



MATCHFIT DOVETAIL CLAMPS PROJECT PLAN

2-in-1 Straight Edge Guide

Original project idea and project plan by Ralph Bagnall



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

While the basic design has been around for some time, this versatile straight edge guide is even better when created to work with MATCHFIT Dovetail Clamps by MICROJIG.



One side of the guide is for your favorite circular saw, the other for cutting or grooving with your router. And you won't need to figure out the offset of your cutter, just set the guide to your cut line and clamp it from the underside. MATCHFIT Dovetail Clamps can slide the length of the guide to hold any piece the guide fits over.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

Tools:

- Circular Saw
- Router
- Router Table
- Table Saw
- 1/2" Diameter 14° Dovetail Router bit
- Clamps
- MATCHFIT Dovetail Clamp Set

Materials:

- 1/8" or 1/4" Masonite
- 10" Wide X Desired Length
- 3/4" Straight Grained Hardwood or Plywood
- Stock – 2" Wide X Desired Length
- Wood Glue

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1 - PREPARE THE MASONITE

Start by ripping a section of 1/8" or 1/4" Masonite, 10" wide by as long as you want the guide to be.

STEP 2 - PREPARE THE CLEAT

Mill a 2" wide by 3/4" thick cleat from a piece of straight-grained hardwood or plywood stock, made as long as the Masonite. This must have two very straight and parallel edges as they will guide your tools.

STEP 3 - GLUING

The wood cleat is glued to the bottom of the Masonite about 3" in from one edge. Wipe away any squeeze out so it will not interfere with the tool guiding along the wood.

It should be mounted as parallel to the edge of the Masonite as possible, but the Masonite will be trimmed so it is not critical.



STEP 4 - TRIMMING EDGES

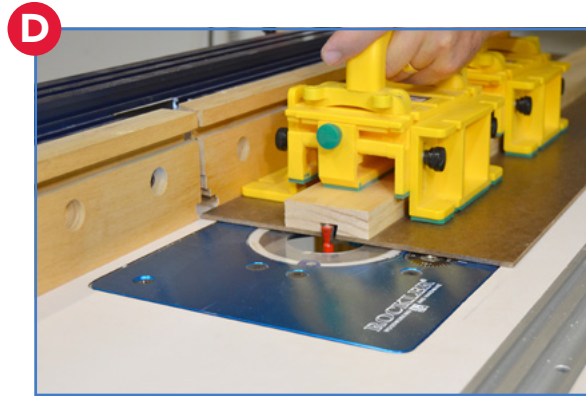
Once the glue has thoroughly dried, **A** the circular saw is guided down the cleat on the wider side of the Masonite to trim it off at the actual saw cut line. Now you always know right where the saw will cut. **B** A router fitted with a 1/2" straight bit is run down the other side of the base to trim that side to the actual cut line. Now both edges are exactly parallel to the cleat that guides the tools.



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 5 - CREATE THE DOVETAIL GROOVE/TRACK

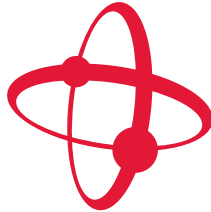
C A 1/4" wide by 5/16" deep groove is cut through the Masonite base and into the bottom of the wood cleat as a relief slot for the dovetail bit. **D** Then a 1/2" wide, 3/8" deep dovetail groove is cut centered on the relief groove.



USING THE MATCHFIT 2-IN-1 STRAIGHT EDGE GUIDE

The ends of the guide can be cross cut at this time. Now the guide is ready to work. Just set it in place on top of your stock, **E** slide the MATCHFIT Dovetail Clamps in from each end and then secure the guide to your stock. Because the clamps are under the guide, they do not interfere with using a square to align the guide.





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Enjoy!



Woodworking is an inherently dangerous activity. Be sure to know and follow all safety guidelines that come with your power tools.



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