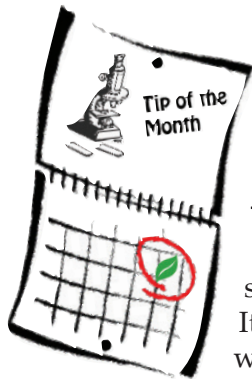


DIAGNOSTICS



Solution for Clamping Branches in the Diagnostic Laboratory

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Do you ever get large branches or logs that need to be sectioned into smaller pieces? It can be difficult to cut into the wood if you do not have a tool to secure it. Traditional bench clamps or vises will work, but may not be the best solution since the branches may loosen or spin in the process of sectioning.

We recently installed a bench chain vise in our laboratory. This tool is designed to clamp pipes and it is exceptional for holding branches tightly and maintaining them in the proper position for cutting. We use this tool routinely for pine wilt testing and removing wood chips for culture analysis.

Although other models are available from various suppliers, we chose the bench chain vise from Northern Tool

Equipment (item number 153790) which states that it holds $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 6 inch diameter pipes (in our case, branches or logs). This tool sells for \$89.99 and is heavily used in our lab. 🌿



Fig 1. The bench chain vise is mounted on the right end of the counter. Mounting at the end of the counter is recommended since you turn a handle to tighten the chain. The composite material of lab benches is hard, so use a sharp drill bit and a drill with variable speed. We drilled slowly to prevent friction and damage to the counter.



Fig 2. Lay the log or branch on the top of the vise. The portion that you desire to cut should point towards you, away from the counter.

Fig 3. Drape the chain over the top of the log or branch.

Fig 4. Using your left hand, push the chain slightly in to latch it and turn the handle with your right hand to tighten the chain.

Fig 5. Once the chain is tight, the log or branch is ready to be cut or chipped with one of your laboratory tools.

Fig 6. The log shown in this demonstration measures slightly less than 6 inches in diameter.

Fig 7. The tool also works will for smaller diameter branches and logs.

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