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## missmpanen

# MAKE N 0 0 

## Here's a useful small tool that's both simple and enjoyable to make; all the drawings you need are over the page ...

To set work accurately we usually use a clock gauge. This, as its name suggests, is rather like a clock but there is a single pointer where the clock hands would be. There is also a pointer with a plunger in it attached to and protruding from the clock. In use, the clock gauge is held securely at a fixed point and the plunger allowed to touch the work. If the work is then rotated, the hand on the clock will alter its position with any innaccuracies in the setting up. By making adjustments to the work, it should be possible eventually to rotate it with the hand remaining stationary. The operator then knows that the work is absolutely accurate. In order that errors show up clearly there is a multiplying factor between pointer and clock dial, usually in some form of gearing. This means that the hand moves a greater distance than the pointer and errors show up that much more easily.

Clock gauges are quite expensive to buy and the poorer ones amongst us may well need to look for alternative means of truing up. A scriber in a block placed near the work will show errors as the gap between the work and scriber point widens and narrows. Getting really accurate with this method is not easy and so some other form of indicator is desirable. At one time these could be purchased in a number of forms but now seem to have gone off the market. Making such a device is, however, remarkably simple as well as being a most satisfying project. It will not be in the form of a clock as this is not necessary; a pointer will show exaggerated movement, however, and be more than sufficient for most purposes.

The main part of the device is a mild steel strip. The drawings specify it as $1 / 2$ inch ( 12 mm ) wide. This will give a small convenient gauge but the narrower it is, the more limited is the distance of error that will be shown. There is no reason why, in fact, it should not be one inch wide, as is the one I made as a demonstration. The extra width will allow the pointer to move further but makes the gauge slightly less convenient to use on the smaller lathe. The choice must, then, be left to the individual to decide, depending on the lathe or other machine on which it will be used. To start with, scribe a line centrally along the length of the strip. Mark
off and drill the four holes, as shown on the drawing, working from the centre.

The needle is next and needs to have two holes drilled in it and then be filed to shape. The smaller hole at the wide end holds a $1 / 16$ th in. diameter pin which can either be soldered in or held with a retaining compound.

The slide bar is a piece of $1 / 16$ th in. diameter rod. I used stainless steel as it will be used as the pointer and will be rubbing on work so there will be some wear taking place. Hopefully, there will be less with stainless steel. The alternative is to use silver steel and harden it, or make it of mild steel and put a small


The usual way to measure any variation is by means of a clock gauge; here one is being used to set a cylinder casting bore. An inexpensive alternative which you can make yourself is described in the text.
bras knob on the end. The block, which is not quite central on the rod, is filed from mild steel after drilling to allow the bar to slide in it. Again, it can either be soft soldered in position or secured with retaining compound.

The bearings for the slide bar are a simple turning job. They must be cross-drilled for the bar and the threads to pass through the body, a nut securing the bearings in place when we are ready. The pin on which the pointer pivots is also a simple turning job and preferably should be from bronze, although brass would do. It needs a thread on the end to screw it to the body, but the plain part of the shank must be long enough to pass through the pointer and not rub. I put a washer on either side of the pointer when I assembled the device. This gave better running qualities and the underneath one ensured that the pointer was clear of the body and could swing.

The indicator was assembled with a small spring slipped on the slide bar; this drives the pointer right over to one side. The spring need not be very strong and the type used in ball point pens is ideal both for size and strength.

Finally the top of the body was rounded off and the graduations made with a junior hacksaw. The total travel of the slide bar, using a one inch wide body was one eigth of an inch. This gives quite a movement on the pointer and the graduations make it easy to gauge how much adjustment is required. If the need should be felt to get finer graduations, then extend the length of the body and pointer above the pivot. I can easily find even the slightest variation with the one shown, however.

The stand is a matter of choice and readers may have different ideas on what they want. The idea shown is of a round pillar passing through a block screwed to the indicator body. This block can be adjusted as regards the angle by loosening and tightening the screw, the other end of the rod passing through a steel bar which fits the lathe toolpost. It could just as easily be fitted with a clamp if it is to be used in conjunction with a milling machine. The clamping screws on both of these blocks must be of brass to prevent the rod becoming scored and so jamming. Whether or not to knurl them is a matter of personal preference.

To use the device, clamp it in position and adjust it to the work until the pointer is in the middle of the body. Any variation whichever way will show up as the work is rotated.


The finished indicator on its stand; size is a matter of personal preference and the nature of the job in hand. However, the dimensions shown opposite produce a very satisfactory working tool.


The home-made indicator in use in the author's workshop; here it is being used to measure deviation in conjunction with a centre-finder (also described in this publication).



## MAKE AC HI6

## Construction details for a simple but useful tool, which can be made on a small lathe

Setting the lathe tool to exactly centre height is as important as having correct clearance angles and correct cutting speeds. An adjustable height tool post is invaluable for this purpose but if one is not available then we must make do either a tool holder that will give an adjustable height to the tool bit, or else packing the tool up to the

Above: the finished height gauge, ready for adjusting. Below: setting the gauge against the tailstock centre it is then a simple matter of adjusting the turning tool to the height of the gauge, to get perfect accuracy.
the correct height with shims. If this latter course is resorted to then the tool height must be checked after tightening the tool down as shims will compress and, if the measurement is taken before tightening, the tool will still be too low.

One way of getting the correct height is to line the tool up with a lathe centre, either one in the headstock or one in the tailstock. This can be difficult at times. For example, if work is mounted on the lathe and some of the operations have been carried out, then a different type of tool is needed; it is not possible to take the work out, measure the tool height and then put things back together again. Sometimes the tailstock will also be in use, and so that centre cannot be used either.

In my opinion every model

engineer should make the first job upon acquiring a lathe, the construction of a suitable height gauge. It can be as simple as one wishes as long as there is a mark at exact centre height. One very simple way of doing this is to take a trysquare and put it on the lathe bed near the tailstock. Put a hard centre in the tailstock and slide the square across it so that the centre scribes a line on it. This will be at the exact height required and will be perfectly satisfactory.

The only problem I find with the above method is the fact that I do not usually use the square near the lathe, it only being taken there for special purposes. In the meantime there is a character who lives under my bench who borrows it and then hides it. He does the same with all small tools, and, on occasions, will even hide quite large objects. I even tried moving house to get rid of him but he still managed to follow me and is under the bench at the present one!

To fool him and to make sure I never have any problems, I made myself a simple gauge which readers might like to make for themselves. It consists of a piece of flat bar wide enough to lie across the bed of the lathe. A hole is drilled in this making sure it is absolutely square, and a round bar is fitted into the hole. The top of the round bar will need to be above the lathe centre height. It can be either a push-fit in the block or held in with a retaining compound such as Loctite 601.

Over this round bar goes a collar made from a piece of mild steel bar

## NTRE 106

with a hole drilled through and faced at each end. This is cross-drilled as far as the central hole in two places. One of these holes is tapped to take an allen headed grub screw. The other is to take a cross-arm and so should be of a diameter suitable for this, and again can be either a pressfit or held in with retaining compound.

The cross-arm will have to be long enough to overhang the base and it will need a flat to be filed or

milled on it. When everything is ready and assembled check the flat on the cross-arm against the lathe centre and adjust it until it is at the exact height of the centre. Then tighten up the grub screw and you have a gauge that will give instant centre height when needed. The only thing to watch for in this very simple construction is that the flat
on the cross-arm is perfectly level. Otherwise, if it is fitted, the centre height will not be along the whole length. Should you not feel confident of getting it level, turn a point on the cross-arm and use that as the gauge. Like so many of these simple tools you will wonder how on earth you ever did without it once you have made one!


Above: the height of the tool has been adjusted by placing shims of metal underneath to build it up. They would normally lie flush with the bottom of the tool, but have been bent down to show what is happening. Left: the complete height gauge. Below: an alternative is to mark the centre height on a try square - simple, but the try square is liable to wander!


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Unit 1, Venture Industrial Park, Ackworth Road,
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Hilsea, Portsmouth, P03 5JP
Tel: 0705667331
The firm stocks the Unimat range of machines and, in particular, specialise in the Unimat 1
EVERETT MODEL ENGINEERING SUPPLIES
24 Station Road, Meopham, Kent
Tel: 0474814295

Suppliers of metal, drawings, castings, etc. fo ocomotives and stationary steam engines.
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