Bandsaw Stand from Scrap Lumber

Intro: Bandsaw stand from scrap lumber

I have a portable bandsaw that I absolutely love- it's one of my favorite and most useful tools. Cutting small pieces of metal with any degree of precision can be difficult however. What I needed was a stand to turn it into a benchtop saw.

This is a super simple low cost stand that is very easy to make and can be built in an afternoon.

Let's get started!

Step 1: Tools and materials

Tools needed

Portable bandsaw- mine is the DeWalt DWM 120 model
Drill

Various size drill bits

3/4" forstner or spade bit
Materials

2" wood screws

Wood glue

2ea 1" x 4" x 14" long wood board (I used pine)

2ea 1" x 4" x 5 1/2" long wood board

1ea 4" x 4" x 20 1/2" long post

1ea 4" x 4" x 9 1/2" long post

2ea 8" x 8" x 3/4" plywood triangle

1ea 12" x 12" x 1/4" thick Aluminum plate- I used a piece of salvaged Aluminum I found but you could also use a thicker piece of wood. Aluminum plate can be purchased from Online Metals.

Power strip with switch- make sure it can handle the saw amperage

Large zip tie

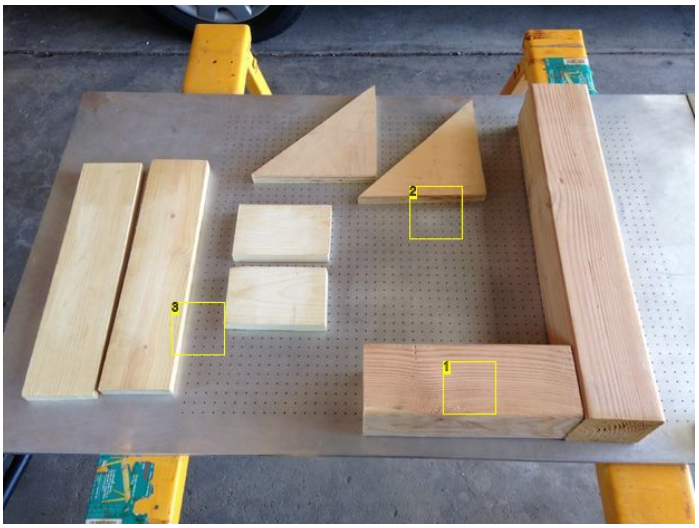

Image Notes
1. 4x4 wood posts
2. Plywood triangles
3. 1x4 wood pieces

Step 2: Build the base

To build the base take the longer 4" x 4" post and set it behind the shorter 4" x 4" post as shown in the first photo. Take one of the plywood triangles and glue and screw the triangle to the posts as shown.

Remove the D shaped handle from the saw and set the saw next to the upper post. Note where the handle mounting hole is located. Glue and screw one of the 1" x 4" x 5 1/2" wood pieces to the top of the post so it covers the handle mounting hole. Now flip the stand over and attach the second upper wood piece and plywood triangle to the opposite side of the stand. The two upper pieces of wood will be used to mount the saw to the stand.

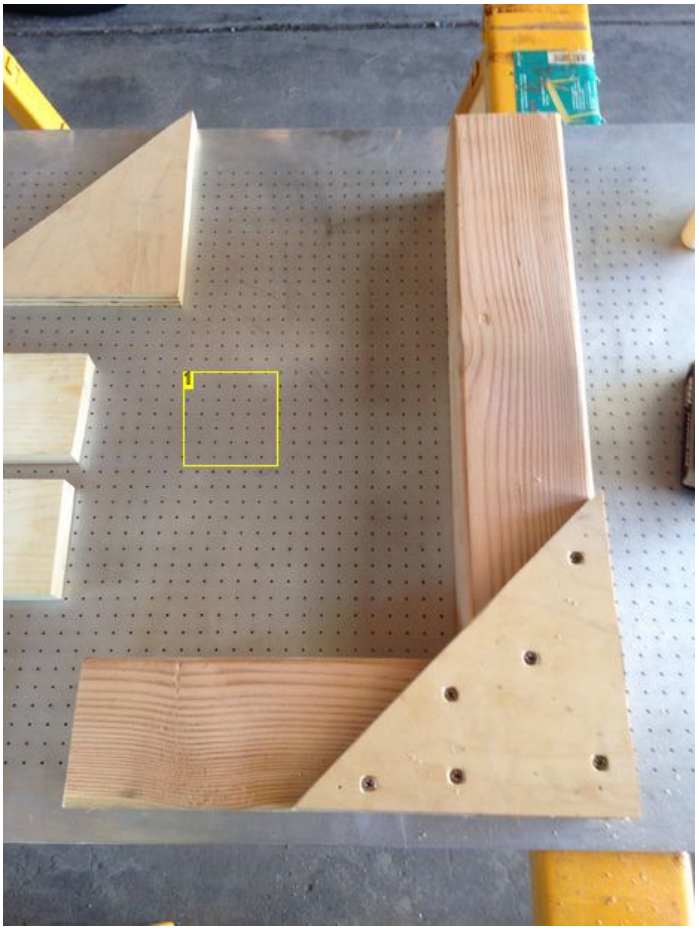

Image Notes
1. Glue and screw one of the plywood triangles to the long and short 4x4 posts- the upper post sits behind the shorter lower post

Image Notes
1. Remove the upper handle from the saw and note the location of the mounting hole

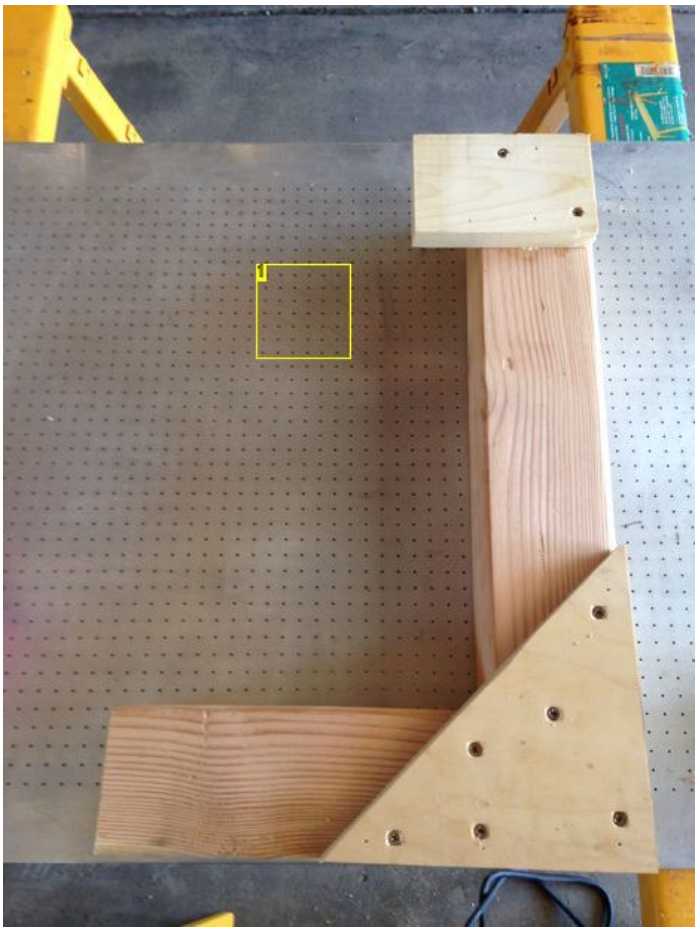

Image Notes
1. Glue and screw one of the short 1x4 wood pieces to the top of the back post

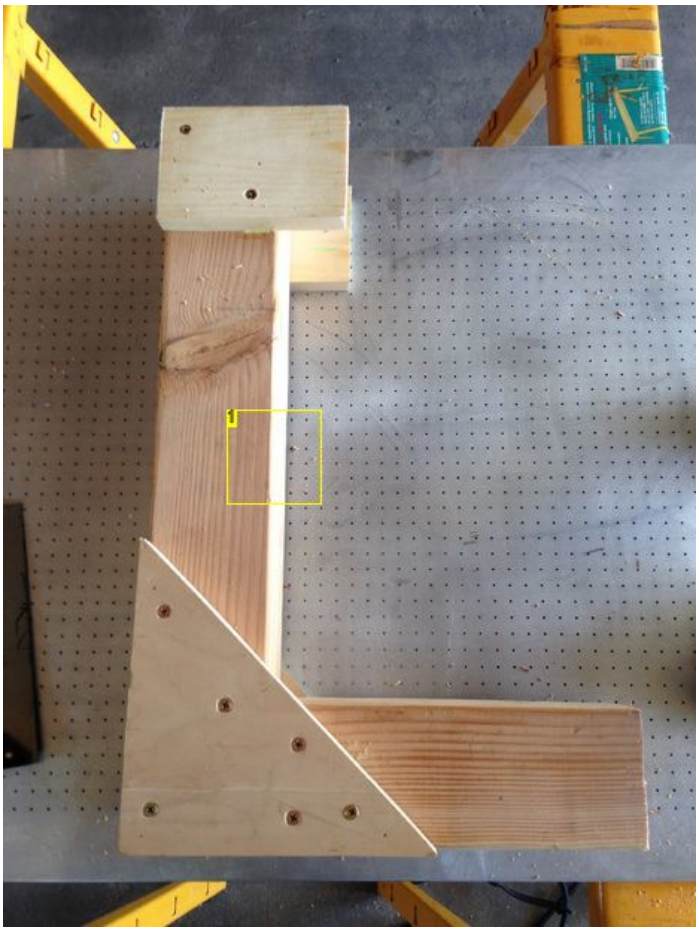

Image Notes
1. Attach the plywood triangle and upper wood piece to the opposite side

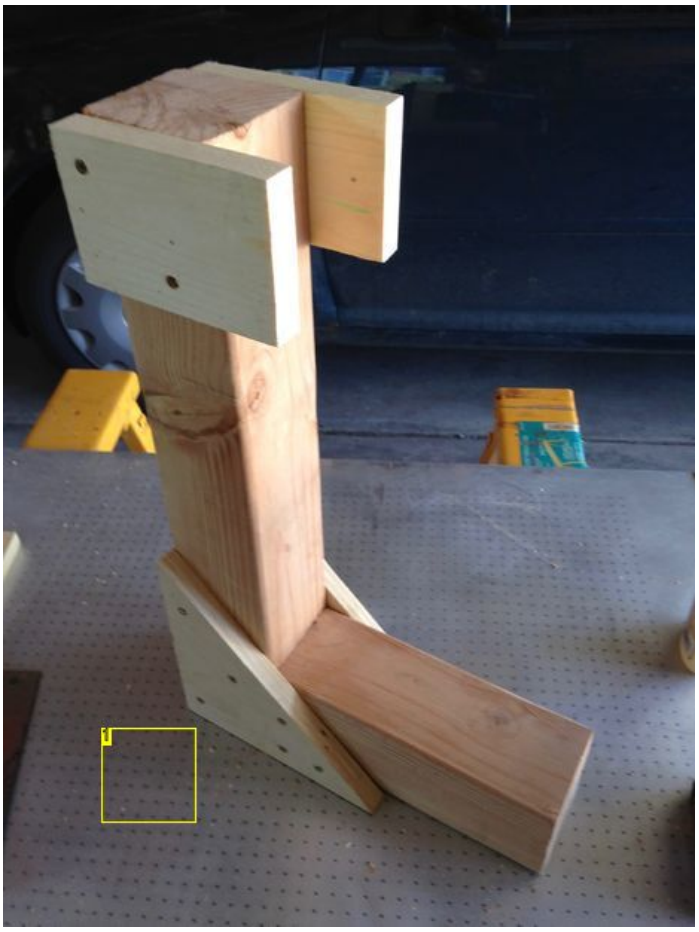

Image Notes
1. How the wood stand should look at this point

Step 3: Mount the saw

Begin by drilling a hole where you want the handle mount to be located- this hole should go through both upper wood pieces. Test fit the handle mounting bolt in the wood pieces- it needs to go all the way through both wood pieces.

Since my saw bolt wasn't long enough I used a forstner bit to make a counterbore for the bolt head so the bolt would reach all the way through. Once this was done I was able to hold the saw in position and slip the bolt through the handle bolt hole to secure the saw to the stand.

Once I was happy with the saw fit I removed it and added the feet to support the stand by attaching the 1" x 4" x 14" long wood boards to the bottom 4" x 4" post using glue and screws.

Image Notes
1. Drilling the handle bolt holes

Image Notes
1. Test fitting the handle bolt

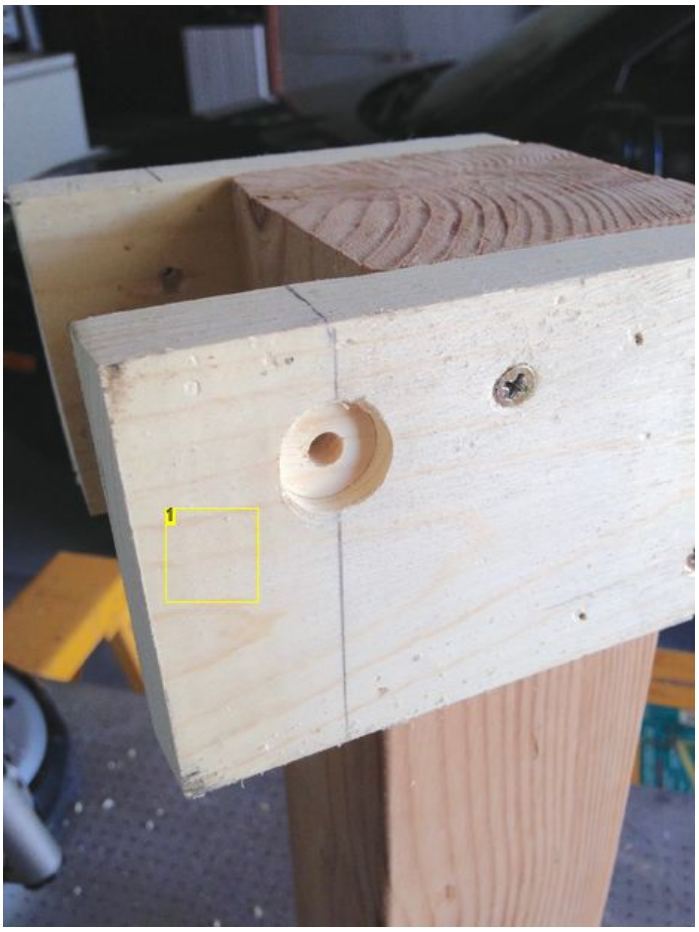

Image Notes
1. Counterbore for the mounting bolt

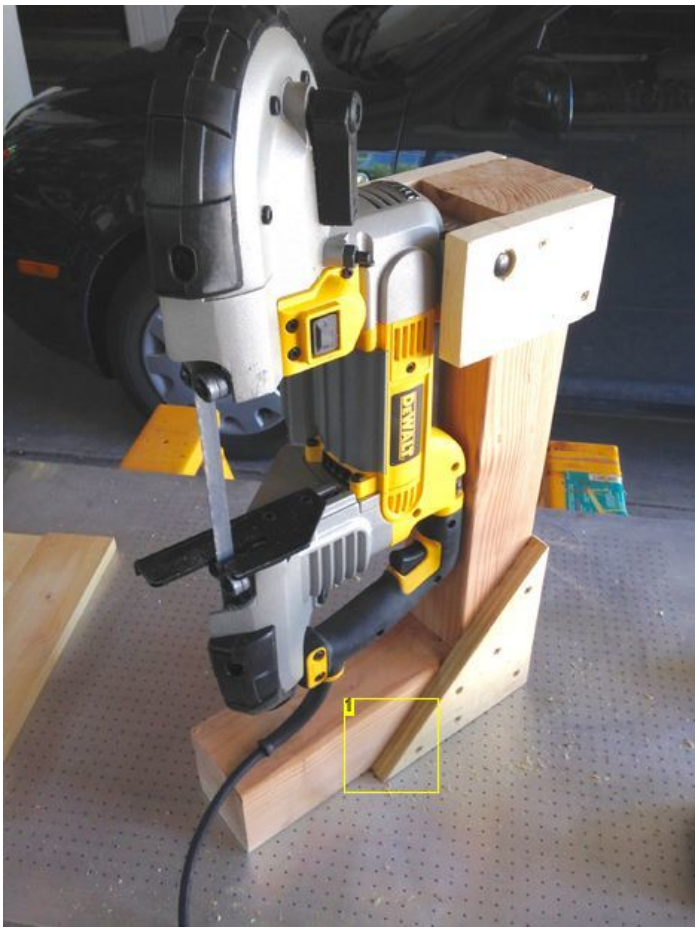

Image Notes
1. Test fitting the saw to the stand

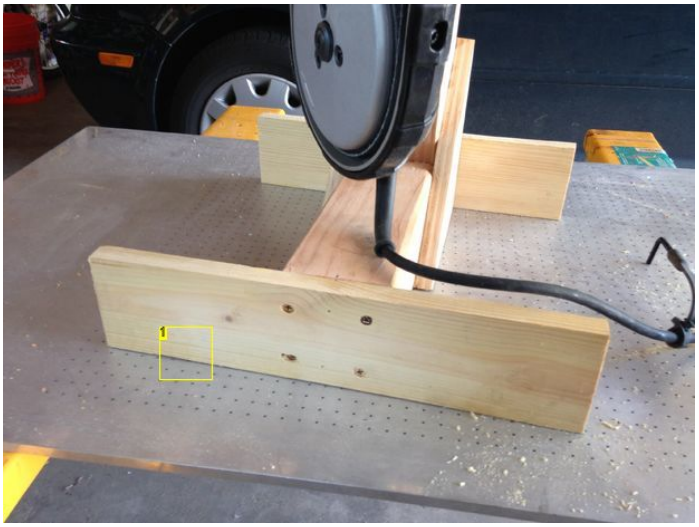

Image Notes
1. Attaching the base feet to the saw stand


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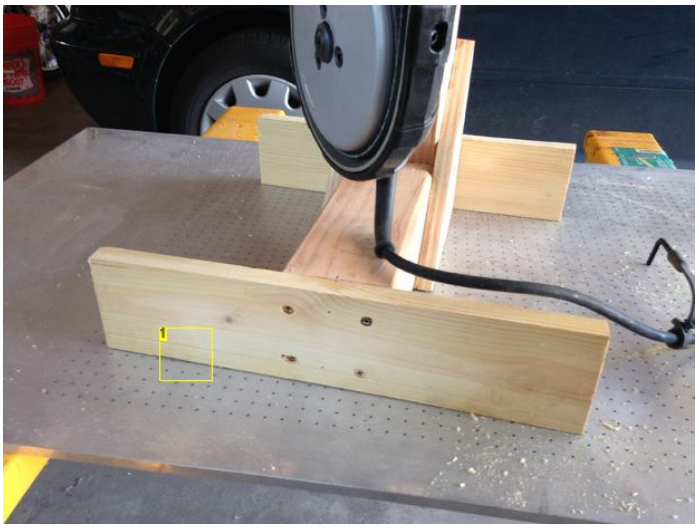


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Step 4: Add a base plate

In order for the saw to be useful a base plate to support material during cutting needs to be added. I used a 12" square of 1/4" thick Aluminum plate to make the base plate- this was a piece of scrap material that I salvaged from an old casting machine. Lots of different materials could be used to make this but the most important thing is that it be rigid.

Remove the blade foot from the saw and set it on top of the base plate. Use the foot as a template to mark a line where the blade needs to fit through and mark the position of the foot mounting holes. Now drill two holes in the plate in order to mount the plate to the saw. I made a countersink for each hole with a drill bit so the mounting screws would sit flush with the top of the plate. Once that was done I cut a slot for the blade and mounted the plate to the saw.

Wrap a large zip tie around the back post and the saw trigger. Now mount a switched power strip to the front of the forward stand foot and plug the saw into the power strip. Now when you turn on the power strip the saw will turn on.

All done!

I've been using my saw like this for over a year and it's been great. I can cut through any material just like before when holding the saw by hand but now I have a much greater degree of control. Cutting small pieces is no longer a problem at all!

If you have any questions when making your own stand please don't hesitate to ask!

Image Notes
1. Removed saw blade foot

Image Notes
1. Loose saw blade foot

Image Notes
1. Using the saw blade foot as a marking guide

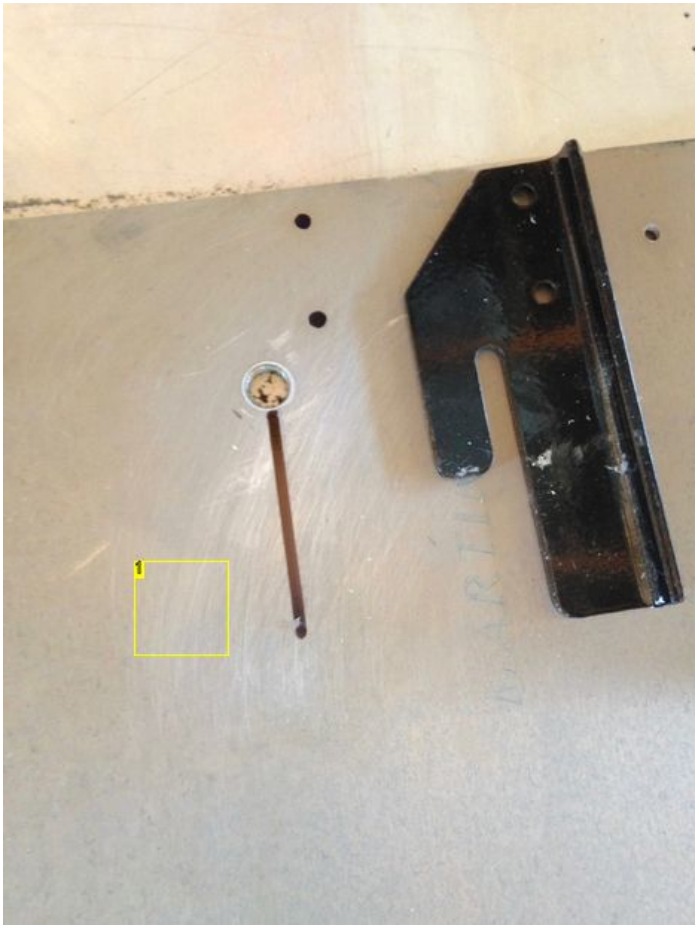

Image Notes
1. Marked locations for blade slot and mounting holes

Image Notes
1. Drilling mounting screw holes

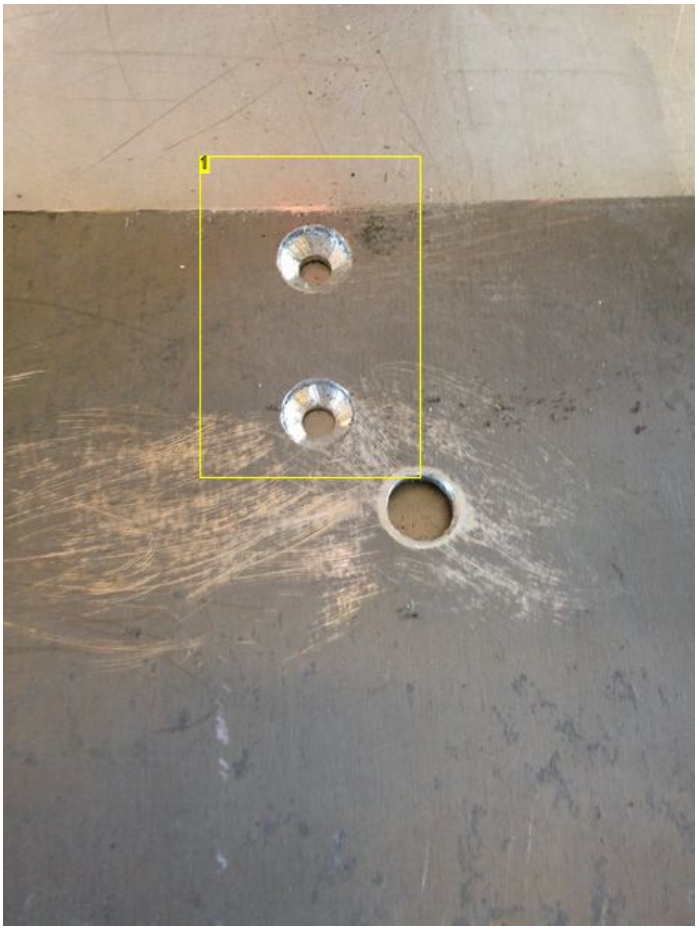

Image Notes
1. Countersunk mounting screw holes

Image Notes
1. Slot cut for the saw blade

Image Notes
1. Saw is plugged into switched power strip
2. Base plate attached to saw