To: Customers of the Universal Versatile Vise 05R10.10  
From: Garrett Wade Customer Service  

Thank you for your purchase of the Universal Versatile Vise. This unique vise earns its name because of its dual-axis positioning abilities, and the flexibility and convenience it affords the craftsman. Designed from the premise that it’s usually preferable to secure the work and adjust the vise (rather than the other way around), we think this handy, medium-duty vise should find a permanent spot on your bench top.

Garrett Wade was greatly assisted in the development of the Versatile Vise by woodworker and flintlock gun maker Jerry Crawford. An innovative tinkerer, Jerry modified his own bench vise for carving historically accurate gun stocks and other intricate fabrications unique to his craft, but in so doing, he has helped devise a tool that we think is useful to woodworkers and fabricators of all stripes.

The Universal Versatile Vise includes the following components:

- Vise Body
- Base/ Bench Mount
- Accessory Arm
- M10x15 bolt w/ knob
- M10x25 bolt w/ knob
- M8.6 HSS drill bit & M10x1.5 tap

Please call the Technical Dept at 800-221-2942 if anything is missing, or if you have any questions.

Vise Setup

Using 5/16” cap head screws, securely bolt the base to your work surface. To allow the vise maximum freedom of movement, position the base at the edge of your work surface (as shown).

Though its full dual-axis potential is only achieved with use of the Accessory Arm, the Versatile Vise can also be mounted directly on its base, either vertically or horizontally. In either mode, the vise revolves on the post, and tightening the jaws locks the cam. Mounting the vise horizontally allows work to be secured in front of the bench - very handy when working on large or unwieldy pieces. To take advantage of this option, position the base so that the jaws are well clear of the front edge of your workbench when the vise is mounted in the horizontal position.

For further assistance, call the Garrett Wade Technical Department at 800 221 2942, or email us at mail@garrettwade.com
Mounting the Vise on the Accessory Arm

The Cam Lock must sit outside the mounting hole to allow the vise to be mounted on the accessory arm (or directly on the post, if the vise is used without the arm). If necessary, adjust the cam lock mechanism by turning the Adjusting Screw with a flat-head screwdriver.

Tighten the locking bolt on the accessory arm to hold it in position. Keeping the cam out of the way (as shown,) slide the vise onto the accessory arm.

As it comes from the maker, the vise is meant to be mounted directly on the post. The base supports the weight of the vise, which revolves on the post. The vise is equipped with a Cam Locking Mechanism, which is engaged by tightening the jaws of the vise, either together or to secure a work piece. The lock engages only when the jaws are tightened.

Mounted on the accessory arm, however, the vise “tilts”, freely revolving on the arm unless the jaws are tightened and the cam lock engaged. Caution should be taken by supporting the weight of the vise until the jaws are tightened and the cam lock is engaged.

We find this to be a somewhat awkward maneuver. It requires that the vise be manually held in a tilted position and supporting its weight while tightening the jaws on the work piece. It’s hard to hold that much weight in a precise position. It’s easy to damage delicate work. Some jobs like carving and patternmaking require that the work piece be held constant while the vise is repeatedly repositioned. If you’re forced to re-secure the work each time you adjust the vise, an enjoyable job can become a frustrating chore. What was needed was a secondary lock that could hold the position of the vise on the accessory arm without the need to tighten the jaws in order to engage the cam.

We include instructions for a simple improvement that we believe enhances the functionality and convenience of using the Universal Versatile Vise. The Versatile works well without the suggested secondary lock, and if you forgo the modification, you will still benefit from the same dual-axis flexibility that the accessory arm provides. We suggest the improvement because it has proved its worth to us, and we think it will enhance your experience and enjoyment of using the Ultimate Versatile Vise. We have included a kit that allows you to make this modification if you choose. We recommend it.

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Instructions on Drilling and Tapping for the Secondary Lock

- Clamp the vise on the edge of your workbench as shown. The hole should be centered on the drum of the vise. Use a punch or awl to strike a starter hole.
- Fit the provided M8.6 bit in a variable speed drill. Keep the bit plumb. Use light machine oil for lubricant. Drill the hole through the cast iron.
- Fit the M10 tap in a tap handle. Use a hammer or mallet to lightly seat the tap in the hole.
- Keep the handles level. Cut the threads in small increments, turning the tap a bit, then backing off, nipping a little at a time.
- Use lubricant. Continue in this manner until the hole is tapped through. Clean away the metal filings.
- Thread the M10x25 bolt (with knob) in the hole as shown.

With applications requiring continuous readjustment of the vise, this extra locking option will prove its worth many times over. Anytime you need to remove the locking bolt to position the vise (such as in a 90° orientation), you still have the locking capacity of the cam lock mechanism.

You are now ready to experience the amazing versatility of the Universal Versatile Vise.

Garrett Wade Technical Department

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