



Larger Capacity Akeda Jig

WE GAVE THE 16" Akeda dovetail jig our Editor's Choice award in 2007 because it was precise and easy to use. Akeda has recently introduced a 24" model, suitable for a blanket chest or other large casework, using the same clever system of snap-in, indexed guide fingers.

The Akeda DC16 and BC24 jigs excel at creating variable-spaced half-blind or through dovetails. (Variable-spaced dovetails generally have wide tails and narrow pins, following the tradition of hand-cut work.) The guide fingers may be positioned anywhere along the jig in 1/8" increments. These jigs offer five different dovetail angles, from 7° to 20°, for 1/4" to 3/4"-thick stock. (A new 6° bit and pin guide for 1" stock will be available sometime this year.) Why all the choices? Akeda suggests that dovetails with a wide angle look best in thin stock, and are stronger, while dovetails with a narrow angle are best used for thick stock. These angles are produced by using five matched sets of guide fingers and dovetail bits.

Using the Akeda is very simple. You don't have to adjust the jig or do a lot of trial-and-error cutting to get the joint to fit right. The key to this simplicity is a set of dovetail bits and Porter-Cable-style guide bushings manufactured by Akeda. Standard bits and bushings won't work. The basic jigs do not come with any bits, however; they're available in various sets to suit your needs. The dust collection port, which works very well, is a \$30 accessory.

Source: Akeda, www.akeda.com, (877) 387-6544, Akeda BC24 Blanket Chest Jig, \$440; BC24 Jig, 7 pc. Bit Set and Dust Collector Kit, \$499.



A Hundred Jigs In One

THE ROUTER-EASE Guide is an American-made tool designed to meet the needs of both the weekend enthusiast and the professional.

The Router-Ease Guide functions as a two- or four-sided adjustable jig/template, so it eliminates down-time used to design and build jigs or templates for particular routing tasks. It can be set for cutting dados, stop dados, rabbets, hinge mortises, pocket mortises, fluting or sink cutouts on countertops. The Router-Ease Guide can even be used to cut dados on an angle such as the short, stopped dados used in louvered shutters or doors.

Two innovations make this guide easy to use: the Gauge Block and the Dado Block. Both are included with the Router-Ease Guide and are used to quickly and accurately set the guide arms. The Dado Block is used with a 1/2" straight bit and the included sub-base. The Gauge block is stepped to allow for the use of 1/2", 3/8", and 1/4" bits. Simply set the appropriate block along a guide arm, move the arm until the block touches your layout line and tighten the lock-down knob.

Available in three stock sizes and custom sizes.

Source: REG, Inc., www.routereaseguide.com, (508) 763-4136, Router-Ease Guide, \$176 to \$236 depending on size.



Fully-Featured Benchtop Table

A SMALL BENCHTOP router table should have all the important features of a large floor model: a thick top with a slick plastic-laminate skin; a miter slot, for holding a miter gauge or featherboard; a large phenolic insert plate that's easy to level; a split fence, for creating minimal-clearance openings around a bit; T-track above the

fence, for installing a safety shield or additional featherboard; and a 3" dia. dustport. Whew. Let's see: did we

leave anything out? You get all of this, and more, with Kreg's new compact router table. Its top measures a generous 16" by 24". The unit stands 20" tall, including the 4" tall fence, and weighs only 26 lbs—perfect for carrying across the shop from a storage shelf to your bench, or for hauling to a job site.

Source: Kreg Tool company, www.kregtool.com, (800) 447-8638, Precision Benchtop Router Table, PRS2000, \$229.