AKEDA

INDEX STRIP ADJUSTMENT

The Index Strip

The index strip determines the position of the guide fingers and prevents them moving sideways. It slides into the rear guide rail. On older model jigs it is crimped in place, and on newer models it stays in place from friction. Either can be adjusted, and it's surprisingly easy to do.

Caution

The index strip is preset at the factory flush left, which means it is centered in your jig. This position suits work pieces in 1/8" increments, regardless of which end of the jig you work from.

Adjusting the index strip is for advanced users, because centering the index strip on an odd width of work piece clamped at the left end of the jig, will almost surely mean the index strip is NOT centered on the same odd width work piece clamped at the right end of the jig, making a realignment adjustment necessary.

So why would you need to adjust the index strip?

- You want to increase or decrease the size of your half pins. Increasing one half pin will cause the other half pin to decrease by the same amount.
- You want to center the index strip to a work piece that's not an exact increment of 1/8", and you want equal size half pins.
- You want to deliberately form uneven size half pins.
- You want to center the index strip to the jig because you're working from both ends.
- You want to adjust the index strip so it's properly aligned flush left with the guide rail.
- You wish to deliberately adjust the index strip during routing to create special joinery.

Directions

- Remove all the guide fingers and work pieces from the jig.
- Prepare a piece of hardwood, approx. 3/4" x 3/4" x 3" long. Also prepare another similar sized block of hardwood to use as a "striker".
- Install one tail guide at the left end of the jig, close to the crimp
- Rest the hardwood against the root of the tail guide, flat up against the rear guide rail.
- Being careful not to damage the rear guide rail, gently tap the hardwood block with the "striker" to cause the tail guide, and therefore the index strip, to shift sideways.
- Measure between the tail guide, and either your work piece or the jig end plate, to check the alignment. Repeat the process until the index strip is exactly where you want it to be.

Won't the index strip move as soon as I use the jig?

No! It won't shift after you've adjusted it because the friction between the guide rail and a single guide finger exceeds the steady force you apply by hand or with your router.

The index strip seems too loose?

Remove the guide rail from the jig. On older model jigs, carefully reset the crimp with a blunt tool, or file away the crimp and kink the index strip instead.

On newer model jigs, you can increase the kink. You cannot over-kink the index strip because it unkinks the moment you slide it into the extrusion. Caution, constant overflexing will eventually fatigue the stainless steel, and it will crack. If you remove the guide rail from the jig for any reason, always re-check the index strip alignment. As a rule, zero it flush left in the guide rail, and in order to ensure consistency of alignment. always tighten the left hand screw first.

Can I fix the index strip in place permanently?

You can, but we strongly advise against it because you may need to adjust it in the future.

If you must fix it permanently, apply one or two drops of cyano-acrylate adhesive (also known as Crazy Glue or Super Glue) to the index strip at one end. CAUTION - follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully to avoid skin bonding.

Note 1: You can adjust the index strip to center it on a work piece that's not an exact increment of 1/8", but remember, doing so will change the relationship between the guide fingers and your work piece at both ends of the jig.

Note 2: The index strip on later model jigs is features a small kink which holds the index strip in place with friction. The kinked strip will move with less effort,

Note 3: On earlier model jigs, the index strip is held in place with a crimp. This make it more difficult, and sometimes impossible to adjust. In this case, forcing the index strip to move may damage it. So if you have a jig with a crimped index strip, be extra careful. If you have the appropriate skills, you can file away the crimp material with needle files (jeweler's files, then kink the index strip slightly before you reinstall it.

Note 4: The dimple in the guide rail is only used as a guide for installing the first guide finger, and should not be used for accurate positioning.