

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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In this plan you will be getting:

- Step by Step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Exploded view and elevation drawings.
- How-to photos with instructive captions.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.



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Router Mortising Made Easy



Published in Woodworker's Journal "Woodworking for the Home Hobbyist: 27 Great Projects and Techniques for your Woodshop"

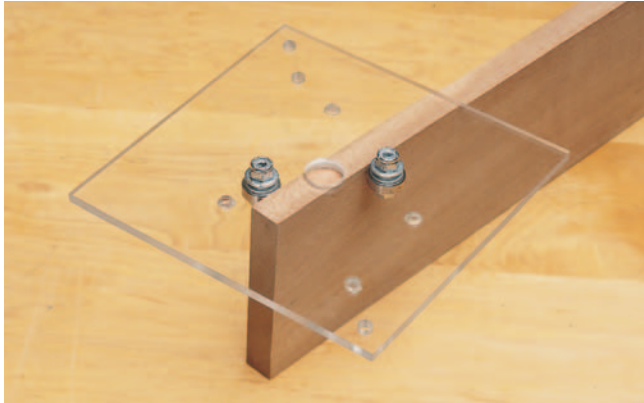
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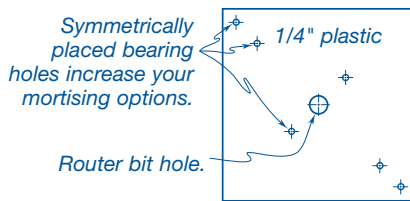
Router Mortising Made Easy

Plunge routers cut mortises cleanly and easily, but centering the router over the work can be finicky and time-consuming. This mortising jig takes the effort out of the centering process without sacrificing precision. A pair of bearings on the baseplate straddle the workpiece, which automatically centers the bit on the wood.





Drill extra bearing guide holes closer together for mortising narrower stock. This allows you to get closer to the ends of a board.



Drill countersunk holes to match your router base mounting pattern.

There isn't much to this jig, but it's been one of contributing editor Rick White's favorites for years. It's a mortising guide that automatically centers itself on the edge of just about any board. With it, you'll cut perfect mortises every time, right down the center of your workpiece. All you need is a plunge router and a straight bit with a diameter that matches your intended mortise. Clamp a 1/4" piece of plywood to one side of your stock, and you can even form an off-center mortise. Like most of the jigs that earn a spot in Rick's shop, simplicity, flexibility and ease of use are key.

The jig is just a simple, 3/8"-thick Plexiglas™ router base, with ten holes drilled in it. Two of these holes are occupied by 5/16" bolts that hold 5/16" ID bearings in place with the help of a washer and aircraft nuts. (Contact Eagle America; 800-872-2511 or www.eagleamerica.com for supplies.) The bearings can be moved to any set of mated holes to accommodate various board thicknesses. Three holes are used to mount the base to the router, and the last hole is for the bit.

To change the width of a mortise, just change the bit to one of a different diameter. You can even leave this base on the router permanently as a replacement for the original baseplate. In that case, just remove the bearings when you're performing other tasks.



QuickTip

New Lines for Older Eyes

As we get older and our eyes follow suit, you may find it harder and harder to see pencil lines on darker woods such as walnut, mahogany and rosewood. One of our readers wrote in to suggest using a sharp, white colored pencil instead. He uses one made by Primacolor, (#PC 938) to draw layout lines. The pencil is available at any art supply store and allows for easier, accurate cutting. The white line is highly visible and sands off easily.