

Dust Deputy puts the cuffs on sanding dust

A dust collector gobbles up debris created by machines such as a tablesaw, planer, or jointer. But for portable power tools with small dust ports, a shop vacuum works more effectively—that is, until the vac's filter becomes choked with fine dust. If only someone would come up with a device to keep my vac performing at its peak by preventing that dust pack.

Oneida's Dust Deputy does just that. Connected inline between the tool and the vacuum, this heavy steel cyclone separator acts like a full-size cyclone, allowing only the smallest particles to get into the vac's

tub. I'll admit I was skeptical, but my tests made me a believer.

After washing out my vacuum's tub, I connected its hose to Dust Deputy's 2" top outlet. Next, I hooked up another hose (an optional hose kit from Oneida) between the Deputy's 1½" side inlet and my random-orbit sander. Finally, I hogged away a scrap of hard maple with 80-grit paper. After 10 minutes of sanding, I stopped and popped off the vacuum's lid. Only when I wiped the inside of the vac tub did I see a trace of dust. On the other hand, a quick check of Dust Deputy's 10-gallon steel drum

showed the interior completely coated with fine maple dust.

Thinking I hadn't challenged this mini-cyclone enough, I thoroughly cleaned the vac tub and the drum, hooked up my big drum sander to the inlet, and again fired up the vacuum. This time,

I continuously fed 10"-wide maple and walnut boards, stopping only long enough to lower the sanding drum slightly between passes. After abrading more than 40 lineal feet of wide stock, I checked the tub and drum and found the same result: very little dust in the vacuum, and a deep, swirly dune of dust in the

bottom of Dust Deputy's drum. It really performed well. But then it should for \$200 (not including the optional \$30 hose that runs between the tool and the Deputy; you could also use your own).

You can cut your cost in half, though, if you buy the DIY Package that mounts on your own 5-gallon bucket. I assembled this model with a scrap of plywood, gasket material (I used an old router pad), and a few bolts in less than 30 minutes. It worked every bit as well as the Complete system. 🌲

—Tested by Pat Lowry



Dust Deputy

Performance ★★★★★
Price \$200, Complete; \$130, DIY Package