



# INSTRUCTION SHEET

D3156

## Sliding Dovetail Template

### INTRODUCTION

When combined with the D2796 Dovetail Jig, this Sliding Dovetail Template allows you to quickly and accurately produce high quality sliding dovetail joints. Additional tool requirements include a hand-held router, a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " guide bushing, and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " 14° dovetail router bit.

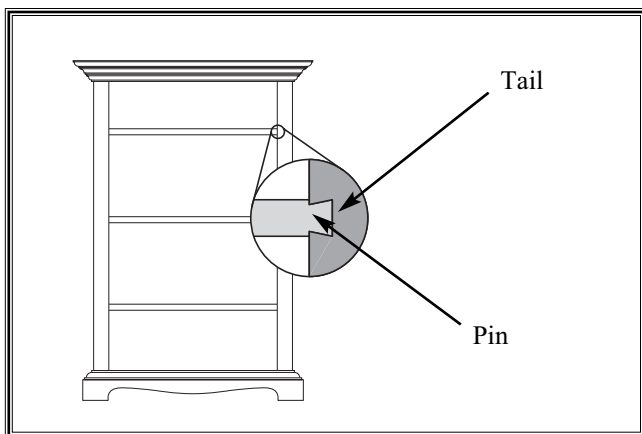


Figure 1. Typical sliding dovetail joint.

### WORKPIECE PREPARATION

- When cutting workpieces to length, allow an extra  $\frac{5}{16}$ " of length for EACH dovetail pin.
- When cutting workpieces to width, allow an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of width. The extra width allows the workpiece to be cut to final width after the routing operation, thus, removing any tear out that may have occurred.
- Position the workpiece so the widest end of the pin is routed on the most visible edge (Figure 2).

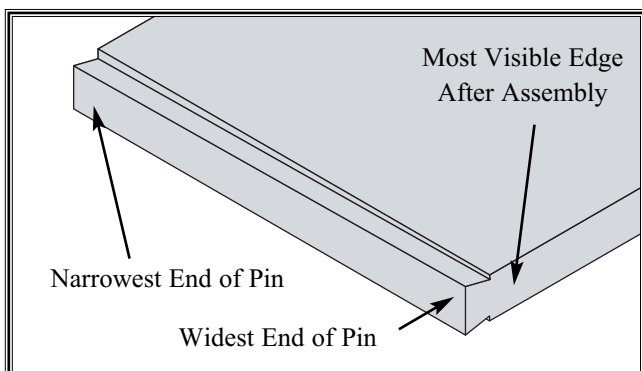


Figure 2. Illustration of pin taper.

## ⚠ WARNING

Read and follow the manufacturer's instruction manuals for all power tools used when making sliding dovetail joints. Serious personal injury could result from failure to follow this warning.

### SET UP

1. Install a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " 14° dovetail router bit and a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " guide bushing on your hand-held router. Note—*Contact your router manufacturer for available guide bushings.*
2. Adjust the the router bit depth to  $1\frac{1}{32}$ ".
3. Loosen the adjustment bolts on the left side stops and adjust the stops to the far left of the jig.
4. Retighten the adjustment bolts.

### ROUTING THE PINS

1. Place the workpiece vertically in the front clamp with the top edge of the workpiece against the bottom face of the template.
2. Slide the left edge of the workpiece to within  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the left end of the template cut-out.
3. Clamp the workpiece into position. Note—*Do not worry about precise positioning during this step.*
4. Loosen the template adjustment knobs and center the template over the workpiece as shown in Figure 3.

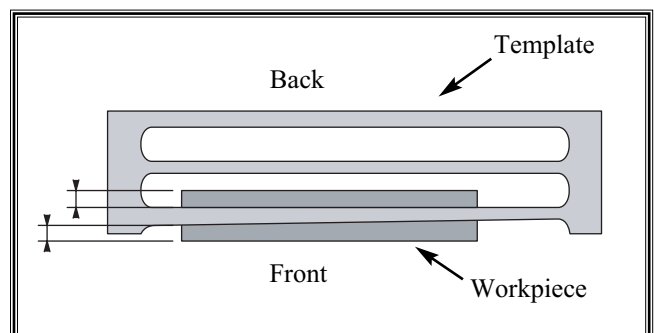
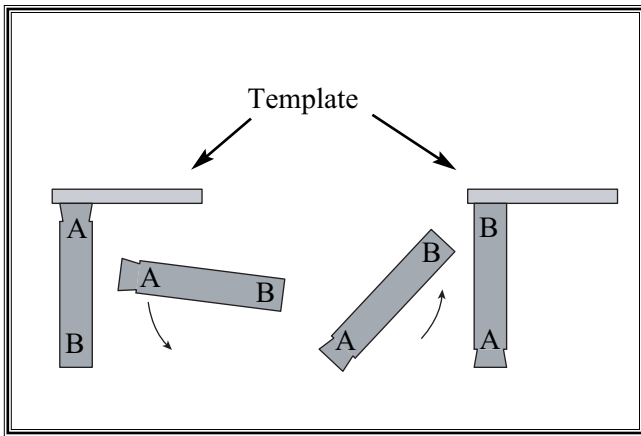


Figure 3. Centering the template over the workpiece.

5. Retighten the template adjustment knobs.
6. Before starting the router, position it on the jig and make sure the bit does not touch the template or the jig.
7. Turn the router on and carefully rout along one edge of the workpiece.
8. Before lifting the router from the template, turn the router off and wait until it has come to a complete stop.
9. Rout along the second edge of the workpiece by repeating **steps 6-8**.
10. Unclamp and flip the workpiece (**Figure 4**).

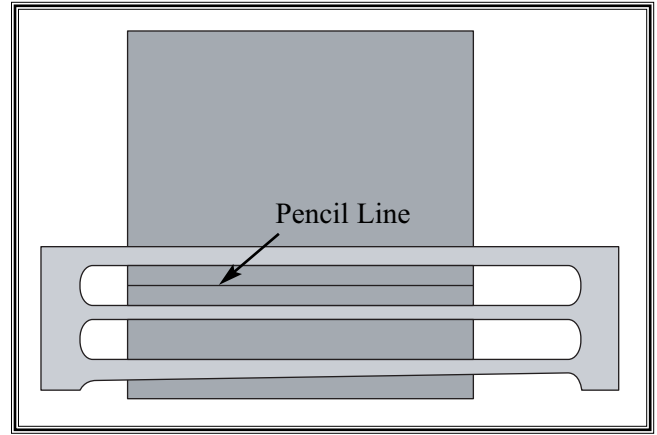


**Figure 4.** Flipping the workpiece (side view).

11. Rout the pin on the opposite end of the workpiece.

## ROUTING THE TAILS

1. Using a pencil, draw a line along the desired path of the sliding dovetail groove.
2. Place the workpiece horizontally in the top clamp.
3. Clamp the workpiece into position. Note—*Do not worry about precise positioning during this step.*
4. Loosen the template adjustment knobs and center the template over the pencil line as shown in **Figure 5**. Note—*Make sure the line is parallel to the template guide.*



**Figure 5.** Centering the template over the pencil line for the sliding dovetail groove.

5. Retighten the template adjustment knobs.
6. Before starting the router, position the router on the jig and make sure the bit will not hit the template or the jig.
7. Turn the router on and carefully rout the entire sliding dovetail groove.
8. Before lifting the router from the template, turn the router off and wait until it has come to a complete stop.

## ASSEMBLING THE JOINT

- If routed correctly, the sliding dovetail joint will only require minimal glue.
- Slide the narrow tapered end of the pin into the edge of the tail that faces the front of the assembly. The wide tapered end of the pin will end up facing the front of the assembly, resulting in a tight-looking joint.
- Do not use a hammer or a mallet to force the joint together. If the joint does not slide together easily, the taper of the pin can be rerouted smaller. Repeat **steps 1-8** in the **ROUTING THE PINS** section; however, in **step 2** position the workpiece about 1" farther away from the left end of the template cut-out. If the joint still does not slide together easily, incrementally rout the taper smaller until it does.

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