

Variable Dovetail Routing Jig Instructions

What's included:

- Variable Dovetail Routing Jig body
- Angle plate
- (1) Conical truss rod centering pin
- Dovetail router bit (10 degree, 1/4" shaft)

Features:

- Approximate range of female dovetail: 1 1/4" - 3 3/4" (depending on neck set angle)
- Female dovetail deeper than male dovetail to ensure the joint doesn't bottom out
- All aluminum construction
- Conforms to the angle of the body and neck for precise routing
- Easily centerable via truss rod slot
- Works with all common neck angles

Assembly:

The jig comes mostly assembled. There are two black screws in the side of the template slider. Remove these. They are what connects the angle plate to the template. Slide the angle plate onto the template at the desired screw location and use the two screws you just removed to attach the two pieces together. Don't tighten the screws all the way at this point. They will be snugged down later.

How to use:

The Variable Dovetail Routing Jig is intended to be used after the neck angle has been set. There are a few different ways of centering the jig. The simplest way is to mark the centerline of the neck and body and align the jig to this mark using the centerline indicating edge on the jig's angle plate.

To set the length of the joint you want to use, first mark the maximum length of the dovetail socket on the body in pencil. Now loosen the two screws on the routing template, align the jig on the body, and slide the template to match your line. Then lock the template back in place.



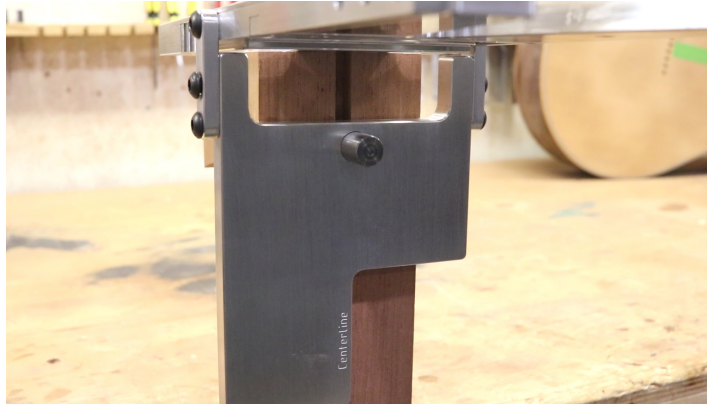
Once the jig has been aligned and centered, pivot the top routing surface to match the angle of the body. Lock this angle in place with the screws on the side of the jig. Clamp everything down, set your bit depth, and you're ready to route.



When routing, you'll be taking the joint to full depth in one pass. With this in mind, it's suggested to take small bites rather than tracing the shape of the joint. Then finish the joint by tracing the outer perimeter once the bulk has been removed.

Now that the body joint has been routed, remove the angle plate from the jig and move it to the neck position. There's no need to change the depth of the router bit. The jig has a built in step that will create clearance under the male portion of the joint to avoid the joint bottom out while fitting the dovetail.

Now on to the neck. Center the jig on the neck by either using the truss rod centering pin or by aligning the angle plate to the centerline of the neck. If you're centering based on the truss rod slot, ensure that the heel end is square to the neck centerline, then use the included centering pin and the centering hole in the angle plate to align the jig to the neck.



Next, lock the angle in place with the screws on the side of the jig. Once everything is secured, you're ready to cut the joint into the neck.

Just like on the body, when routing the neck joint you'll be taking the joint to full depth in one pass. With this in mind, it's suggested to take small bites rather than tracing the shape of the joint. Then finish the joint by tracing the perimeter once the bulk has been removed.

With both parts routed, the fit of the dovetail joint can now be finalized by hand. Depending on the neck set angle of your instrument, the cheeks of the joint will need to either be trimmed or shimmed.

***More of a visual learner? Check out the video tutorial on the [ELEVATE](http://ElevateLutherie.com) site.
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