

Welcome to our 2004 newsletter. With my time spent developing new products, as well as preparing for extra shows for the year, this newsletter has been delayed. Hopefully the wait has made the newsletter more interesting, with the inclusion of recent tips and ideas, as well as the new products.

Keep up the dovetailing,

*Roger Gifkins*

The BIG news for this year is the  
"GIFKINS BIG JIG"

a speciality product from Gifkins Dovetail that is made to order rather than part of our standard product range. Two template profiles are available, the "Big B" for 14 to 22 mm



thickness range and the "Big C" template for 24 to 32 mm thick. Both templates will handle stock up to about 550 mm wide. Specifications and prices are on our web site at: <http://www.gifkins.com.au/BigJig.html> or ring for details.

Photo: Big Jig, Standard Jig & joint in 32 mm stock.

### "DOVETAILED BOXES" PLANS

The other big project on my time has been writing a new set of boxmaking plans. "Dovetailed Boxes" builds on the experience gained from the earlier "Boxmaking Plans Introduction to Small Joinery", and applies this knowledge to a range of boxes, from the delicate and intricate "Daydream" box through to jewellery boxes and a blanket chest. Whilst the projects all have cutting lists with dimensions, any of the boxes can be scaled up or down to suit your requirements.

Once again, all the joinery is done with a table mounted router, and all the projects are suitable for Triton router tables.

The new plans cover 6 projects in detail with further variations and suggestions for the reader to explore. With a Gifkins Dovetail Jig, the set of 4 boxmaking cutters (see below) and the "Dovetailed Boxes" plans, you have everything you need to produce all these beautiful boxes (the blanket chest does require two extra cutters). See our web site for more detailed photos.

The Appendix section covers timber selection and preparation, new fence ideas for the router table, fitting hinges and more.



RRP \$34 plus \$3 post

### NOTE:

For woodworkers new to small joinery, you will need the introductory plans as well, as "Dovetailed Boxes" refers back to these introductory plans for techniques and set-ups.

### BOXMAKING CUTTERS



1. Tenon cutter
2. Rebate cutter
3. Panel Raising Cutter
4. Slot cutter

**Set of 4 Boxmaking Cutters \$155**

The first 3 cutters have been specially made by Carb-I-Tool to suit my boxmaking requirements, and are only available from Gifkins Dovetail (all 1/2" shank).

### HINGES

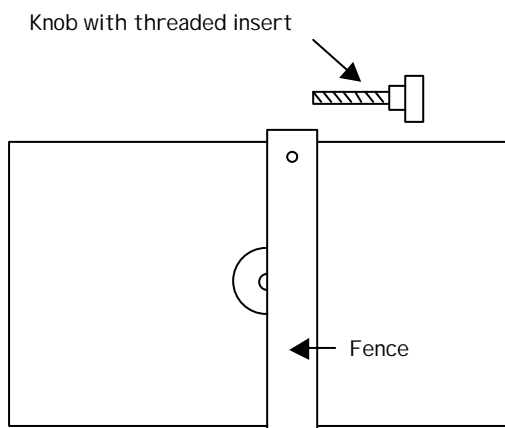
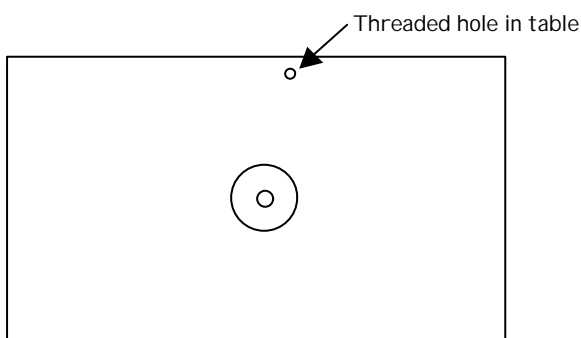
Hardware for Creative Finishes (ph 02 9764 5755) are now selling an 8 mm diameter concealed hinge (Zysa hinge) which should be great for small boxes - \$7.70 / pair.

## FENCES FOR THE ROUTER TABLE

Over the years I have made all sorts of fences for the router table, some with dust extraction built in, and these ideas have slowly evolved to give some very simple and effective fences. I will describe one of them here in detail, and it is possible to apply these ideas for all sorts of other situations. The important principle is that I make a new fence for each cutter I want to use, so that the fence matches the cutter exactly. This way the fence gives maximum support to the workpiece as it goes past the cutter. With boxmaking we are often handling small workpieces, and it is vital that there is no possibility of the workpiece catching on a gap in the fence as it goes past the cutter. If we make the fence to suit the cutter, then any gaps can be kept to an absolute minimum.

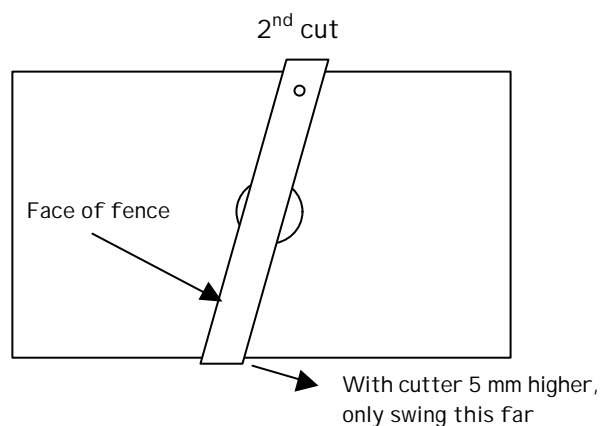
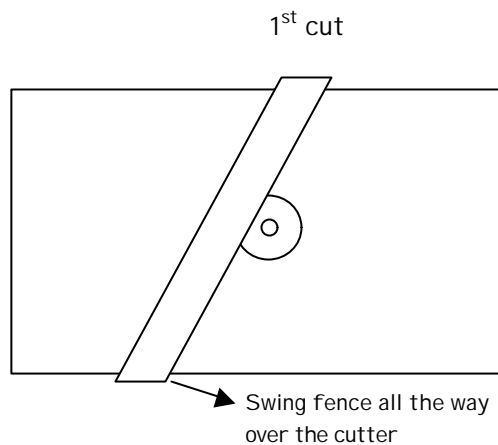
For fence material I use old (recycled) hardwood which is dry and stable, or High Density fibreboard (HD3 made by Laminex Industries is good). Ideally we want a material that will remain flat and straight, and will not wear, so they can be used time and again. These fences are ideally suited to router tables built along the lines of the Gifkins Table, as detailed in the instructions for the Gifkins Dovetail Jig. They may not suit some Triton tables, as the rail structure under the Triton table top makes it difficult to clamp them in place.

I start by drilling a hole in the table top, as shown below, and either tapping a thread into the table material or fitting a Tee-nut on the underside of the table. This threaded hole is important as it means we can pivot the fence around this point, and also the fence will always go back on the table in exactly the same position. I then drill a matching hole in the fence, and use a knob with threaded insert to hold the fence down to the table at this end.



## FENCE FOR PANEL RAISING CUTTER

Fit the Panel Raising cutter to the router and set the cutter about 1 mm higher than you need for your current project. Turn the router on and swing the fence over the cutter, to produce a dish shaped rebate right across the underside of the fence. Now raise the cutter about 5 mm and again swing the fence over the cutter, but this time not going all the way across. We want to stop 5 mm or 10 mm short of the face of the fence:



This way, there will be a deeper rebate on the back of the fence to aid dust extraction. In use, the fence is held with the knob at one end and a clamp at the other, and a dust extraction hood can be placed on the table behind the fence. The cutter should throw the dust well clear of the fence, so the hood can sit back from the fence. The above fence info. is an extract from the "Dovetailed Boxes" plans.

## WEB SITE

Recent additions to our web site include:

- Instructions for Jig - revised March 2004
- Flyer - revised June 2004
- Big Jig flyer
- 7 jigs compared - from Wood Review Magazine
- "Dovetailed Boxes" flyer and photos

## EXTRA BLOCKS

There has been a big increase in customers purchasing extra blocks for their extra templates, so they can have all their

templates set up ready for use rather than swapping them over. With this in mind, we have reviewed our pricing on the components to make this option more attractive, and the Blocks (without stop) are now \$99, down from \$114. The blocks are complete with shims and backing boards. This idea is a great time saver for people that use their jigs regularly.

## 2005 NEWSLETTER

In 2004, our newsletter was only emailed out, so those without an email addresses in our database missed out. I have combined the two newsletters to make up for this. If you wish to receive further newsletters, please send us your email address (our contact details are on page 4), as future newsletters will only be emailed. If you don't have an email address, maybe you have a friend or relative than can help out.

## BOXMAKING

In conjunction with my new "Dovetailed Boxes" plans (see above), Graham Naughton from Loggerheads in Qld. is cutting box packs of timber to suit all the projects except the blanket chest. These packs are quarter sawn (ideal for boxmaking), thickened, sanded and are cut accurately to length, ready to start the joinery. All the timbers are from western Qld, very hard desert timbers that polish like glass. Whilst we do stock a few packs for customers that call in, it is best to contact Graham directly if interested. His details are:

Loggerheads PO Box 1087 GYMPIE QLD 4570  
Ph 07 5483 3797 email: loggerheads@spiderweb.com.au

We will have a small number of the box packs for sale at the timber shows.

See a review of Graham's box packs by Neil Scobie, in Australian Woodworker Issue. 120, P64.

## FINGER JOINTS

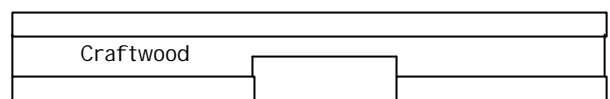


Over the years, I have had many enquires for finger joint templates to suit the jig. Whilst the template itself would be straightforward, providing a means of adjustment is not! I have tried lots of ideas, and I recently came up with a simple and very accurate method that is quick to use and works brilliantly. It should be in production by the middle of the year. Initially there will be just the one profile (for timber up to 13 mm thick), with 10 mm fingers. It is hoped to

release a second template for thicker timber later in the year. Price is still to be finalized.

## SIMPLE ROUTER TABLE

I have recently built a number of router tables (for when I run Boxmaking Workshops), using a more straight-forward design than the plan in the instruction booklet. The new design has a 32 mm hole for the cutters and no provision for a template follower, which keeps the table very simple and easy to build. This design is well suited to Triton routers, as they don't have provision for template followers anyway! The table is constructed with 2 sheets of Laminex wet area panelling (this used to be called Lamipanel) with a sheet of 16 mm MR craftwood (or plywood) in between. I glued them up with AV 515 (from Laminex), which is much easier to use than contact cement.



Section through table

Unlike my previous design, the router is only set up part way through the craftwood, with 6 mm of craftwood left above the router. As before, the router is attached with countersunk bolt through the top surface. The fence idea (see 2004 newsletter with a T-nut fitted to the table works well with this design. Full details for building this table, including dimensions, will be on our web site shortly, as a free download.

## SHOWS for 2005

- 20 - 22 May Brisbane
- 3 - 5 June Sydney
- 12 - 14 Aug Perth
- 2 - 4 Sep Canberra
- 7 - 9 Oct Melbourne
- 28 - 30 Oct Hobart

Once again I will be running Boxmaking Seminars each day at the shows, making the loose lidded box from the "Dovetailed Boxes" plans (see photo below).

Unfortunately, the Perth show clashes with the Newcastle show, so we won't be in Newcastle this year. Hopefully we will be there next year.



## BOXMAKING & DEMO DVD's

I will be recording a DVD of the Loose Lidded Box project in April this year, which should be available around the middle of the year. At the same time, we will be recording a new demo DVD which will be much more comprehensive than the existing video. We also hope to transfer the "Boxmaking Plans Introduction to small joinery" onto DVD for those customers that no longer have a video player. Both boxmaking DVD's will also include the new comprehensive demo on setting up and using the jig.

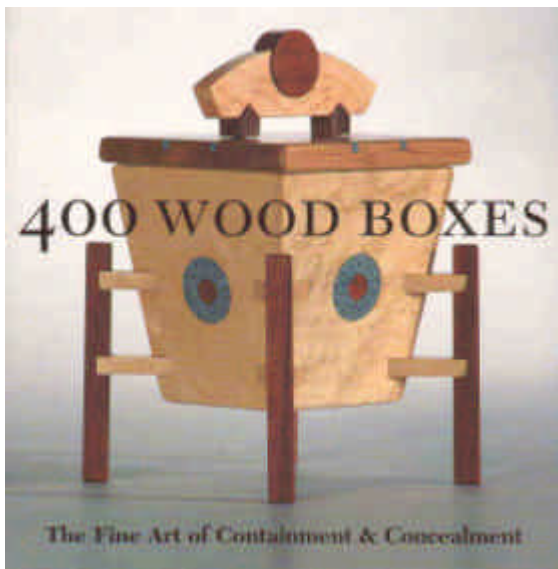
## DROP SAW

I have recently bought a Hitachi sliding arm drop saw, for which I have made a custom fence and table. It is ideal for boxmaking, and I can't believe how quick and accurate it is. I can't wait to get back into boxmaking! For those that are interested, plans of my custom fence setup will be available as a free download on our web site shortly.

## 400 WOOD BOXES

### The Fine Art of Containment and Concealment

Keep your eye out for this new book from Lark Books (USA). Over 170 makers show off their best work in this great coffee table book. Mostly American makers, but with a few makers from Canada, England, Australia and Sweden. As is often the case, some of the American designs are over the top, but there are lots of ideas. Inspirational! Available from Australian wood Review Bookshelf ph 07 3806 2288 RRP \$39.95 [www.woodreview.com](http://www.woodreview.com)



## THIN TIMBER SUPPLIES

- ANAGOTE TIMBERS, 144 Renwick St Marickville Sydney 2204 ph 02 9558 8444. Wide range of cabinet timbers. Will resaw and thickness timbers that they sell, down to about 6 mm.
- TREND TIMBERS, Lot 1 Cunneen St Mulgrave NSW Ph 02 4577 5277 [www.trendtimbers.com.au](http://www.trendtimbers.com.au) Limited resawing service with N.G. Rosewood, Blackwood and Mahogany thicknessed to around 12 mm thick.
- LOGGERHEADS, Graham Naughton PO box 1087 Gympie Qld 4570 ph 07 5483 3797. Desert timbers custom cut to any thickness (down to 2 mm). Box sets to suit all the plans from Gifkins Dovetail. All timber kiln dried.
- J&C THIN TIMBERS, 17 Van Doren Rd Gympie Qld 4570 Ph 07 5482 8561 Thin timbers in a wide range of species, thicknessed to your requirements from 2 mm to 19 mm.
- WEST COAST CRAFT SUPPLIES, 69 Braibrise Rd Wilson WA 6107 Ph 08 9451 1686. Lace Sheoak and fiddleback Jarrah in 10 mm boards.

## PRICES 2005

The only increase in price over the past two years has been freight. All our Jigs and extras are still at the same low prices!

Standard Dovetail Package	\$299
Deluxe Dovetail Package	\$449
Masters Dovetail Package	\$599
"The Lot" Dovetail package	\$849
Template Upgrade	\$173
Extra Stop	\$ 29
Dovetail Cutter (A, B or H template)	\$ 48
Straight Cutter (A, B or H template)	\$ 38
Variable Space Upgrade	\$ 29
"Introductory" Boxmaking Plans	\$ 25
"Dovetailed Boxes" Plans	\$ 34
Introductory Boxmaking Video	\$ 49
Set of 4 Boxmaking Cutters	\$155
Precision Square	\$ 20
Big Jig (B template)	\$542
Big Jig (C template)	\$599
Dovetail cutter (C template)	\$ 97
Straight cutter (C template)	\$ 62
Postage Standard Jig	\$ 18
Postage Template upgrade	\$ 14
Postage 4 box cutters	\$ 12

If you received this newsletter in the post (by snail mail), then we don't have your email address. In future, our newsletters will only be emailed (and on our web site).

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