

## Tip 71—Super-Cheap Protection for Your DRO Readout Box/Tom Wheless

For many years, baling wire was the farmer's universal remedy for securing anything loose. Then Duct Tape became the universal repair material. Now people are finding all kinds of uses for ZipLoc® bags and not just in the kitchen. Campers and travelers find them handy for keeping electronics dry or keeping liquids contained in case a container should leak. Anything electronic doesn't benefit from the machining environment, particularly near a mill that tends to throw coolant and chips in all directions. You want your DRO readout box close by so you can easily zero the axes when necessary and read the handwheel position and RPM displays, but you also want to keep it protected. Here is a simple, cheap solution:

“I recently bought a Sherline DRO to accompany my Sherline manual lathe. I love the DRO and the additional precision and functionality it adds, but, as a retired electrical engineer, I worried about oil droplets and small metal bits migrating into the switches and connectors of the DRO and causing problems over time. So, I noticed a Ziploc® quart-sized heavy-duty freezer bag (dimensions: 8 x 7 inches or 200 x 180mm) would fit perfectly over the DRO box, and, kept partially closed with a small binder clip would still allow the wires to exit from the side. The plastic is transparent enough that I could still see the display and switches easily enough, and, when the plastic eventually becomes scratched, dirty or worn, I can easily replace the plastic bag for a few cents.”



*While not overly elegant, here is a readily available, inexpensive and practical solution to keeping your DRO box clean.*

“See the photo above to see how the setup looks on my bench.”