

(More "Pearls"....)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN DEADEYES

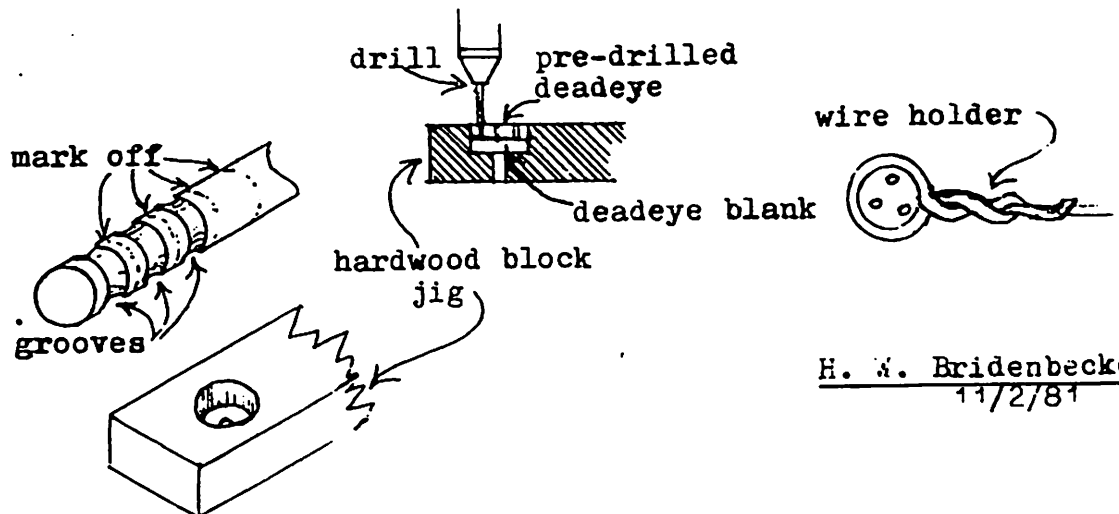
Use boxwood, swiss pear, or walnut. Turn the stock to the desired diameter on a small lathe, or you might use an electric drill. After marking off the thickness of each deadeye cut in the grooves for the shrouds between the marks. Now slice off the little discs at each mark, and you will have a supply of undrilled deadeyes. I use a pattern makers file for cutting the grooves, and a fine bladed Exacto saw for slicing.

Make a drilling jig out of a small block of hardwood. Drill a hole the diameter of the deadeyes to a depth of the thickness of two deadeyes. Now drill a smaller hole clear through the center of the deadeye hole in the block.

Take one blank deadeye and drill the three holes required; get the holes just right! Insert a blank deadeye into the hole in the block. Place the drilled deadeye on top of it in the same hole. Use this drilled deadeye to line up the drill for making the holes in the blank deadeye underneath. After the holes are drilled poke a small wire or a toothpick through the small hole in the bottom of the block and pop out both deadeyes.

Follow this method for drilling the rest of the deadeye blanks, and all of the holes will be uniformly spaced. If the holes on the original deadeye should become a bit enlarged select a freshly drilled deadeye for use as a hole spotter.

Finish off the surfaces of the deadeyes by wrapping a piece of soft copper wire around the groove and giving it a twist or two. This will provide a secure vise for holding the deadeye while filing and finishing the slightly curved surfaces on both faces of the deadeye.



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