

WOODCENTRAL 2005 APRIL 14-19

Subject: AKEDA Dovetail Jig opinions please!
Posted By: rpierce000@centurytel.net
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2005

I saw AKEDA at the Seattle/Tacoma show and have been mulling over the purchase. Are there any owners out there with positive or negative feedback? Did you buy the jig or the larger kit?

The following posts are in response:

Subject: Re: AKEDA Dovetail Jig opinions please!
Posted By: ehammarlund@wrtoole.com
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2005

I purchased the entire kit. I had never used a dovetail jig before and my first attempt at using this one was on a simple pine toy box with 16" wide (high) sides. The AKEDA worked flawlessly right out of the box using a porter cable router. I almost purchased the Leigh, but am very happy with the AKEDA. And the vacuum attachment works good...sometimes gets clogged.

It is a little pricey but worth it. It worked even better in hardwoods...soft woods had a tendency to splinter even when working slowly. It takes a few passes to learn the best method. At first I plowed through it and then learned to take smaller passes.

Subject: AKEDA Dovetail Jig: My 2 cents... *LINK*
Posted By: calvinc@mailblocks.com
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2005

I too saw one at the Seattle show. I own a Leigh and at one point a year ago I took a Saturday and was able to work through the user guide and make a good joint. Problem is, I shouldn't have stopped. I would have to get the manual out and start learning it from scratch again.

After seeing the AKEDA in action I think it will suit my needs for a less time consuming joint. At the Santa Clara show (I work in Seattle, live in San Jose), I may pick up the AKEDA or wait until the 24" version is released later in 2005.

However, both jigs work well I presume. The AKEDA nets you a quicker setup but you lose 8" with the current model. I have attached a decent article in case you haven't seen it yet.

Subject: Re: AKEDA Dovetail Jig opinions please!
Posted By: gmadsen@comcast.net
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2005

I bought the AKEDA a couple of years ago, having gone to Woodcraft to look for a simpler jig for through dovetails, and having decided that the cheapie half-blind, available under a dozen labels classic jig was going to cost me more sanity than I could spare.

The AKEDA was cutting variably spaced through dovetails in 4/4 red oak, rubber mallet tight, 45 minutes after I opened the carton. Half blinds take a little longer. A new spacer option makes them easier to set up.

Get a quality guide collar, and make sure you use AKEDA-specified bits. I didn't buy the whole system add-on kit, but have added a few finger/bit sets since then.

The people at AKEDA are first rate, and dedicated to their customers and product.

The demo at the wood shows made more sense to me than the well-written manual, because the presenter had figured out several faster, more logical means of doing things. But then, I usually learn better from a teacher than a book...

Subject: Very positive
Posted By: gregcmiller@comcast.net
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2005

Very easy to use. Tight, repeatable joints every time. I got mine when they first came out well before the fire and temporary lull in production. You would love it!

Subject: A great jig...
Posted By: fmutchler@adelphia.net
Date: Friday, 15 April 2005

Doing 12 or 18 drawers for a kitchen can be very challenging without a jig. I had a Leigh and also bought an AKEDA. Both are great jigs. The AKEDA suits my style of working very well. I sold the Leigh and kept the AKEDA.

Subject: Re: AKEDA Dovetail Jig opinions please!
Posted By: r2d2pilot@cox.net
Date: Friday, 15 April 2005

Bought mine at the Atlanta show earlier this year and I love it! It is easy to use, and as other have said make repeatable joints in a matter of minutes not hours. I'm very glad I got it and would do it again. I got the basic set up, not the entire package. If you think that you will be doing a large number of items that need the variation in equipment that comes in the full kit, get it, but if you are only doing a few items now and again, get the jig and then as project require get the accessories you need. That said if money is not an issue get the whole thing now.

Subject: Re: AKEDA Dovetail Jig opinions please!
Posted By: mvalsi@verizon.net
Date: Friday, 15 April 2005

Very happy with mine. I got it at Woodcraft in the Los Angeles area (Stanton) and really like it. I use backer boards to help with chips and blowout.

Subject: Re: Akeda Dovetail Jig opinions please! *LINK*
Posted By: jack_loganbill@yahoo.com
Date: Tuesday, 19 April 2005, at 3:58 p.m.

I have used the AKEDA for several years, have used it to make dozens of projects (boxes, drawers, cabinets) and it has never let me down. I have owned the Leigh 24" almost since its inception, the Keller, and Porter Cable Omni-jig, yet I use the AKEDA for most projects. All are great jigs for their intended purposes.

I use the AKEDA because it is simple to layout and use, has great dust collection, and produces variable layout dovetails perfectly every time,

I posted a detailed review and videos at <http://thewoodshop.20m.com>, including a comparison of the AKEDA with the Leigh, Keller, and Omnijig.