

Variable M&T Routing Jig Instructions

What's included:

- Variable M&T Routing Jig body (choice of size)
- Angle plate
- (1) Conical truss rod centering pin

Features:

- Approximate range: 3 11/16-1 11/16 (depending on neck set angle)
- Mortise is slightly longer than tenon to ensure no length interference issues regardless of neck set angle
- All aluminum construction
- Conforms to the angle of the body and neck for precise routing
- Easily centerable via truss rod slot
- Resulting mortise and tenon are compatible with the ELEVATE Variable M&T Drilling Jig
- Works with all common neck angles

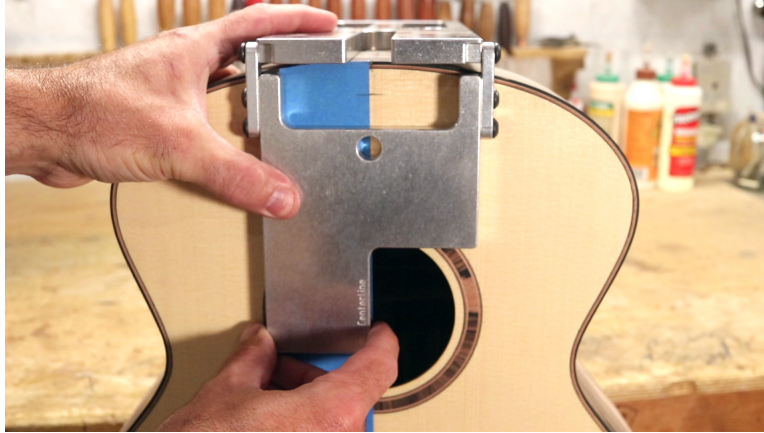
Assembly:

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 M&T Routing Jig is intended to be used after the neck angle has been set. There are multiple ways of centering the jig. The simplest way is to mark the body and neck for where the mortise and tenon need to be located. Then the jig is aligned in this location.

Alternatively, the jig can be aligned with the centerline of the neck and body using the centerline indicating edge on the jig's angle plate. If you've already cut the truss rod slot and the heel end is square to the neck centerline, you can use the included centering pin and the centering hole in the angle plate to align the jig to the neck.



For an extra bit of insurance, there's an optional accessory that helps align the jig when routing the mortise in the body- the alignment checker. This little guy has three centering indicators- the pointed end, the slot in the middle, and the vertical extension. The point and slot can be used on the sides to align with your pencil mark and the vertical extension checks that the jig is aligned with the center of the top. It's super handy.

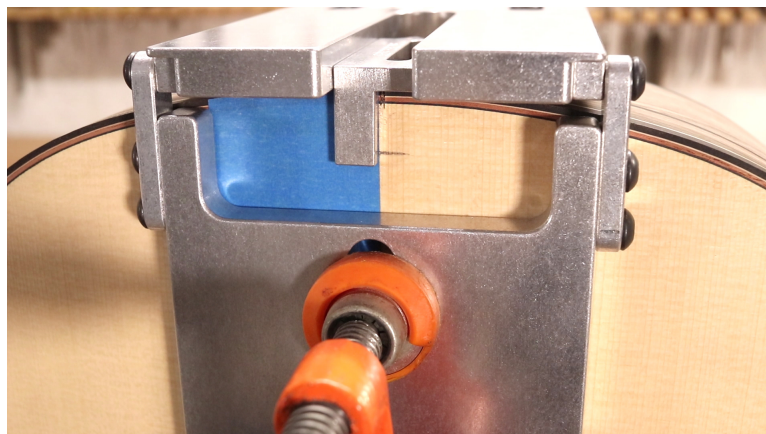


To set the length of the joint you want to use, first mark the maximum length of the mortise on the body in pencil.

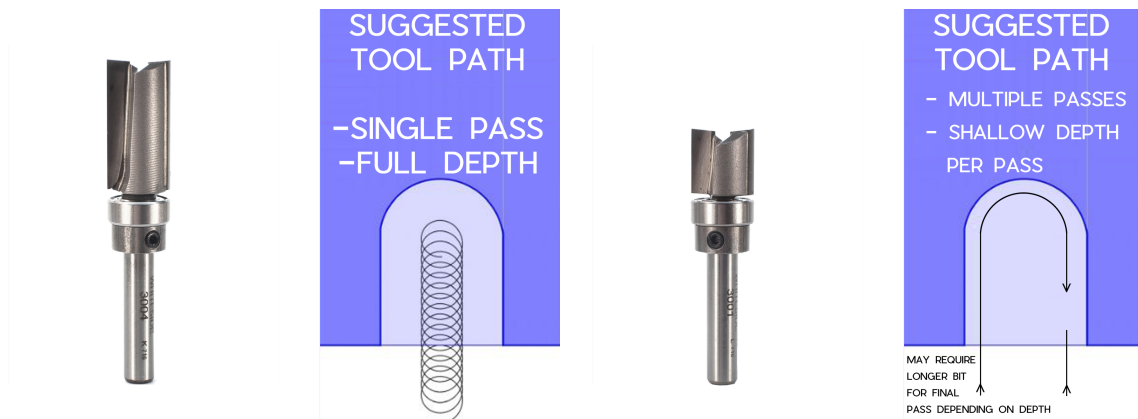


Now loosen the two screws on the routing template, align the jig on the body, and adjust the slider to match your line. Then lock everything back in place.

Once the jig has been aligned and centered, pivot the top routing surface to match the angle of the body. Then 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, there are two methods I suggest. The first is to trace the shape of the joint and take multiple depths of cut. With this method, you start with a short bit. You may have to switch to a longer bit to finish the cut depending on your desired depth. The important thing is that the bearing is always in contact with the jig. The second method is to take a full depth cut and take small bites at a time.



When you're done with the body, remove the angle plate and move it to the neck position. Repeat the previous steps for setting the jig to the angle of the neck and then route the tenon.



There's no need to change the length of the joint. The jig is designed to leave a small gap lengthwise so as to avoid any length interference regardless of the set angle. Once the fingerboard is added to the neck, it will serve as the length indexing point.

The resulting mortise and tenon are intended to be a close fit and in some cases may require a small amount of trimming or shimming depending on your specific router and router bit used. The joint should be snug but not too tight.

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