

## Fine Woodworking on Treenails

*2003 November 5.*

What *Fine Woodworking* magazine (Jan/Feb 2001, p.65) has to say about making small treenails or pegs for pinning joints:

- **Squaring a drilled hole.** Begin by drilling through the leg and tenon with a bit just smaller than the width of the peg. Make sure you don't drill through the other side of the leg. Use a 1/8" chisel to square up the first third of the hole.
- **Making peg stock.** [*... cut ...*]
- **Whittling pegs.** With the pegs cut into 2" lengths, round over the first third with a small knife. Rounding the ends of the pegs prevents them from splitting the legs.
- **Driving it home.** After applying a small amount of glue to both the peg and the hole, tap the peg with a hammer. Keep the peg aligned and stop hammering when the peg bottoms out (you'll hear a change in tone); otherwise, you risk splitting the leg. —

So perhaps I do not need to make a pencil sharpener after all! I have been trying to make *round* treenails, using some variant on the idea of a plane I saw in use on *Duyfken*; I'll give this simpler idea a go.