

## Top tip: Drilling out holes in propellor hubs

In the past, on smallish props, I have used a tapered reamer or a hand held step drill. However faced with a large prop for the first time and the need to have a 10mm hole opened up to a 12mm one I thought about how to do it accurately. After all you don't want a wonky or off-centre hole. I realised I must use my drill press. I thought of centring the prop hole with a 10 mm drill, clamping the prop into a machine vice, then swapping to a 12mm drill. There was a risk of marking the prop.

I bought a new step drill that went up to 12mm. The next step down was 10mm and exactly fitted the existing hole. I reasoned that if I hand-held the wood prop over the hole in the drill table, the step drill would centre as I lowered it into the prop hole. As long as I took it gently so the prop didn't snatch, all should be well. As so it was. I drilled down as far as the drill would go then turned the prop over and drilled the rest. Perfect hole, perfectly centred. No marks or damage.

