

Akeda Dovetail Jig Proves Adjustment-free

Most of my experience with dovetail jigs included a great deal of fussing to set things up accurately. So Akeda's boast of being a "variable pitch dovetail jig that's completely free of adjustments" sounded a little too good to be true. Well, I was wrong.

The jig comes fully assembled from the factory. Once it's out of the box, there's some required reading to understand the principle of the jig, but the mechanics are simple and nearly foolproof. In use, the pieces to be machined are held in place against either vertical or horizontal clamping bars that are tightened with a removable handle.

Pin and tail guides are simply snapped in place where you want them. By adjusting a dovetail bit in your router, you can go to town making half-blind dovetails all day long. With a simple bit change you can make through-dovetails with similar ease.

Even without making test pieces (I'm impatient) the Akeda jig cut tight, excellent dovetails. Understanding the pin and tail snap-in system has a learning curve, but after one drawer I felt confident enough to put

aside the instruction book and grab the router.

The basic Akeda jig provides everything you need (including a $\frac{7}{16}$ " router template guide) for 7° through- and half-blind dovetails with adjustable spacing in $\frac{1}{8}$ " increments. You can buy optional accessory packs to expand the variety to 9°, 11°, 14° and 20° dovetails. You also can make sliding dovetails and box joints with the jig with the proper accessories.

Another optional accessory pack allows you to hook a shop vacuum to the jig, which makes routing dovetails tidier.

This is an accurate, easy-to-use dovetail jig that offers a good range of design versatility. At \$299 (\$550 with all the accessories) you get no-hassle joinery with a lot of options for a pretty reasonable price.

— David Thiel



SPECIFICATIONS

Akeda DC-16 Dovetail Jig

Street price: \$299

Joints: Through, half-blind

Capacity: Max 16" wide and 1" thick

Spacing increment: $\frac{1}{8}$ "

Dovetail angles: 7°

Performance: ●●●●○

Price range: \$\$\$\$

Akeda Jigs: 877-387-6544 or akedajigs.com