

A Proxxon machining centre for modellers

Ian Wilkie

The system I am going to describe and illustrate is built around the new Proxxon MB200 drill stand.

This much improved design offers great scope for the modeller. By gradually adding other Proxxon products it is possible to build up a very useful and versatile machining centre at a reasonable price. The system takes up very little room on a bench or table and can be left permanently set up. I have independently tested each of the products mentioned and found them to be well designed, manufactured to a high standard and accurate.



The new Proxxon MB200 Drill Stand (28600 / 502021)

The MB200 drill stand holds drills with a neck diameter of 20mm very firmly. The die cast aluminium table has a slot milled to take a fence. The head can be moved up and down the column and rotated so that the drill can be held at an angle if required. I recommend bolting the table to a thick piece of MDF.

I have also added a batten on the underside so that the drill stand can be gripped securely when used in a mechanic's vice and rubber feet when used on a bench. I like to use it in the vice because it raises the work to a comfortable height and I can see exactly what I am doing. The combination is light enough to be easily lifted and put away in a cupboard when not in use. Set up as shown in the photograph, the overall weight is in the region of 4kg, height 440mm, width 280mm and depth 320mm.

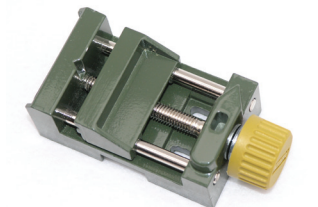
The first product to add to the stand is an accurate drill. There are several to consider and I have selected the FBS 240/E which has a keyless chuck and offers versatility and ease of use. This 100W mains drill is quiet and as it is rated for trade use it should run for long periods without problems. It can be used as a drill alone or fitted in the drill stand. A number of accessories are included which will drill, mill, sand, polish, etc.

The small Proxxon machine vice MS 4 is quite adequate to hold material to be worked on. The groove machined on the underside fits over the parallel fence of the MB200 drill stand.

A flexible drive will be a useful addition and there are two models to choose from: one with a keyless chuck and one with a collet chuck. It can be held in the drill chuck with the stand rotated 90 degrees.



FBS 240/E Drill/Grinder with 43 Accessories (28472 / 410475)



MS4 Machine Vice (28132 / 486352)



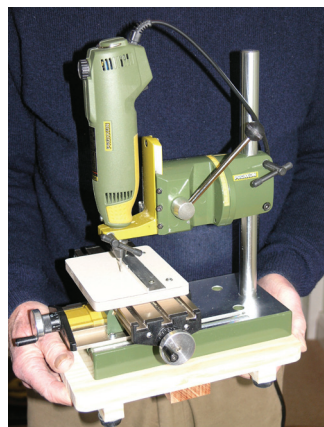
110/BF Flexible Shaft with Keyless Chuck (28622 / 211035)



The combined system



Finger tip control



Easy to put away



Ian Wilkie

Ian has been independently reviewing woodworking products for 20 years and tests machines and equipment manufactured for the amateur woodworker. He does this in his own small workshop where he can assess each product thoroughly.

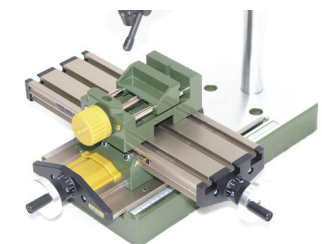
He is particularly interested in the quality of engineering, the design and how the item actually performs. Finally, he assesses whether the product offers good value. He writes articles regularly for *The Woodworker Magazine* on woodturning and non-woodturning projects and aims to enthuse others to get into their workshops, to enjoy their hobby, to increase their skills and to try out new ideas. Ian is a member of and an assessor for the Register of Professional Turners.

Once you add the KT 70 compound table to the stand you will be able to carry out really complex work. The base of the drill stand is pre-prepared to take the KT 70 so it is quick and easy to set up. This product is extremely well made and can be set accurately by means of the two calibrated hand wheels which give 1mm of movement per revolution. This is particularly useful when it comes to precise and repetitive work.

When you have used this combination for a while you will soon come up with your own ideas to improve it to suit the type of modelling you do. My first addition, for example was to make a small routing table secured to the KT 70 table using the two T-bolts supplied. My table measures 120mm long x 100mm wide and it is made from a 12mm thick plywood offcut with a smooth melamine surface. The fence is made from a length of aluminium angle with an 8mm wide, cut-away section in the centre to allow for the router cutter. This arrangement gives a continuous line along the aluminium face so that the wood can slide along unimpeded. The router table can be moved in either direction to position the cutter exactly where required by means of the calibrated controls.



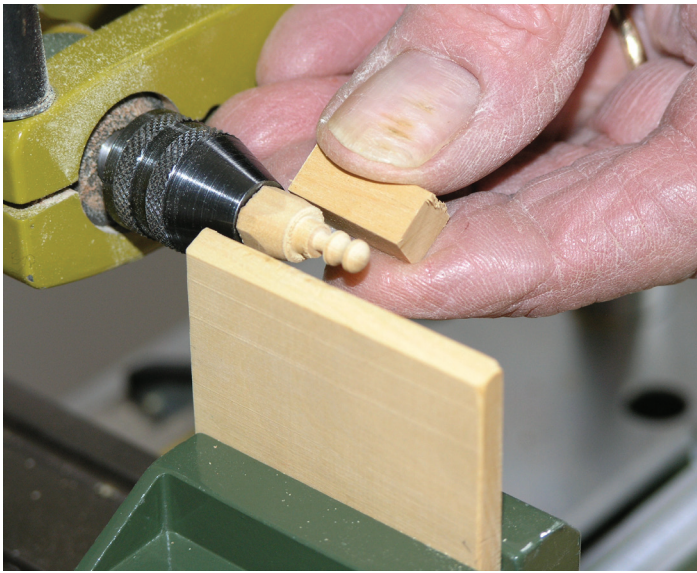
Proxxon's best selling MICRO Compound Table KT 70 (27100 / 702050)



The machine vice can be clamped to the compound table



My router table set up



I found I could turn small knobs and feet to a reasonable standard by holding the drill in the horizontal position and bolting down the machine vice to the right hand end of the x/y table with the fittings provided. I made a temporary toolrest from a piece of wood and cramped it in the vice.

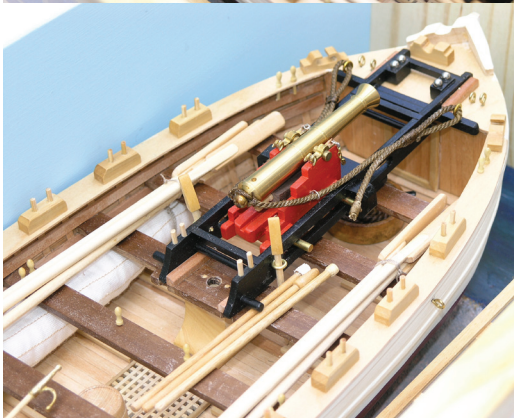
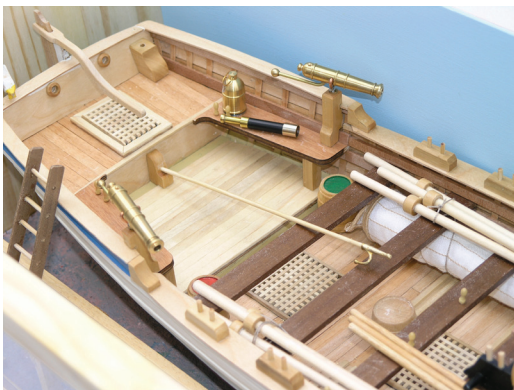


One modification I made was to machine a cap holder to put on top of the column to keep the drill's wire out of the way. Proxxon may like to consider adding this to the design.

Some examples of 1/12" scale work carried out using this system. All the rebating and jointing was done with the machining centre as described.



When it comes to model ship building the system has a great deal to offer.



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Proxxon parts shown:
MB200 Drill Stand (28600 / 502021)
FBS 240/E Drill/Grinder (28472 / 410475)
MS4 Machine Vice (28132 / 486352)
110/BF Flexible Shaft with Keyless Chuck (28622 / 211035)
KT70 MICRO Compound Table (27100 / 702050)

