The Benchcrafted Carver’s Vise is a close reproduction of an original vise manufactured by the Royal Forge tool firm in Paris, late 19th c. The vise we copied is owned by Louis Bois, who also prepared the drawings at the end of these instructions. Louis’ original vise is also pictured below.

For further info on this vise’s utility please visit our blog: http://benchcrafted.blogspot.com/
Click the link at the right that says “Carver’s Vise.”

The carver’s vise can be made in about a day. It takes about 5 board feet of rough lumber. Ideally you should start with 12/4 stock for the thicker jaws. You can resaw the thinner parts from the same stock. The traditional wood is beech, but any dense, hardwood will work fine. When making the base its best to cut away the material for the slide rail before you joint the front jaw. Then after the jaw is joined, plow the groove below the slide rail since it extends clear through to the front of the jaw. The rest of the construction is straightforward. The front jaw is joined to the base with a through dovetail. You should drill all holes for the main screw and nut before joining the jaw to the base. Likewise, use a Vix bit for drilling the attachment holes in all parts. If the rear jaw moves stiffly, simply remove it (it will slide off the rails once you unthread the screw) and plane the bottom edge of the rear jaw assembly. You can join the cheeks to the rear jaw with mortise and tenon, or tongue and groove, or even dowels. The sliding brackets provide the strength. When building the rear jaw assembly its best to make it slightly wider than the base, then tweak the fit by planing the sides of the rear jaw assembly until it slides freely along the slide rails (with the sliding brackets attached of course) without any friction. The threaded stud can be used to slightly tweak the width of the rear jaw assembly, but its mostly there to keep things in alignment. When drilling the counterbore in the front of the jaw, make sure you drill deep enough so the screw hub doesn’t rub any wood once the garter is in place. Once the vise is complete, you may want to add a drop of Locktite to the mushroom nuts on the ends of the handle. You can also use an O-ring (not incl.) below the nuts to soften the impact of the handle as you release it. The cheek cover is not glued in place, but simply registered with four dowels. The stamped logo on the main screw can be filled with enamel paint if you like.
Nearly all the vise components are finished with a hot black oxide, and oiled. You’ll need to remove most of the oil to build the vise and keep the wood clean as you work. Leaving a light film of oil on the parts is okay. The raw parts should be kept lightly oiled.

There are three shorter screws among the many larger flat head wood screws. These are for the rear countersunk hole in the sliding bracket where it joins to the cheeks of the rear jaw. The smallest flat head screws attach the wear plates. Some extra screws are included. The two small fiber washers go under the square nuts on the outside of the sliding brackets. They prevent the nuts from scratching the plates. Before cutting any wood, make sure you double check all vise components to make sure you understand how they fit with the measured drawings. It’s more important to understand how the vise goes together than to be a slave to the prints.
CUSTOM HARDWARE DESIGNED BY BENCHOFAREALED.

THESE ARE A FEW DEVIATIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL VISE TO SUIT}

THEY WERE BUILT AT THE FOCHE BORATE DEPARTMENTS DATING BACK TO

THE DIMENSIONS OF THESE PLANS WERE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM A VISE