

The Well-Equipped Shop

Adjustable-Height Bench

Want to save your back? If it seems your workbench is never the right height for the task at hand, the Noden Adjust-A-Bench may be just the ticket. For \$380, you'll end up with a rock-solid bench that adjusts from 27- to over 43-in. tall, quickly and easily.

Cutting dovetails? Raise the bench. Assembling a big project? Lower the bench. Mount your portable planer or benchtop lathe at a comfortable working height. The list of applications goes on and on.

The name Adjust-A-Bench is a little misleading, because you aren't actually buying a bench. Instead, you get a pair of ratcheting frames that form the ends of the base. You have to supply hardwood rails (about \$20) to connect the two ends, plus your own top. The top could be anything from a solid-core door (\$75) to a traditional, solid-wood benchtop with face and tail vises (\$400).

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It's easy to raise the top. Just lift it, one end at a time. The ratcheted adjustment system has twelve stops. Stepping on the foot pedal while lifting up on the top releases the ratchet and lowers the top. Accidentally stepping on the pedal while you're working won't make the top come crashing down.