

Repairing Loose Tenons

It's frustrating when you cut a mortise only to find out your tenon doesn't fit snugly. Luckily there's an easy fix that doesn't require cutting new mortises.

For square tenons, simply glue a thin piece of wood veneer to each cheek of the tenon (see drawing). I always orient the grain in the same direction to get a strong glue joint, too. Once the glue dries, trim the tenon to fit snugly in the mortise.

For round tenons cut too small, glue on a shaving from a hand plane. Then sand the tenon to fit snugly in the mortise.

