

HANDSOME TOOL CO.

fine handcrafted woodenware

handsometoolcompany.com

366 Main Street, Biddeford, Maine 04005

Bailing Scoop Kit

It's time to ditch that old plastic bleach bottle! Now you can make your own wooden bailer that is befitting your classic vessel or a gift for the boater and woodworker in your life. This dapper scoop will move water quickly and the thick leather is flexible to conform to curves and will not mar your hull. Store it with pride in your boat or display it in your home! Alternatively, it could be used for scooping grains, nuts or bird seed.

This project requires some beginner to intermediate woodworking skills and a few basic tools and supplies found in the typical home workshop. It provides a great opportunity for the aspiring woodworker to practice hand tool and finishing skills.



Bailing Scoop Assembly

Required Tools & Supplies

A sturdy work surface
Sandpaper, 220 grit
Wood glue and a small brush for spreading glue.
Rubber mallet or Hammer
Damp rag for glue cleanup
Small hand saw
Chisel
Spar varnish
1" foam or chip brushes.
Small piece of 3/4" scrap wood
A bench vise is helpful but not necessary
Screwdriver
Candle wax

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

GLUING UP

1. Sand parts along the grain especially the back of the scoop because it will be easier to do before assembling the handle. 220 grit is probably suitable alone, but one could start with a lower grit and work up to 220.
2. Dry fit the handle to make sure it seats fully. If it's too tight, some light sanding with a coarse grit can reduce the diameter of tenon enough to fit by hand snugly, but not so tight it can't be adjusted when gluing in.
3. **Important: The saw kerf for wedge in handle tenon must be oriented vertically (perpendicular to grain direction on scoop back) so the force of the wedge won't split the back piece.**
4. Using an exterior grade glue (Titebond III or similar recommended) and a small brush, neatly and evenly spread a small amount inside mortise and on tenon.
5. Start the assembly by hand fitting the two parts with glue, paying close attention to step #3.
6. Using a mallet or hammer, drive in the handle on a sturdy work surface so it seats firmly and completely. Two pieces of scrap wood, one on either side of hole, or a piece of scrap wood with a 1" diameter hole put between work surface and scoop back are helpful when tapping in handle so tenon end can protrude through front.
7. Clean up all glue squeeze out with damp rag or paper towel. If glue squeeze out is left to dry it will show after finishing.
8. Brush a small amount of glue on the wedge. Hold the back of the handle upright on a work surface (or on scrap wood to protect surface or handle) and firmly drive the wedge in till it stops moving.
9. Clean up any glue squeeze out with damp rag or paper towel and allow glue to dry for at least an hr.

TRIMMING THE TENON

1. Using a small hand saw, cut off the protruding tenon flush with the scoop surface. Holding the scoop in a vise is helpful for this step. A thin piece of cardboard or business card under the saw helps keep saw teeth just off the surface and avoid scratches while cutting. The cut tenon will be slightly proud of the surface.
2. Flush up the tenon with the surface using a sharp chisel in a slicing motion. A sanding block or an electric orbital sander can also be used instead of a chisel. If using an orbital sander, remember to hand sand the small swirl marks off by hand sanding with grain direction.
3. Sand all surfaces again with 220 grit with the grain direction to prepare for finishing. For best results, after initial sanding, raise the grain by wiping down with a damp cloth and allow wood to dry. The surface will again be slightly rough because the fibers have swelled with the moisture.
4. Finish sand once more with 220 or a grit beyond if desired. Wipe down with a cloth to remove all dust.

FINISHING

1. To aid the finishing process, use a piece of 3/4" scrap wood with a 3" screw or nail driven through so most of it is protruding. Screw scoop on using the existing hole in the end of handle. Alternatively, a small screw or screw eye could be put in handle end and scoop could be suspended from the ceiling with a wire or string.
2. Apply an thin even coat of spar varnish to the entire surface being conscious to avoid drips and allow to dry thoroughly. A disposable foam brush or 1" chip brush are convenient to eliminate the need to clean brushes.
3. Carefully sand the surface with 220 grit or higher sandpaper and wipe down with cloth to remove all the dust.
4. Apply a second coat repeating steps 1 & 2 and allow to dry thoroughly. Two coats is usually sufficient.

ATTACHING THE LEATHER

Important: Screws are brass and prone to breaking with too much force. Holes are pre-bored and a steel screw is included for this reason. **To reduce friction, screw in steel screw FIRST in each hole** to pre-thread the wood. Apply wax to the threads and use a manual screwdriver with a tip that fits well in screw head.

1. Using the single steel screw included, pre-thread each hole on scoop by screwing in and removing. Candle wax on the threads is helpful.
 2. Line up center hole of leather and wood and screw together. Smooth side of leather faces out.
 3. After first center screw is in, install the screws on either end of the leather scoop. Then fill in the rest of screws starting with the holes between middle and end screw.
 4. It is important to seat screw heads just below surface of leather so they can't scratch anything during use.
 5. Install strap in end of handle using the single large brass screw.
 6. Congratulations! You're bailer is complete!
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About Handsome Tool Co.

From his workshop in Biddeford, Maine, owner and craftsman, Sten Havumaki designs tools influenced by traditional woodenware, early furniture, and Sloyd (the Swedish handcraft tradition). The result is functional forms composed of graceful lines and pleasing proportions, highlighting the natural colors and patterns of the wood.

A small piece of wood that would normally be destined for the fire finds new purpose in a beautiful and useful tool. Many products are made from the scraps of our parent company, Oak & Laurel Workshop, which provides custom furniture and ornamental millwork.

The tools are made in small batches, often to-order and are sometimes limited to the stock available.

Please contact us if you are interested in discussing a custom order.

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