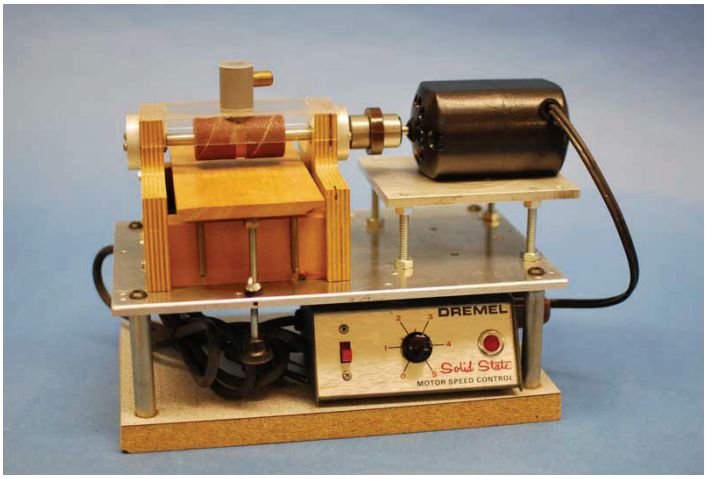
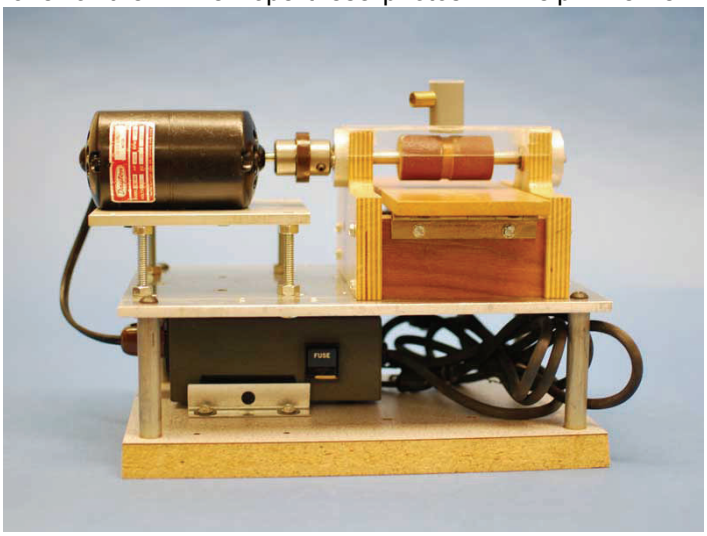
Miniature Drum Sander

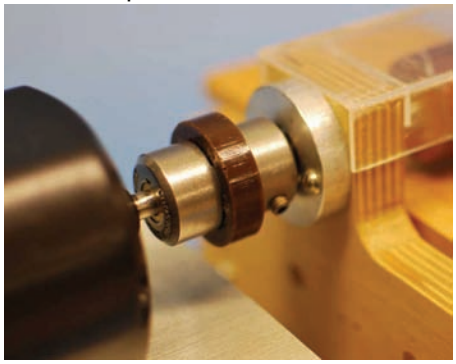
By John Mitchell

Bob Filipowski scratch-built a miniature drum sander 12 years ago that he uses frequently. In need of a bigger, more robust motor, he recently upgraded this tool and greatly improved its performance. His design is simple enough that most modelers should be able to build one for them. We hope these photos will help. The new



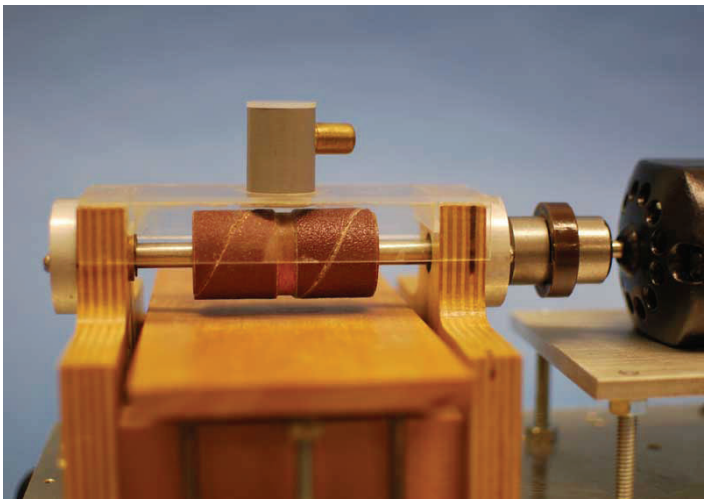


motor is similar to the one used on a “Dremel” table saw and is run with a “Dremel” speed control, which is rated for 110V, 5AMP motors. The speed control is attached to the base using Velcro, so it can be easily removed for other uses.

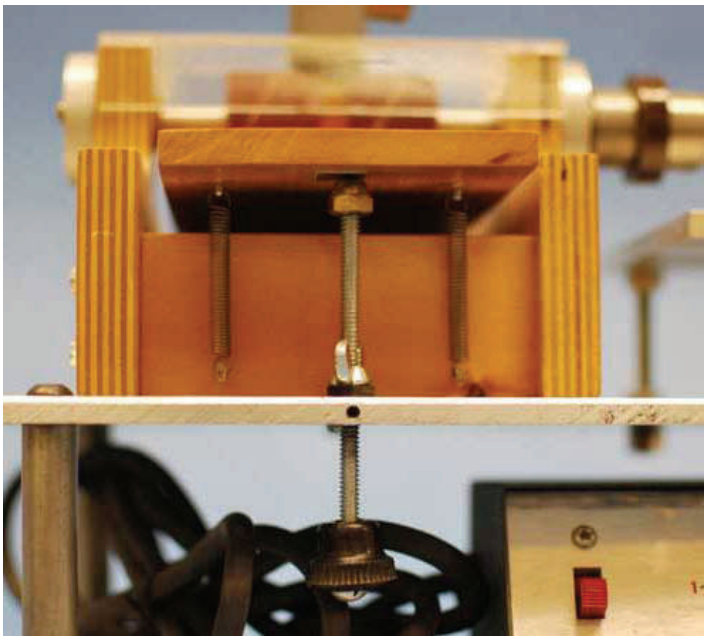


The motor mount was made adjustable to allow for alignment of the coupling between the motor and sander shaft.

Bob installed a fitting above the sanding drums to permit attachment of a shop vac for removal of sawdust. One-inch sanding sleeves of various grits were used to make



the sanding drums on the tool - paper was removed from the store-bought sleeves and re-glued onto the tool’s drum.



The pivoting table under the sanding drums is adjusted for desired thickness by turning the elevating nut on the support base. Springs return the table, when the adjustment is reversed. The key to doing exacting work is the flatness of the drums and adjustable table. The use of particle board or laminate is recommended. The frame base is made of Baltic Ply, and the sanding table is mounted using a piano hinge.