

Welcome to our 2007 newsletter.

With nearly 6000 customers our newsletter is becoming a major production, so it doesn't happen as often as I would like. Whilst emailing the newsletter sounds like a good idea, we have a very high failure rate on our group emails, as many customers have changed their email address. With this Newsletter we will email it where we can, and only post it to those we don't have an email address for. We will also post it on the web site. Hopefully this will reach most customers

Keep up the dovetailing,

*Roger Gifkins*

**NEW MODEL JIG**

Since the last newsletter, we have released a new model of the Gifkins Dovetail Jig. The new model is designed around a custom aluminium extrusion, making it that much sturdier and even more reliable. It also comes standard with a second sliding stop, a great extra tool for those into boxmaking. The template specifications remain the same, producing those tight and clean joints that have become synonymous with the Gifkins Dovetail Jig.



The template mounting has changed with the new model so if you are ordering any template upgrades we need to know which model you have. We will continue to stock all the profiles for both models.

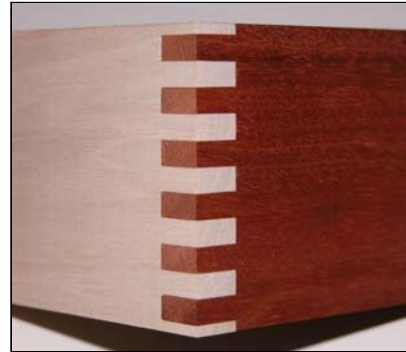
The Old Model Jig (with high density fibre block) takes a template with 5 countersunk mounting holes. This template suits all jigs sold before March 2006

The New Model Jig (with aluminium block) takes a template with 2 countersunk mounting holes. This template suits all jigs sold after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

**OLD BLOCKS - \$69**

We still have a small number of the old style blocks for those customers wishing to have a designated block for each of their (older style) templates. These blocks have been discounted to \$69 plus \$11 postage, but only while stocks last. This price is the block only, set up with Backing Boards, Shim and locating pins, but without any stops.

**FINGER JOINT UPGRADES - \$173**

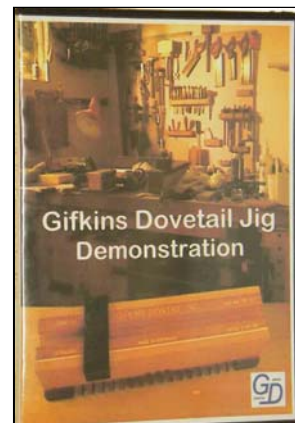


The much awaited finger joint template is now available, with templates to suit both the new and old models of the Gifkins Dovetail Jig. The F5 template cuts a joint with delicate 5 mm fingers, and is fully adjustable, maintaining the quality and accuracy that is synonymous with products from Gifkins Dovetail. It can be purchased as a complete package or as a template upgrade for those that already have a Gifkins Dovetail Jig.

The template uses a specially designed solid carbide cutter made by Carb-I-Tool in Melbourne, and will handle any thickness up to 13 mm. It is hoped to release a "Big Brother" to this template next year for thicker timber. To get the best results the template is used with 2 stops on the jig, which come as standard on the new model. For those customers with the old model and only 1 stop, it is recommended that you purchase a second stop with the template upgrade. Extra stops are available for \$29.

**DEMONSTRATION DVD - \$19**

A detailed Demonstration DVD is also now available to take you through all the situations you might encounter when dovetailing. A chapter for the finger joints will be added later this year. This DVD is much more comprehensive than the previous Demo Video and is a must for those that want to get the most out of their jig. It goes for 75 minutes with loads of information.



## BOXMAKING DVD'S - \$39 each

We now have 2 DVD's on boxmaking projects, with more in the pipeline.

#1 takes you through the sliding lid project which is a good introduction to small joinery. This DVD covers the same project as the old video and is a useful addition to the #1 boxmaking plans.

#2 is the loose-lidded project from the 'Dovetailed Boxes' plans – another good project for developing your skills.

## CLAMP HOLDERS - \$6 PAIR

Roger has designed a clamp holder that fits under the knob on the jig, for use with Bessey's Kliklamps. This holder locates the clamp in the correct position and also holds it at the correct height, safely above the cutter.



## BESSEY CLAMPS - \$42

We also sell Bessey Kliklamps (made in Germany), as they are by far the best clamps I have used with the jig. These are a quick action clamp with a very positive action and a light weight magnesium alloy head.



## REDUCING COLLETS - \$14

Roger has had some 1/2" to 1/4" reducing collets specially made to his own design. These collets are 32 mm long overall, giving much more clamping length than regular collets, resulting in a more secure hold on the cutter. They also have a flange at the top so they can't drop down inside the chuck on the router. This ensures the cutter is held at the optimum height. The flange also makes it much easier to remove the collet from the router!

These collets are a great improvement on the regular collets that come with most routers.



## BIG BEARINGS FOR REBATE CUTTER - \$8

We now have a supply of 19mm bearings for the rebate cutter to reduce the depth of cut to 1.6mm. This is especially useful in highly figured or fiddle-back timbers to give the cleanest possible cut. The idea is to cut a shallow rebate with the big bearing and then change to the smaller bearing to increase the depth of the rebate.

## NEW JEWELLERY BOX PLANS

Roger is currently working on a new set of plans, this time for an elaborate jewellery box with lift out tray and fittings. It is a beautiful but also functional project, making an ideal gift for that special person... These plans should be available in the second half of this year, with an anticipated DVD to accompany them. Keep a watch on the website for availability. This project uses the 8 mm concealed hinges mentioned in the last newsletter, which are available from Hardware for Creative Finishes: [www.boxmakersbrassware.com.au](http://www.boxmakersbrassware.com.au)



## TIMBER SHOWS – 2007

As in previous years we will be travelling around to most of the timber show, having already done the Hobart and Brisbane shows. Please note that we only do the Adelaide show every second year, so Adelaide's turn is 2008. Dates for the coming shows are:

- 15-17th June - Sydney
- 10-12th August – Perth
- 7-9th September – Canberra (not confirmed as yet)
- 12-14th October – Melbourne

At all the Timber & working with wood show there will also a boxmaking seminar each day. These seminars will feature Roger Gifkins making a box project from one of his written plans using a Gifkins Dovetail Jig and a table mounted router. Each seminar will go for approximately 45 minutes.

## NEW ZEALAND SYMPOSIUM

Roger has been invited this year, along with other Australians Neil and Liz Scobie, and Don Powell, to demonstrate his woodwork skills at a Symposium to be held at Hastings, New Zealand, 28-30<sup>th</sup> Sept, organised by the National Assoc of Woodworkers NZ. Anyone interested in further details, check their website at: [www.naw.org.nz](http://www.naw.org.nz)

## NEW WEB SITE

We have recently done a major upgrade on our website with help and encouragement from one of our customers, Jim Limberis. Hopefully you will find it easier to navigate around and a great improvement from the previous version. The website includes a number of free downloads of plans and information including

- Wooden hinge plans (double action)
- Drop saw fence and table plans
- Mitred frame clamp plans
- Router table plans
- Newsletters with boxmaking tips and ideas
- Magazine reviews on the jig
- Suppliers of thin timber
- Suppliers of boxmaking hardware

Please note our change of email address:

[roger@gifkins.com.au](mailto:roger@gifkins.com.au)

## THIN TIMBER

For those of you without internet access, the timber suppliers are as follows:

**Loggerheads** (Graham Naughton), 10 Seawitch Cres, Cooloola Cove Qld. ph 07 5486 2201 [www.loggerheads.com.au](http://www.loggerheads.com.au) Good photos of the timber on the web site. He has a wide range of desert timbers from western Queensland, thickened to around 8 to 12 mm. Nice finish on the boards from a sanding thicknesser. Some beautiful timber and very well prepared and thickened. I use his timber at the seminars and when I am teaching. Graham also cuts boxmaking packs to the cutting lists in my Boxmaking Plans.

**Misan Craftwood** (Mike Berwick), 4 Teakwood Close Lake Clifton WA 6215 ph 08 9739 1985 [misan@bigpond.com](mailto:misan@bigpond.com) [www.misancraftwood.com](http://www.misancraftwood.com) Tasmanian timbers thickened to your requirements, beautifully prepared and some stunning timber.

**Djarilmari Timber Products** (Colin Payne) P.O. Box 550 Denmark W.A. 6333 ph 08 9848 2020. [djarilmari@wn.com.au](mailto:djarilmari@wn.com.au) [www.wn.com.au/djarilmari/homepage.html](http://www.wn.com.au/djarilmari/homepage.html) He will cut timber to whatever thickness you want. Has some beautiful Lace Sheoak and Fiddleback Jarrah. Not sure if he will thickness it, or just rough sawn.

**J & C Thin Timbers** (Jeff Birt) Gympie QLD. ph 07 5482 8561 [birty@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:birty@spiderweb.com.au) Wide range of traditional cabinet timber thicknesses to your requirements from 2 mm to 19 mm.

**Heritage Sawmillers** (Michael Crane) Jarradale W.A. ph 08 9526 0051 mob 041 7922 248. [countryrose@bigpond.com](mailto:countryrose@bigpond.com) They have lots of offcuts suitable for boxmaking, Sheoak, Jarrah and Marri. Not sure of the thicknesses.

## BOX CUTTERS- \$155

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



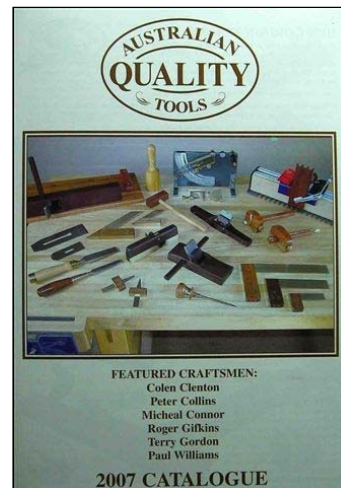
The first 3 cutters have been specially made by Carb-I-Tool to suit my boxmaking requirements, and are only available from Gifkins Dovetail (all 1/2" shank).

## AUSTRALIAN QUALITY TOOLS

A group of Australian toolmakers and craftsmen have combined to produce a 16 page colour catalogue of their products. Featured craftsmen include:

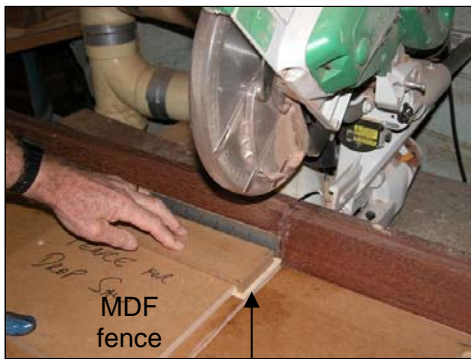
Colen Clenton  
Peter Collins  
Michael Connor  
Roger Gifkins  
Terry Gordon  
Paul Williams

The catalogue also lists details of Fine Woodworking classes in various locations around Australia. Phone or email for a free copy, or pick one up at the next timber show.



## DROP SAW TABLE AND FENCE

The plans for my custom fence are now available on the web site. The thing I really like about this set up is the ease and safety when handling small work pieces. With boxmaking I am often working with pieces only 15 or 20 mm wide, and I had always found it difficult to trim these to width cleanly, accurately and safely, especially on the saw bench! This set up allows me to trim pieces so that the sides are exactly parallel no matter how narrow they are, whilst keeping my fingers well clear of the blade with a hold down. See photo:



workpiece 80 x 15 mm

This idea revolves around the square MDF fence on the left of the photo. If you start with a piece of MDF and trim one edge on the drop saw, then, even if the drop saw is not set up exactly square to the back fence, you will get perfectly parallel edges when trimming to width against this MDF, as the MDF is now exactly parallel to the blade. By using a hold down as shown you can work with tiny workpieces without compromising accuracy or safety.

Check the web site for lots more details on this idea.

## DOVETAIL JIG PACKAGES

With the addition of the Finger Joint template, it was necessary to change our packaging details. "The Lot" package now has 7 templates (up from 6 previously), and we have introduced a "Premium" package with 4 templates, one from each series. The smaller packages remain the same but now have a greater choice of template profiles.

## PRICES 2007

The Template Upgrade's price hasn't changed since 2003!  
These prices can't last.

If ordering a template upgrade, please specify new or old model.

Standard Package	\$299
Deluxe Package	\$449
Masters Package	\$599
Premium Package	\$749
"The Lot" package	\$999
Dovetail Template Upgrade	\$173
Finger Joint Template Upgrade	\$173
Extra Stop	\$ 29
Backing Boards	\$ 8
Dovetail Cutter (A, B or H template)	\$ 48
Straight Cutter (A, B or H template)	\$ 38
Straight Cutter – F5 template	\$ 49
Adjusting sleeves and spacer for F5	\$ 47
Variable Space Upgrade	\$ 29
"Introductory" Boxmaking Plans	\$ 25
"Dovetailed Boxes" Plans	\$ 29
Demo DVD	\$ 19
#1 Boxmaking DVD	\$ 39
#2 Boxmaking DVD	\$ 39
Set of 4 Boxmaking Cutters	\$155
Reducing Collet	\$ 14
Precision Square	\$ 20
Clamp Holders (pair)	\$ 6
Bessey KLI 12 clamp	\$ 42
Postage Standard Jig	\$ 18
Postage Template upgrade	\$ 14
Postage 4 box cutters	\$ 12

We accept MasterCard, Visa & Amex on Phone, Fax, Mail or Email orders. Our web site has a secure order form with encrypting technology to protect your credit card details. We also accept personal cheques, money orders and Bank Cheques with mail orders, or orders can be sent C.O.D. with Australia Post. Orders are sent registered and insured with Australia Post and orders received before 3PM are usually dispatched that day. We also sell direct from the workshop, but please ring to make sure we are open.

For more information, friendly advice or orders, contact Roger or Jenny Gifkins  
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