

# Tormek BGM-100 Bench Grinder Mount

by Joseph M. Herrmann

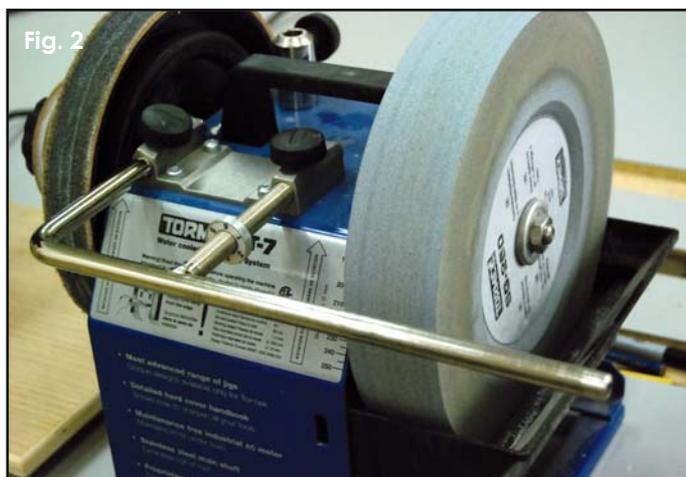
In the Summer 2009 issue (#22), I reviewed the Tormek T-7 water-cooled sharpening system and one of the shortcomings I commented on was the time it took to do the initial shaping of the tools. Granted, Tormek does make a clear distinction between shaping and actual sharpening, but it was still time consuming to grind the tools initially.

To solve this problem, Tormek has come out with a relatively easy fix for that problem. The BGM-100 Bench Grinder Mount (shown in **Fig. 1**) comes with the horizontal base, universal support, mounting hardware, and complete instructions on how to build the grinder platform and use the jigs with a dry grinder. As you can see in **Fig. 2**, it is the same support rod that is used on the T-7.

Jeff Farris of SharptoolsUSA.com was kind enough to send me the BGM-100 and a grinder already mounted on a board so I could try out the new system. Unfortunately,

UPS managed to break the board during shipment (see **Fig. 3**) and I had to remount everything in order to test the system. This turned out to be good, because I found out how easy it is to set up everything.

I just bought some new Thompson turning tools and have been busy making handles for them, so they became the perfect test subjects for the review. The BGM-100 allows me to use the same jigs and setting devices on the bench grinder as I would use on the Tormek T-7. Set up was easy; I just followed the instructions as I would do if I were using the T-7. I set the nose protrusion, set the gouge jig (SVD 185) to the correct setting, and used the turning tool setter (TTS 100) to set the distance between the BGM-100 and the face of the grinding wheel. Grinding the tool was as easy as ever (see **Fig. 4**) and took little time.





The real test, I thought, would come when I moved to the water-cooled wheel to see how accurately the dry ground tool would mate with the wheel on the T-7. As shown in **Fig. 5**, it was perfect. It took only seconds to refine the surface finish and the bevel. You can see the end result in **Fig. 6**.

**Conclusion**

I was extremely impressed with the development of the new jig. I liked the Tormek T-7 a lot, but didn't relish spending the time doing the initial grinding required to shape the tools so I could keep them sharp with the water-cooled wheel. This jig solved the problem and I am extremely happy with the entire system now. Those of you

who are already using the Tormek system, I would recommend that you invest in the new jig. For those who are thinking about purchasing the Tormek system, I would highly recommend that you purchase the BGM-100 as well. And not to leave anyone out, for those of you who use a dry grinder exclusively, the BGM-100 would be a great addition to your sharpening process. Even if the edges are not as sharp and long lasting as a Tormek sharpened edge, the BGM-100, along with the Tormek jigs, will provide unmatched speed, versatility, and repeatability for all your sharpening needs. The BGM-100 retails for \$56.99 and can be purchased from all Tormek dealers. I also want to thank Woodcraft in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for supplying the grinder used for this review.



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