

CW TIP 1 — Sherline Steady-Rest Modification/Gary Combs

Customizing the Steady Rest for Detailed Work

The Sherline steady rest (P/N 1074) has three adjustable brass blades mounted in a holder that attaches on the bed of the lathe. The brass blades have square faces that can hold material as small as 5/32" (3.9 mm) in diameter. If you want to hold smaller diameter parts, it may be necessary to cut or file off the corners of the blades, so they contact the part without touching each other.

Gary needed to hold very small parts, so he modified his steady rest by putting a taper on his blades. He used the Sherline compound slide attachment (P/N 1270/1280) to turn a 30° taper on the three brass holding blades. The benefits of the tapered blades include the ability to hold small rod stock, easier loading, and provide more visibility of the part being held by the blades. This customization also allows the user to secure the arbor much closer to an installed gear of a wheel for pivot polishing.



FIGURE 1—The small inset photo shows the brass blades with the square faces as they come from the Sherline factory. The large photo shows Gary Combs' modification with the tapers on the blades.



FIGURE 2—Knurl nuts were added to enable removal and adjustments by hand versus using an Allen wrench.

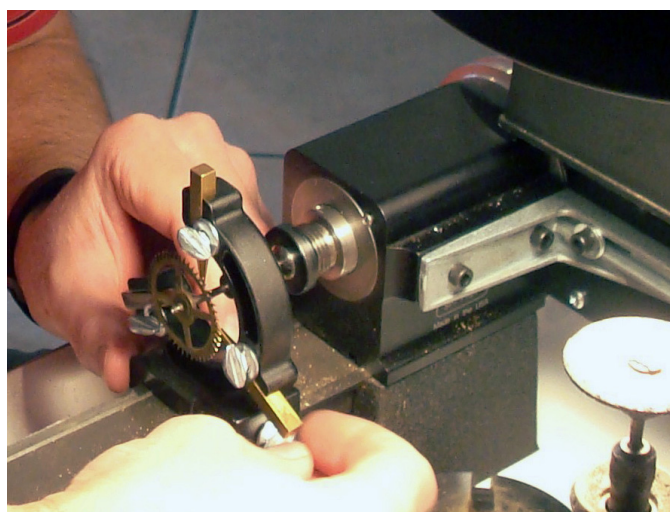


FIGURE 3—This photo shows the modified steady rest holding a gear. The Allen screws have been replaced with hand nut screws.