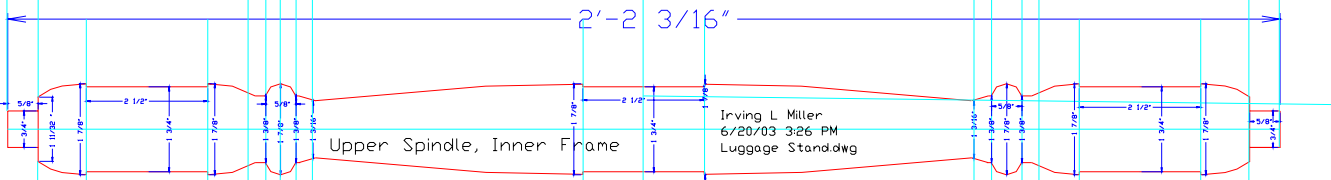
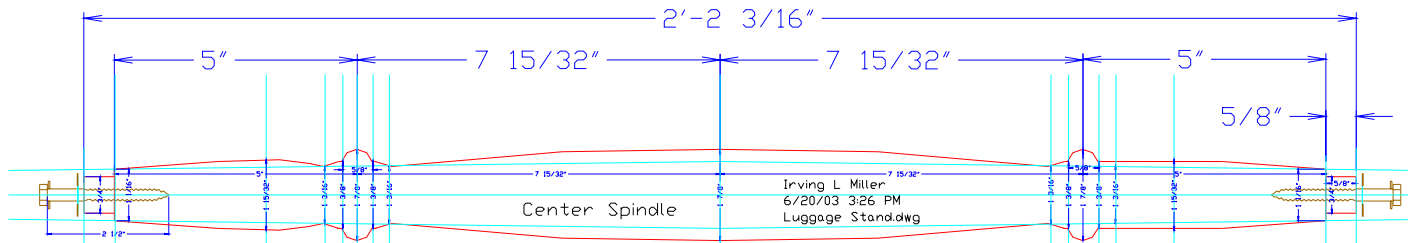
The spindles have 3/4" diameter tenons that are glued in 5/8" deep mortises drilled into the legs with a Forstner bit. They are also pinned to prevent twisting.

Two legs, the shorter upper spindle, and the center spindle make an inner leg assembly. Two legs and the longer upper spindle make an outer leg assembly.

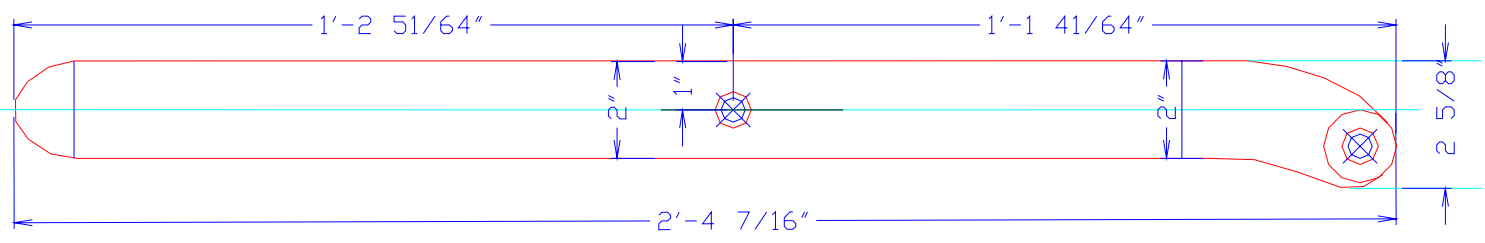
Each Leg assembly is glued up separately. The two leg assemblies are then attached, as shown in the drawing below, with lag bolts and spacer washers. Test and adjust the action, then disassemble for staining and varnishing. In final assembly, you might want to add a very small dab of polyurethane glue or epoxy to each lag bolt. But go easy. You might want to make an adjustment in the future.

Slightly taper the plug covers and finish them separately. This will make it easier to destructively remove them to make adjustments. I have not had to make any adjustments yet, and am hopeful that it will not be necessary.

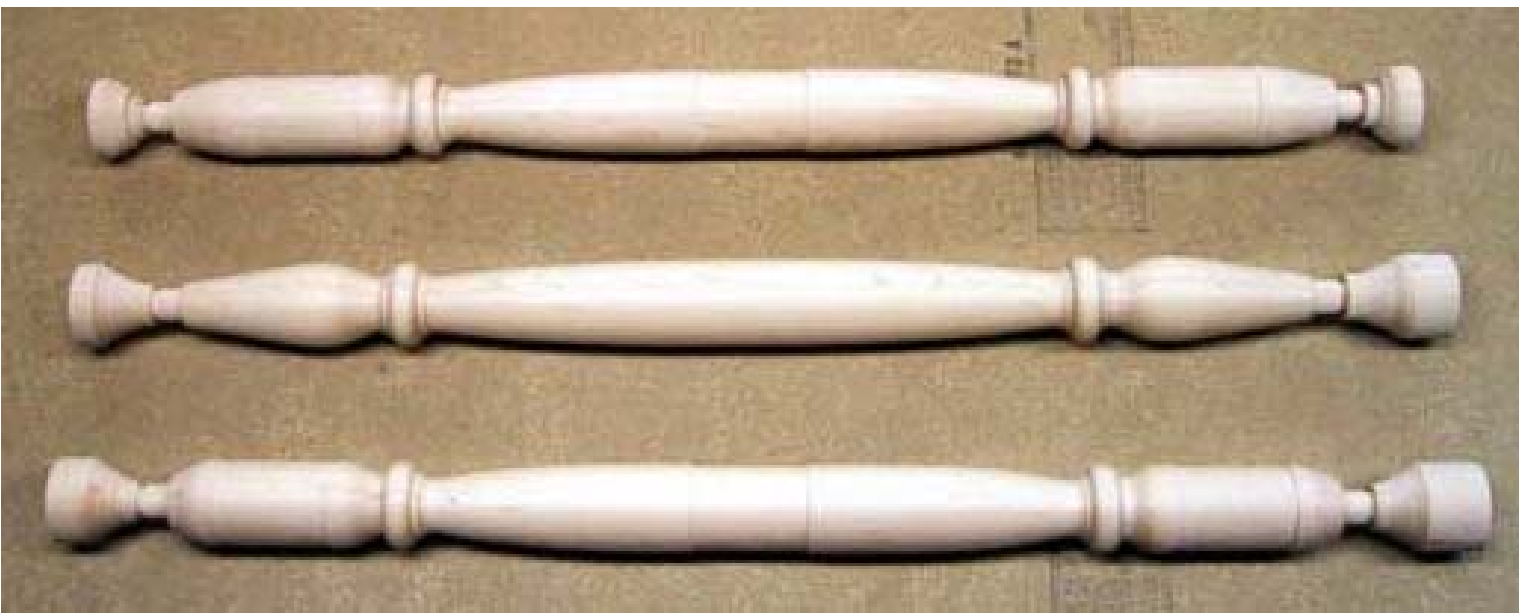


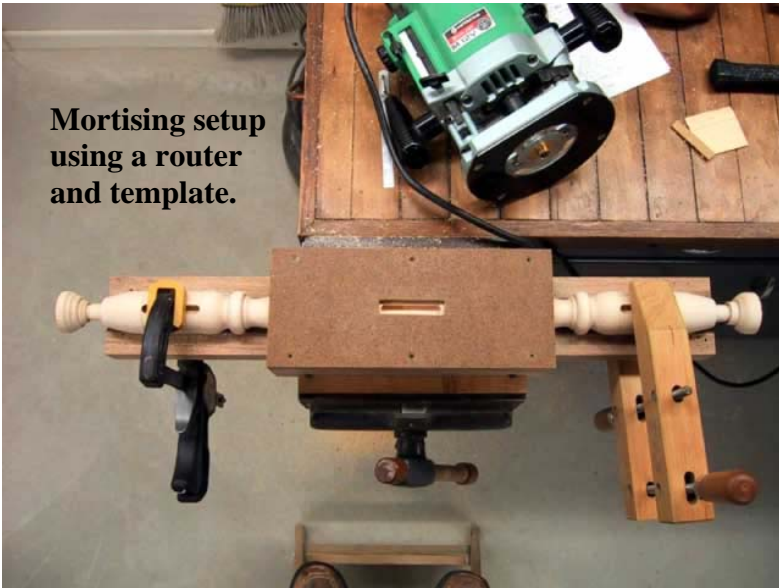


# Spindle Detail



# Leg Detail

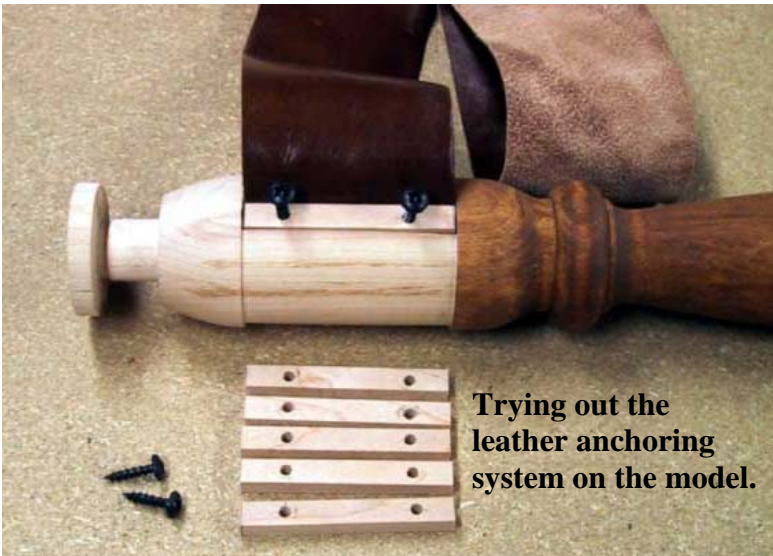




**Mortising setup using a router and template.**



**Cleaning up the mortice with a mortise chisel.**



**Trying out the leather anchoring system on the model.**



**A leather strap attached to a spindle in the completed stand. Note the small brown felt pad on the curve of the leg to protect the stand when it is folded.**



**Turned button plug covering an assembly bolt.**



**The leather strap anchoring system allows for adjustments for correct and equal length.**