

TIPS

Remove a tailstock easily

Removing the tailstock from my Powermatic 3520 by myself is not easy—it is heavy. And, I remove and reinstall the tailstock often. A swing-away platform is too pricey and would get in the way when turning over the end of the bed.

My solution was a cart with wood ways onto which I could slide the tailstock and wheel it out of the way. The wood ways are ½" (13mm) maple and can be easily replaced when worn (*Photos 1, 2, 3*).

I also have an 18" (45cm) bed extension that weighs 80 lbs (36kg), which is impossible for one person to install. Since I plan to use the extension in only the lower position, I was able to configure the cart to hold the extension in position for mounting and store it when not in use (*Photos 4, 5, 6*). The cart has a ½" maple block that the ways of the extension slide onto. The block is adjustable for angle and height using five-star threaded knobs and carriage bolts through the block and top of the enclosure. Installing or removing the extension is now a one-handed, fingertip operation.

The bed extension mounts either in line with the bed or below the ways to create a bowl lathe with a 30" (76cm) swing. The bed extension comes with an extension for the toolrest so all the rests can be used with the banjo in the lower position. I could leave the extension in the lower position all the time, but using the lathe is more convenient if removable parts can be stored out of the way.

An added bonus is five new shelves and some magnetic strips on the sides of the cart to keep chuck keys, toolrests, and accessories close at hand (gouges, scrapers, and other tools ride in their own cart). The cart has four full-swivel casters to make it easy to line up with the lathe. The casters all lock, but that's just overkill.

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