

ROCKLER Complete Dovetail Jig

Rockler Complete Dovetail Jig Instruction Manual

Brand: ROCKLER | Model: Complete Dovetail Jig

1. INTRODUCTION

The Rockler Complete Dovetail Jig is designed to simplify the process of creating precise through and half-blind dovetail joints. This versatile woodworking tool ensures accuracy and efficiency, making it suitable for both experienced craftsmen and those new to dovetailing. Its robust design and intuitive operation allow for consistent, high-quality results in various woodworking projects, from drawers to cabinetry.



Figure 1.1: Example of a finished dovetail joint created with the jig.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when operating power tools. Failure to follow safety guidelines can result in serious injury.

- Read and understand the entire instruction manual before operation.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, hearing protection, and dust mask.
- Ensure the workpiece is securely clamped before routing to prevent movement.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of the router bit during operation.
- Disconnect power to the router before making any adjustments or changing bits.
- Work in a well-lit and clear area, free from obstructions.
- Ensure proper ventilation to minimize dust inhalation.

3. WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your Rockler Complete Dovetail Jig kit includes the following components:

- (1) Dovetail Router Jig
- (2) Phenolic Templates
- (1) 1/2" x 14° x 8mm Shank, Carbide-Tipped Router Bit
- (1) 1/2" x 8° x 8mm Shank, Carbide-Tipped Router Bit
- (1) 5/16" x 8mm Shank, Straight Carbide-Tipped Router Bit
- (1) 1/2" to 8mm Collet Adapter
- (1) 7/16" Guide Bushing (fits Porter Cable router opening for Guide Bushings)
- (1) Detailed eight-page instruction booklet



Figure 3.1: All components included in the Dovetail Jig kit.



Figure 3.2: Router bits, collet adapter, and guide bushing.

4. SETUP

Proper setup is crucial for accurate dovetail joints. Follow these steps to prepare your jig for use:

1. **Mounting the Jig:** The dovetail jig features two holes in its base for permanent attachment to a workbench or a stable, shop-built movable base. Secure the jig firmly to prevent any movement during operation.
2. **Install Bushing Guide:** Screw the appropriate bushing guide into your router's base plate.
3. **Install Router Bit:** Insert the correct router bit for your desired joint type (dovetail or straight) into the router's collet and tighten securely.
4. **Marking Depth:** Use a marking gauge to carefully mark the desired depth of your dovetail on the workpiece. This mark will serve as a reference for setting the bit height.

5. **Set Bit Height:** Adjust the router bit height to align with the marked depth on your workpiece.
6. **Select Template:** Choose the appropriate phenolic template based on the stock thickness and joint type (half-blind or through dovetail). The jig includes preset router jigs and a template guide for quick initial setup for 1/2" to 3/4" thick stock.



Figure 4.1: Dovetail Jig mounted on a workbench, ready for use.



Figure 4.2: Detailed view of the template guide for stock thickness settings.

Setup Demonstration Video

Video 4.1: This video demonstrates the initial setup of the Rockler Dovetail Jig, including installing the bushing guide and router bit, and marking the depth on the workpiece. (Relevant segment: 0:25 - 0:40)

5. OPERATION

Once the jig is set up, you can begin routing your dovetail joints:

1. **Clamp Workpiece:** Securely clamp the stock in place on the jig. Ensure it is flush against the stops and clamped tightly.
2. **Routing Tails:** Begin by routing the tails. Carefully guide the router along the template, ensuring consistent pressure and movement. Pay close attention to the direction of routing to avoid damaging the workpiece.

3. **Routing Pins:** After routing the tails, change to the straight bit and the appropriate template for pins. Unlike routing tails, you will need to flip the stock to the other side of the jig, almost like a book-case, where one side mirrors the other. Route the pins with care, following the template.
4. **Test Fit:** After routing both tails and pins, test fit the joint. The jig allows for minor adjustments to loosen or tighten the joint as necessary.



Figure 5.1: Workpiece clamped in the jig for routing.



Figure 5.2: The jig can be used with a dust collection system for a cleaner workspace.

Operation Demonstration Video

Video 5.1: This video illustrates the routing process for both tails and pins, demonstrating how to properly use the jig for precise cuts. (Relevant segment: 0:40 - 0:52 for tails, 0:56 - 0:59 for pins)

6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and continued accuracy of your Rockler Dovetail Jig, perform the following maintenance tasks:

- **Cleaning:** After each use, clean the jig thoroughly to remove sawdust and debris. A brush or compressed air can be effective.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a light coat of machine oil to moving parts and threaded rods to ensure smooth operation.

- **Bit Care:** Keep router bits sharp and clean. Dull bits can lead to poor cuts and increased strain on your router.
- **Storage:** Store the jig in a dry, clean environment to prevent rust and damage.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and their solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Joints are too loose or too tight	Incorrect bit height or jig adjustment.	Adjust the router bit height or the jig's stop bar as per the instruction booklet to achieve the desired fit. Small adjustments yield significant changes.
Collet adapter gets stuck in router	Adapter may be too tight or not properly seated.	Ensure the collet adapter is clean and free of debris. If it consistently gets stuck, consider using a higher quality collet reducer with an oversized lip to prevent it from sliding too far into the collet.
Router bits do not fit my router	Incompatibility with router model.	The included bits are 8mm shank. Ensure your router's collet can accommodate 8mm shanks, or acquire an appropriate collet adapter for your specific router model.
Rough or chipped cuts	Dull router bit, incorrect feed rate, or improper clamping.	Replace or sharpen dull bits. Adjust feed rate to a steady, controlled pace. Ensure workpiece is securely clamped to prevent vibration.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Brand:** ROCKLER
- **Style:** Compact
- **Item Package Dimensions:** 22.2 x 13 x 7.8 inches
- **Package Weight:** 10.5 Kilograms
- **Country of Origin:** Taiwan
- **Joint Types:** Half-blind dovetail joints (1/2" to 1-1/8" thick stock), Full through dovetails (3/8" to 3/4" thick stock)

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information and customer support, please refer to the official Rockler website or the contact information provided in the detailed instruction booklet included with your product. Rockler is committed to providing high-

quality woodworking tools and support to its customers.

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Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

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