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ShortCuts

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TOOL TEST[©]

Rating system:

- Below Average Quality.
- Average Quality.
- Very Good Quality/Value.
- Excellent Quality/Value.
- A ShortCuts Best Buy

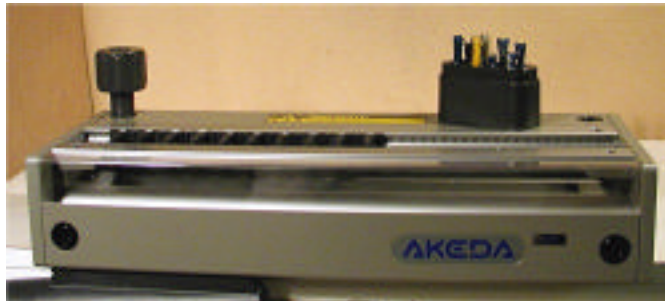
Pigs Can Fly

As rare as a Blue Moon is a pig that can fly. A flying pig is the logo of Akeda, a Canadian manufacturer of one of the finest Dovetail Jig that we have used. The Akeda is a ***** 16" jig that can do just about every dovetail joint and combination joint that we are aware of. This is a high quality machine and it has lots of accessories but the DC Kit contains all you will need including five dovetail router bits of varying angles.

Problems Solved

One of the major problems with most dovetail jigs is the platform width. Some are just too narrow to comfortably support the full router base. The Akeda gives you plenty of stable surface so there is no chance of the router tilting.

Dust and wood chips are another problem. The DC Kit provides a duct that connects to a shop vacuum to keep the work area clean and clear. The Dc Kit is about \$250 and the Akeda DC-16 Jig sells around the \$300 range.



One Control

The Akeda has a parallel clamping system controlled by a single knob. The knob is removable and fits in one of four positions so it's perfect for left or right-hand users. A turn of the knob tightens the work piece in the precise position so it's impossible for the work to out of parallel with the guide rails.

Setting up the guide fingers is a snap, literally. They simply snap into position and the explicit manual tells you how to position them and which types to use. The manual is so easy to read that you will be making perfect through, half-blind and rabbeted dovetails immediately.

Graham McCulloch is a Woodworker and writer and lives in Halifax.

*Drop us a note by writing to ShortCuts, c/o Sunday Homes, The Halifax Daily News, P.O. Box 8330, Station 'A', Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5M1. Or you can E-mail us at **graham@dbis.ns.ca**. Need woodworking or do-it-yourself product information? More than 10,000 products and services can be found at the Woodworkers Resource Center on the AtlanticCo® hosted ShortCuts web site at <http://www.shortcuts.ns.ca> .*