

Electronic Tool Tip #12 – PCB Rotisserie Vise

When working with printed circuit boards (PCB's), especially when stuffing and soldering them, it is often much more convenient to have the board raised above the work surface, and to be able to quickly invert the board for work on its opposite surface.

This Tool Tip will showcase a tool that I like to call a “rotisserie” for PCB's. It is a vise that securely holds PCB's of all sizes up to eight inches in length, and of almost any width. However, the ability to completely rotate the board from its upright position to its inverted position and back again in a single direction is limited to those boards of five-and-a-half inches or less in width. This is not that great a limitation, though, as by installing a larger-width board in an offset position, it can be inverted though it cannot be completely rotated around its longitudinal axis.

The rotisserie is mostly made of aluminum and various plastics, and uses thumb screws for securement of the support risers in position on the base. The structural frame is aluminum, while the risers are plastic. The two risers are equipped with pivot-mounted board holders, one of which is spring-loaded to permit easy removal of the board from the vise without having to change the adjustment. The pivot housings are plastic, as are the board holders. The pivot posts are steel, and the pivots are locked by thumbscrews. The base is equipped with rubber feet to keep it from sliding on the work surface.

I found the original configuration to be clumsy, as it had the two base adjustment thumbscrews on opposite sides of the frame, as shown in the photo above. I modified mine by removing the non-sprung pivot from its riser and re-inserting it in the opposite direction. This permitted the reversal of the riser, putting the two base thumbscrews on the same side of the base.

This vise is available online from Amazon, at a price of \$13.56 (USD) plus shipping if you are not an Amazon Prime member. Of course, the government has to get its share, so tax will also be applied. Point your browser to <https://www.amazon.com/Velleman-VTHH6-VP-Circuit-Board-Clamping/dp/B06WD69MG1> if you want to investigate this item for yourself.

