Ultimate Binding Jig Instructions

What's included:

-The Ultimate Binding Jig base
-(1) dumbbell guide
-(1) shear cut router bit and arbor

Features:

-Solid aluminum body
-Low friction acetal contact points won't mar your instrument
-Huge range of adjustment for even the widest purfling schemes
-Shear cut router bit gives clean cuts in a single direction pass
-Compact design can easily be safely stored out of the way when not in use

Compatibility:

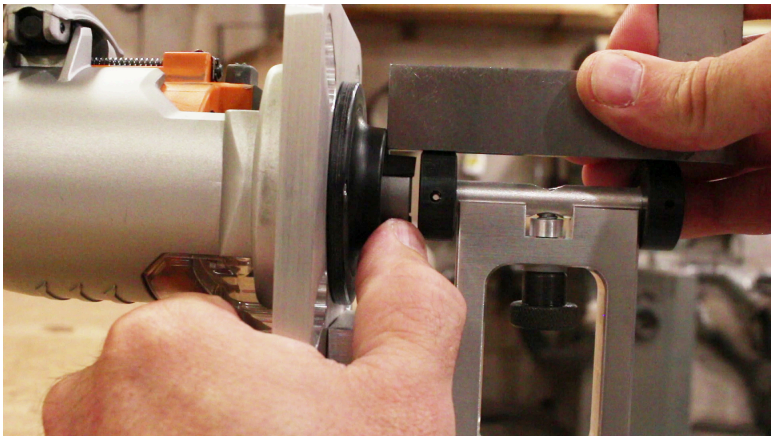
-Ridgid R2401
-Ridgid R2400
-Bosch Colt 1HP (square base) (avoid if possible, generally imprecise)
-Bosch GFK600, GMR1 (International)
-Dewalt DWP611 (adapter plate required)
-Makita RT0701C, RT0700C (adapter plate required)
-Bosch Colt 1.25HP (round base) (newest adapter plate required- released 5-20-22)

How to use:

To set up the Ultimate Binding Jig, the first thing you'll need to do is remove the plastic base from your router. If you're using a bosch colt (square base), the power button will need to be facing up. Ridgid laminate trimmers can be placed on the jig in any configuration.

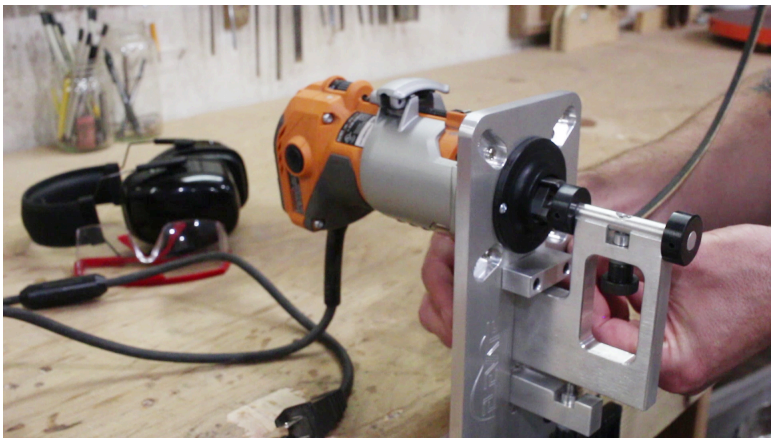
The trimmer mounting holes on the Ultimate Binding Jig are slightly elongated to allow for easy alignment of the trimmer to the jig. With the plastic base removed, place your trimmer against the jig body. Use the 4 screws from your trimmer to attach it to the jig- leaving each screw slightly loose. To align the trimmer to the jig, first make sure the guide holder is contacting the zero bar. With your trimmer unplugged, extend the router bit into the base.

You'll need a wide, stiff straight edge. I prefer a machinist square. Place the straight edge across the guide and over the router bit. Move your trimmer up and rotate the bit until it just touches the straight edge.



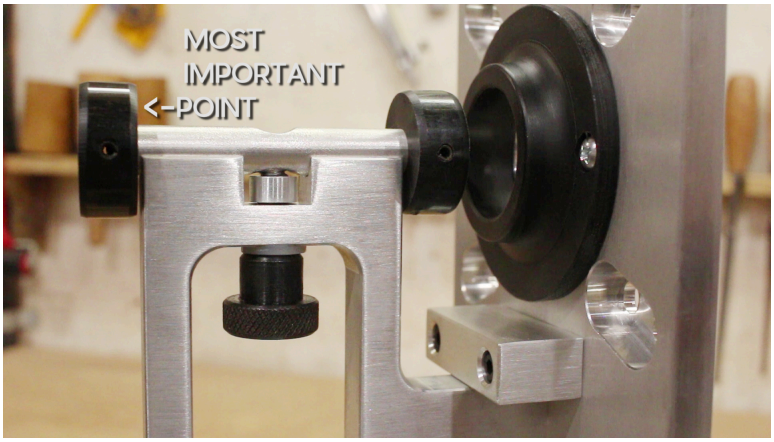
This is easiest to see by looking at the amount of light passing between the bit and the straight edge. Once in alignment, lock the router in place by snugging down the screws. Then double check the alignment. Now the zero position or flush cut position has been set.

To set the jig to cut a channel, you'll need the material you'll be inlaying. I prefer to start with binding. First, loosen the lock knob on the back of the jig. Then use the guide holder adjustment knob to pull the guide holder down. Insert your binding between the guide holder and the zero bar then use the adjustment knob to raise the guide holder until it touches the binding and lock it down. You want a small amount of resistance when pulling out the binding. This sets the jig for the thickness of your material. To set the height, adjust the amount of router bit stick out on your trimmer.



Now, plug in your trimmer and make a test cut in scrap to verify your settings. Once you're happy with your settings, it's time to make the cut on your instrument.

To cut a channel on the body you'll want to be aware of the three points of contact on the Ultimate Binding Jig- the guide donut and the two points on the standard guide. The most important point of contact is the part of the guide furthest away from the router bit. As long as you're touching this point, you can't over cut your channel.



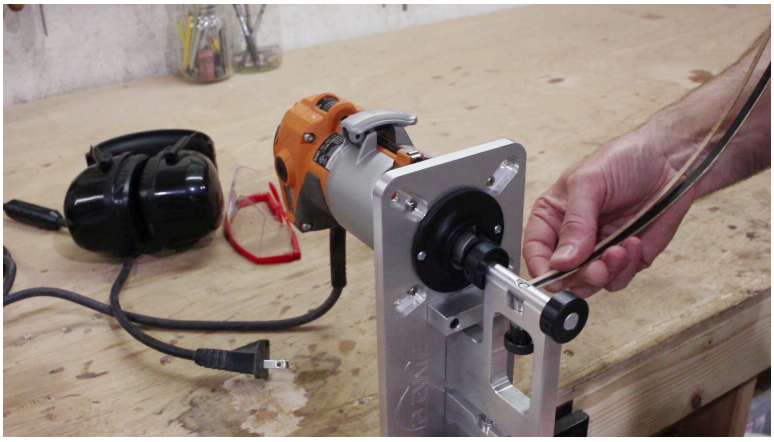
To start your cut, place the body on the jig at an angle- touching the most important point of contact and the guide donut. Then tilt it down until it's touching all three points of contact. Once you're in the cut, make at least three passes around the body- 2 in the upcut direction and a finishing pass in the downcut direction.

During the cut, I focus on two things- making sure the body is touching the most important point of contact and that the body is at the top most part of the guide (12 o'clock). To aid in this, I suggest either kneeling or sitting in a low chair.

Before changing any settings on the jig, test your binding fit on the body. If it doesn't fit in a certain area, take another pass. The jig will let you know when you're done. You'll be able to hear areas where the bit is contacting wood and areas where it's not. Once you hear that the bit is no longer cutting all the way around the body, you'll know the channel is a consistent size.

Now that the binding channel has been cut, it's time to set the Ultimate Binding Jig for a purfling channel. The procedure is similar to setting up for a binding cut, but this time you'll need to

place both your binding and purfling between the zero bar and the guide holder. You'll also need to change the stick out of the bit so that it's set for the height of your purfling.



Again, make a test cut in scrap once you have everything set to verify the fit. When making the test cut, make sure you're cutting over your previous binding channel test. When testing the fit, be sure to test both the binding and purfling in your test cuts. Once happy, move over to the instrument body and cut the purfling channel in the same manner as the binding channel you just cut.

Let's take a look at another use for the Ultimate Binding jig. After gluing your plates to your sides to assemble the box, you need to flush trim the plates. This leaves a small amount of plate overhang- which complicates sanding the sides in prep for binding. To make this task easier, set up the Ultimate Binding Jig to cut a small channel about .040 thick and just taller than the thickness of your plates. I use a scrap piece of purfling for this set up. Now use these settings to trim the plates just past your sides. This will get them out of the way and make it so you're not sanding plate endgrain while sanding your sides.

More of a visual learner? Check out the video tutorial on the ELEVATE site.
ElevateLutherie.com