

## Who Said Nature Abhors a Vacuum

March, 2020

Andrew Davis

I'll bet I am not the only EMGW member who has a large drawer in his workshop filled with dust collection paraphernalia – Y fittings, reducers, shop vac hose enlargers, miscellaneous hose adapters, elbows, shoulders, knees, etc. But I will bet that I am the only member who can almost never get a connection to connect. I always seem to have a 2 ½ inch connector trying to mate to an identical 2 ½ inch connector rather than a 2 ¼ inch port. It's doubly frustrating when I think of all the money I've spent. Not to mention the dust.



My problems started when I bought a 2 ½ inch shop vac a few years ago to complement my smaller 1-inch device. But those interconnect problems were easy. Seems that everybody made “converters” and devices to attach anything to a shop vac. Let's hear it for standards, for de-facto and government ordained.

Later I bought a Shop Fox 4" dust collector (and later still a second 4" dust collector from Harbor Freight which seems to work just as well or even better) and on the excellent advice from Jim Tartaglia I invested in 4" Fazlok hard plastic connectors (male and female) for my hoses and machines respectively, Fazlok makes connect/disconnect quick and easy. I can just move one end of the hose around as required since I generally work alone and only one wood working machine is being used at any one time.



Unfortunately, there does not seem to be an easy way to use a crevice tool or round brush or any other tool with the Fazlok hose connector. I think this is related to the Fazlok being made of hard plastic. This is the crux of the challenge: I would like to use a 4" dust collector for bench cleanup and other miscellaneous challenges. But the only thing that fits a Fazlok connector is another Fazlok connector. So, after much more research online, I'm thinking that I might solve my problem with one of those tapered soft rubber adapters (the key is soft rubber rather than hard plastic) that I can get to fit into the end of my 4" hose and then have the other end cut to accept standard shop-vac accessories. Looks like I can get one for \$7.99 + \$5.99 shipping.

Another day, another dollar, another trial.

I'd like to say that the situation sucks, but it doesn't. That's exactly the problem.

