



Scott Horsburgh
Designer and Maker of Fine Handcrafted Furniture

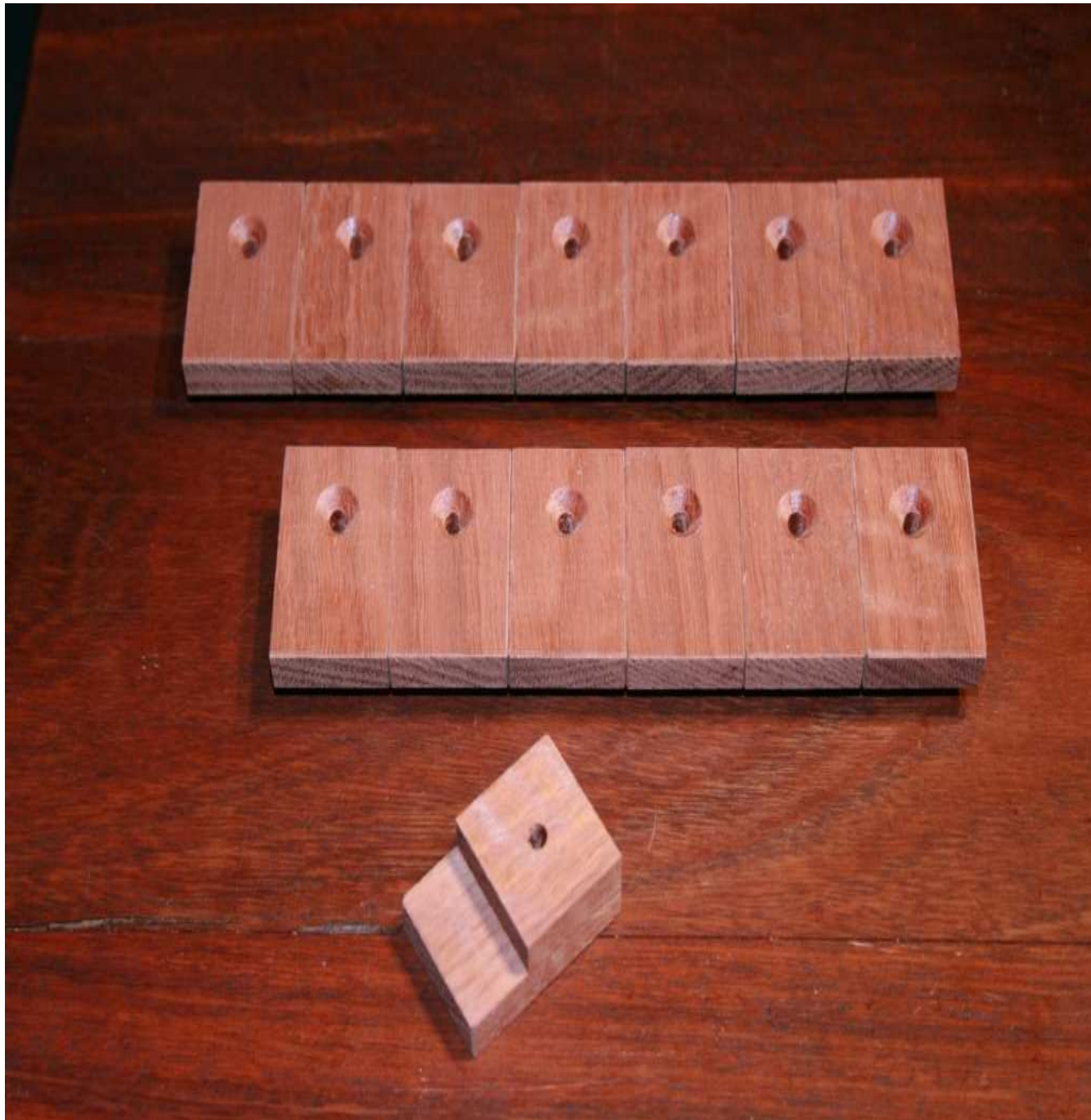
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Piece: Sideboard

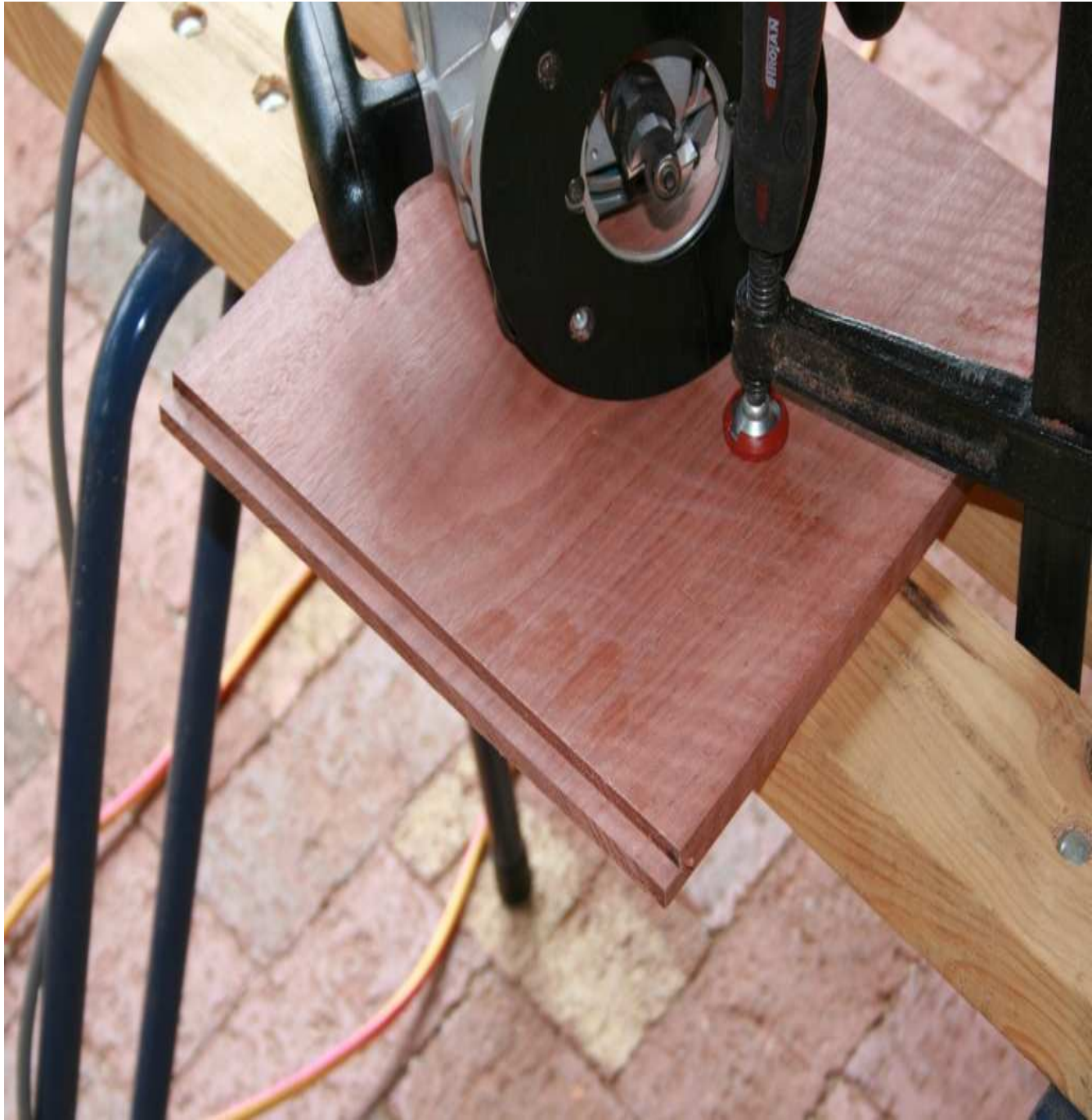
Subject: Making 'Traditional Shrinkage Buttons'.

Traditional Shrinkage Buttons (TSB's) are the small pieces used to hold the top of the sideboard to the carcass. They serve two purposes – they hold the top firmly in place and they also allow the top (if it is solid wood) to move across its grain as the humidity changes with the seasons.

The photos below show you what they look like. When placed into their housing they will sit 1mm below the underside of the top so that when screwed to the top they will have a small amount of bite to hold the top firmly.

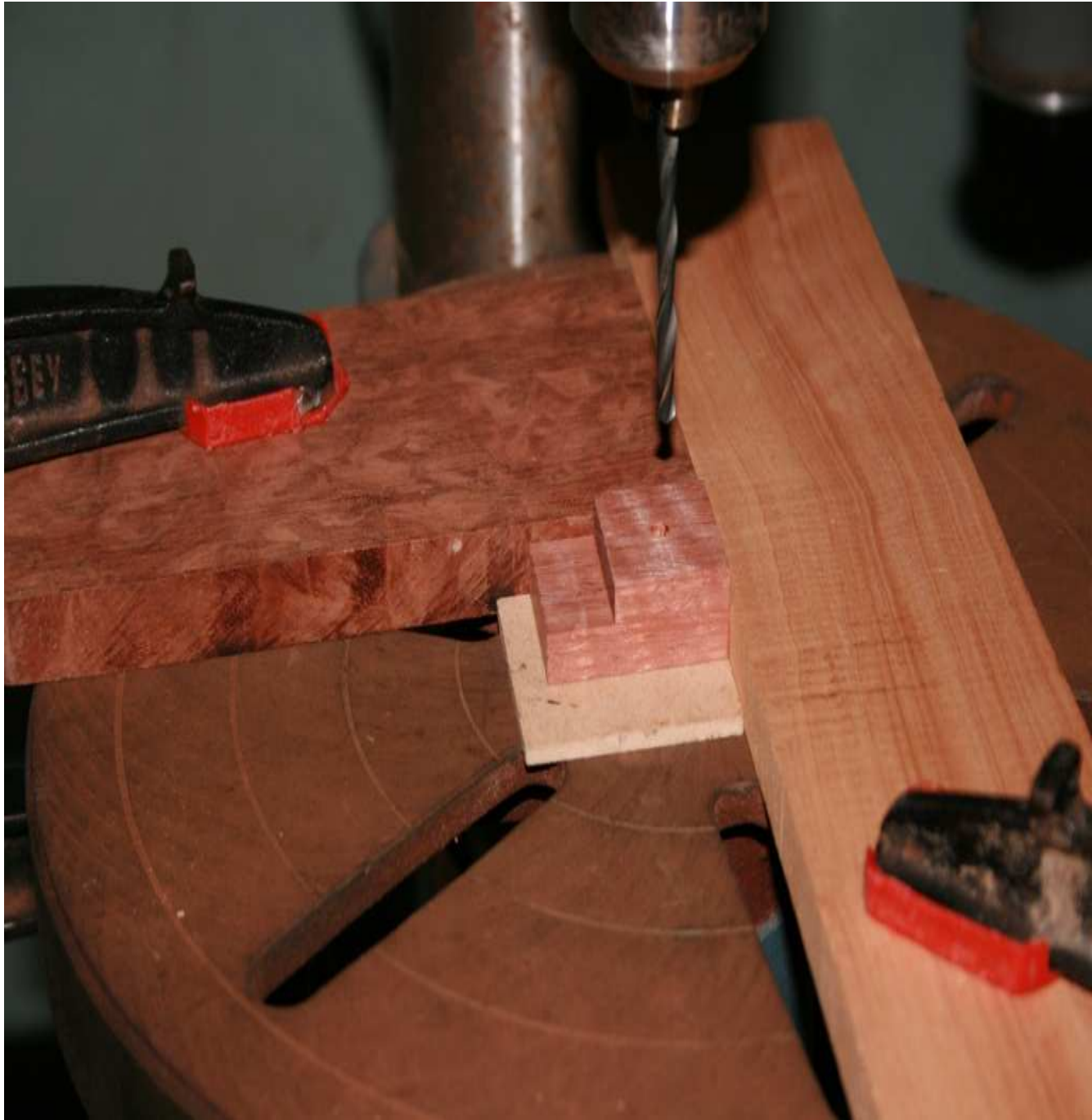


I made them all together by simply routing a rebate along a piece of jarrah which was thickened to the required thickness to have them sit 1mm below the underside of the top. As the spacer frame is 15mm high, the height of the TSB's is 14mm.



I then cleaned them up on the shooting board.







All of the TSB's fit snugly width wise except for the two outside ones along the shorter sides of the mitred frame. Picture the top on the sideboard with its long grain running from end to end. With its grain oriented that way it will change its dimension from front to back. So the TSB's along the long sides of the frame will move in and out of their housing and the TSB's at each end will move from side to side.

The picture below shows the routed housings on the end pieces of the mitred frame. The middle TSB fits snugly and is the only one that will not move. I will have a long grain joint on the top straight down the middle so these TSB's (one at

each end) will hold the top in that position on its join. You can see that the housings on either side are much wider. This is to allow the top to move in and out across its grain.



Below: TSB along long edge - IN



Below: TSB along long edge - OUT



Below: TSB 1mm below the underside of the top.



Below: TSB's along the ends. Middle one fixed firmly. The outside ones allow across ways movement.



Scotty Horsburgh
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