Woodsmith SHOP-TESTED TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Finishing Wood Plugs

Whenever I use wood plugs, I like to stain or finish them before adding them to my project. Problem is, they're so small it's difficult to hold on to them. Plus, I usually end up with stain on my hands and fingers. To make things easier, I came up with this simple trick.

Take a piece of masking tape and push a row of thumbtacks into the sticky side of the tape. Then place the tape down on a piece of scrap wood, with the point of the thumbtacks facing up. Now push your wood plugs onto the thumbtacks, just enough to keep them steady while you apply the stain or finish.

When the plugs are dry, simply pull up the tape and remove the plugs.

