

My lathe, a Powermatic 3520, has a very heavy tailstock as do many other modern lathes. It's a strain on the back to remove it and an even more severe strain to get it aligned and back on. When I turn hollow vessels, I have to remove the tailstock to install the deep hollowing system and put it back on to finish the turning. To solve the problem, I made a parking place for my tailstock that is aligned with the ways of the lathe allowing me to just slide the tailstock off the ways and out of the action. The parking place is just made from a few bolts, some hard maple for the ways, a couple of scrap 2 x 4s, and an 8 foot length of 2 x 8. The assembly bolts onto the end of the lathe. When I want the tailstock out of the way, I just slide it back onto the parking place and when I need it again, I just slide it into place – no alignment needed and easy on the back. An additional benefit is in the additional space when hollowing a bowl. No more stabs in the elbow from a live center.

