

Mark 5/V Changes over the years

- 1954 February, Shopsmith Mark 5 introduced in Shopsmith Shavings Issue No. 8 (254 on back cover)
- 1954 Shopsmith Mark 5 for sale in March (source - Shopsmith Shavings Issue #8) Belt cover with 8 screws to attach to headstock/motor pan. Changed to 6 on "A" Headstocks (in 1955). *3
- 1955 June, Beginning with Serial number 298476 the Eccentric Bushing included a set screw. Mark 5's before this used "rocker shaped" bearing retainers. *2
- 1955 October, change to B Headstock S/N 312508 included a hole behind the rear Name Plate and a change in the retainer on the motor shaft. *2
- 1957 Belt cover changed from 6 to 2 screws to attach to headstock/motor pan. *3
- 1959 The nylon cap was added to the drive sleeve to reduce noise. (Note: this change shows up in the 10:56 Manual and is not in the 10:55 Manual) *2 Extra saw blade slot added in the table. *3
- 1959-1960 Bench Tubes changed from 1-7/8" diameter to 1-3/4" diameter, Base and Headrest also changed for smaller size bench tubes. Accessory Mount Locks from wide rib to narrow rib. *3
- 1960 Paint scheme changer to Goldie after March. *3 Saw table now has a separate guide bar and the 90-degree tilt stop bolts changed to nylok eliminating the jam nut. The lathe tool rest arm and post are now separated. *2
- 1961 Gilmer Drive changed to Poly V Drive. Serial numbers above 371347 are Poly V and 371347 and below are Gilmer Drive. Units with a "C" at the end of their Serial number during this time require a special Quill. *2
- 1962 Motor changed from 3/4 HP to 1-1/8 HP (S/N 388978 3/4 HP made in 62) *1
- 1963 Paint scheme changed to Gray in a crinkle texture until out of production in 1964. *1
- 1973 Beginning with Serial number SS1001 the front underside of the table is being machined for positive setting of the guide bar and requires three spacing washers. The carriage stop ring for the way tube replaced the bolt and jam nut. *2 Paint still Gray with a splatter texture. *1
- 1973 Beginning with Serial number SS3191 the spring case was replaced with a washer on the motor shaft. *2 Padlock holes added to switch side guards.
- 1980 Name on the machine was changed from Mark 5 to Mark V between January and March. *3 Documents dating back to at least 1974 call it Mark V. *2
Extra Saw Blade slot discontinued. (source – Shopsmith Document)
- 1984 September, Two Bearing Quill replaced single bearing quill in headstocks Serial number 190000 & above. *1
- 1985 Mark V model 510 introduced (also 505) - larger table system with floating tables (510 only). Mark V's with original table system now model 500. *1
- 1986 Mark V model 510 tube mounting changed on the tables, requires different 510 to 520 upgrade. (source – online catalog) There are early and late versions of both the table & fence tubes. *3
- 1987 December – Date Coding replaced Serial Numbers *1
- 1990 January 1 Bench Tubes will be bright zinc plating instead of chrome (note on later copy *2)
- 1990 Model 500 Extension table widened from 4 1/4" to 7 1/2" *1
- 1991 "C" Headstock introduced with the red safety key switch. (Serial Number 010191 and above) *1
- 1996 510 became the primary 5-in-1 tool *1 (this entry is no longer on the site)
- 1999 Mark V model 520 introduced - Pro Fence System *1

- 2001 Paint formulation changed for the gray color, Oct. 1 2001 (source – online catalog)
- 2007 Mark V 505 still available (Date Code 12-21-07) *3
- 2010 Mark 7 introduced *1
- 2019 Mark V 510 Discontinued (No longer listed in online catalog November) *1

Information Sources

- *1 Shopsmith History, Information or on-line catalog on the Shopsmith web site.
- *2 Supplement to the Mark V Parts List – Supplement to Bulletin 504287 – 4/74
(the Shopsmith Mark V Spare Parts List is Bulletin 504287 3/74)
- *3 The Machine itself (Dates based on Serial Numbers or Date Codes)

Dates of 50th Golden Anniversary Mark V Date Codes 11-13-01 (mine), 01-30-02, 03-25-03, 11-24-04.
50th Anniversary catalog dated 03/01.

- ? Model 505 discontinued After December 2007 *3
- ? Model 500 discontinued from the history page 2014 entry since deleted - 1996 the 510 became the primary 5-in-1 tool

Headstock changes – unknown dates,

Belt cover attached with 6 screws down from 8, change affected headstock, motor pan and belt cover.

Belt cover attached with 2 screws down from 6, change affected headstock, motor pan and belt cover.

Padlock holes added to switch side guards (1973).

Belt Guard motor shaft hole and cap discontinued sometime between July 1987 and Dec 1988.

Speed Control opening changed – sideways “Y” shape changed to rectangle.

Reference Machines (some not all)

Mark 5 pre-Apr. 1954 (260407) “A” Headstock – 8 Screws for belt cover – lowest S/N I’ve seen

Mark 5 Oct. 1955 (309119) “A” Headstock – 6 Screws for belt cover

Mark 5 Nov. 1955 (313659) “B” Headstock – 6 Screws for belt cover

Mark 5 Dec. 1955 (315812 & 316944) still Magna Engineering Corp. on Vent/Serial Number Plate

Mark 5 Greenie June 1956 est. (324631) “B” Headstock – 6 Screws for belt cover

Mark 5 Greenie Aug. 1957 (348915) “B” Headstock – 2 Screws for belt cover

Mark 5 Greenie May 58 (353530) two screws for belt cover

Mark 5 Greenie Dec. 1959 (361289) has dual table slot

Mark 5 Greenie Mar. 1960 (364838) still Greenie paint

Mark 5 April 79 (SS34215) has dual slot table

Mark 5 June 79 (SS-38260) dual slot table, padlock holes, two screws for belt cover

Mark V June 84 (SS-179601) padlock holes, belt guard motor shaft hole, both extension tables

Mark V-B March 85 (SS-199647) still had padlock hole for switch (wider extension table – upgrade)

Mark V 500 November 86 (221172) still has belt guard motor shaft hole