



Somehow the idea of hardwood bench dogs appeals to me more than metal ones, although I can use both interchangeably; above is a solid hard wood bench dog made from 3/4 inch dowel stock. If you also use round bench dogs in your bench, select dowel stock which is round and not slightly oblong or elliptical, this to ensure the bench dog fits the bench holes well. In my case, I have selected birch dowel rod. The spring-loaded bullet catch is press fit into a 1/4 in. hole. The catch has a flange which is approx. 9/32 inch in diameter, the catch assembly is then pressed into the hole making for a solid fit with no need for glue. It is important to ensure the wider flange is not proud of the dowel rod, but instead forms a flush fit. This prevents any rubbing of the flange against the bench hole.

You can either recess the bullet catch completely or file the edges of the bullet catch flange a little. The length of the bench dog is variable and dependant on the thickness of your bench. Bullet catch placement is approx. 3/4 in. below the notch. To ensure positive locking of thinner stock, a raked flat notch was band sawed and then tuned with a chisel to provide a small angled rake, again this can be variable to suit your needs and thickness of your boards. I was reasonably surprised as to how well this works and I have since made a few of these. The 1/4 in. bullet catch is available from any fine woodworking hardware retailer, Lee Valley Tools in this case.