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## Bring your drill-press crank to the forefront

[WOOD Magazine Staff](#)

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The crank on some drill-press tables swings close enough to the table that you risk a good knuckle-banging with every rotation, especially when making large adjustments. To avoid that, I bought a low-cost trailer jack and mounted it upside down on the drill-press column, as shown. The jack provides more than 12" of adjustment.

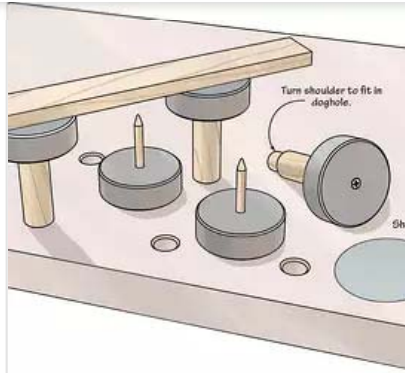
My older-style drill press never had a built-in crank handle, but if yours does, remove the rack side of the gear mechanism. Then, remove the jack's wheel and substitute a wood block that conforms to the bottom of the table support. Make the column-mounting blocks by boring a hole that matches the diameter of the drill-press column into a short length of 2×6. Bandsaw the 2×6 in half to yield the two blocks.

—Joe Eide, Eau Claire, Wis.



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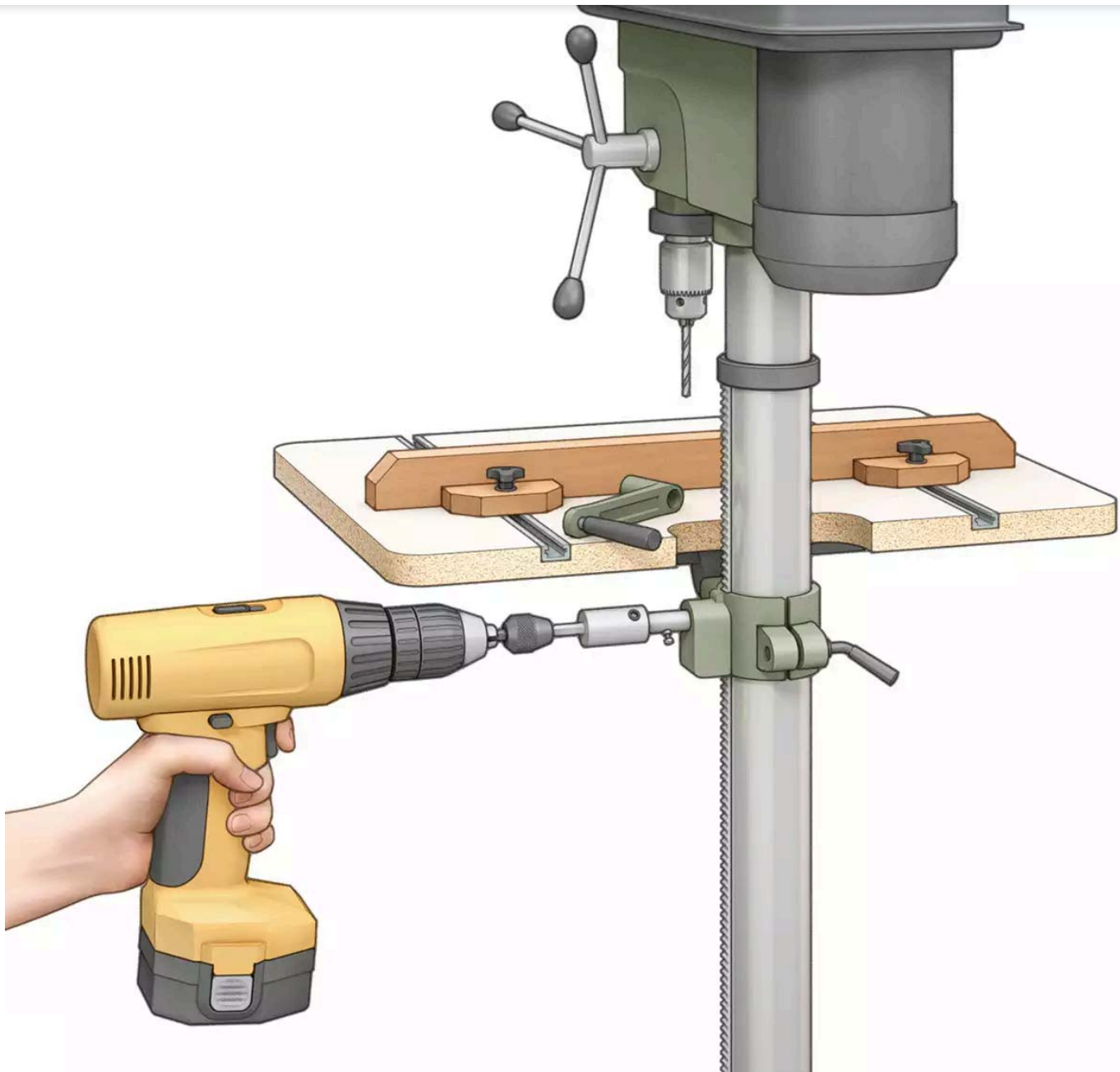
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## Drilling into a Pressing Issue

With the addition of an auxiliary table on my drill press, lowering and raising the table becomes quite the chore. I devised a way to use my portable drill to adjust the table height.

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First, I removed the crank handle from the table. Then, I used an electrician's accessory called Extendo Nut Driver from rack-a-tiers.com. It turns common 1/2" EMT conduit into a custom-length, hollow-shaft driver. The driver end of the Extendo Nut Driver fits into a quick-change chuck on my drill. The opposite end of the driver fits onto a short piece of 1/2" EMT conduit. I drilled and tapped the conduit for a #10 machine screw to engage the flat on the drill press table shaft.

With this setup, raising and lowering the drill-press table is as quick and easy as pulling the trigger.