

Task Lighting – Shop Solutions

For detail work, machine operations, and finishing, you will need a few extra lighting fixtures to augment your ambient lighting. Here are a few shop-made and store-bought solutions you can employ to help chase away the shadows, plus some new bulb suggestions.

Find finishing flaws

Strong raking light is handy for revealing flaws when sanding and applying a finish. You can build your own stand and outfit it with as many clamp lights as needed, or purchase a jobsite work light. With either setup, clear halogen bulbs or incandescents are your best bet because they produce the sharpest shadows.



Shine a spot on machinery

Tall machines like bandsaws and drill presses tend to cast shadows where the blade or bit contacts the wood. A swing-arm lamp (Woodcraft # 09L06, \$32.59) can attach to a bench, a nearby joist, or to the machine itself, and direct light where it needed. Originally, this fixture was designed for a 60W incandescent bulb, but a 4W LED provides the same light for less. Compared to incandescents, LEDs withstand vibration, and remain cool to the touch (a real advantage in the event of accidental contact).



Tame tablesaw cuts

A clamp light installed in front of and above the saw will clearly illuminate any gap between board and fence, helping to ensure proper feeding and a straight cut. A halogen or incandescent flood is the best choice for this potential trouble spot.



Focus in on details

Designed for detail work, such as sharpening, scrollsawing, and inlay, this magnifying lamp (Woodcraft #152995, \$104.99) partners a 1.75x magnification lens with built-in bank of 80 LEDs. The lights produce plenty of high-K light for detail work without producing heat—a real plus when performing close-up work.

