

GIFKINS DOVETAIL NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2002

To our many valued customers,

Welcome to our first newsletter. The Gifkins Dovetail jig has been on the market now for 5 years, with sales of over 2000 jigs both in Australia and overseas. We now have agents stocking the jig in England as well as America. Since it's release in 1997, there have been some changes and improvements to the jig itself, as well as changes to the templates and cutters. There have also been a few new products associated with the jig. I hope all our customers will find items of interest in this newsletter. Keep up the dovetailing,

Roger Gifkins

RED TEMPLATE MODEL

For customers that bought a jig before May 1999 (i.e. the red template model), we are now getting cutters specially made by Carb-I-Tool in Melbourne. These cutters have a bearing on the shank, which eliminates the need for a template follower and also improves the accuracy of the edge alignment. As the bearings were a different size to the old template followers, it was necessary to produce new (Blue) templates to suit these new cutters. All jigs now come with the new cutters and new templates. The new cutters and templates can be used on the older model jigs for customers wishing to update. The red templates A1, A2, B1 & B2 are equivalent to the new templates A10, A20, B10 & B20 respectively.

NEW: "HANDCUT" TEMPLATES

By popular demand, Gifkins Dovetail have just released 2 new templates to produce smaller, more delicate joints, with narrower pins that are much more like a handcut dovetail. The success of the new set-up revolves around the new solid-carbide dovetail cutters, specially made by Carb-I-Tool, which are finer than any other carbide dovetail cutter on the market. Carb-I-Tool has also produced a new straight cutter to suit these templates.

The new "Handcut" Templates, H10 (pin spacing 18mm) and H20 (pin spacing 26mm) will handle stock up to 10mm thick and 300mm wide. Roger has even cut dovetails down to 2mm in thickness!

NOTE: Due to the small size of the dovetail cutter, it is not guaranteed against breakage.

For existing customers, the new "Handcut" upgrade packages can be used on all models of the **Gifkins**

Dovetail Jig. For new customers, the "Handcut" templates are now part of our standard range, and can be purchased with any of our Dovetail packages, however the "A" series templates are a more suitable starting point. Photo shows the H10 joint in 2 mm, 5 mm and 9 mm timber.

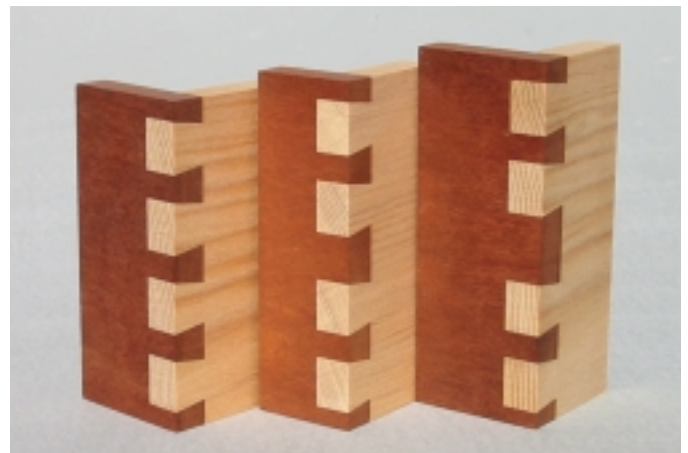


NEW: VARIABLE SPACE UPGRADE

Cut variable sized dovetails with your fixed space templates!

The common argument against buying a fixed template dovetail jig like the GIFKINS DOVETAIL JIG is that it won't suit some widths of stock. That is, you have to compromise your project, adjusting the width of stock to suit the template, or else change over to a differently spaced template. This is no longer true. With the variable spaced upgrade, you can in effect adjust the template to fit the stock! This also has the advantage of producing a joint that looks more like a handcut joint!

You can achieve symmetrical layout of the joint for any width stock, and still have a half pin top and bottom:



Enjoy the simplicity of a fixed template jig with the benefits of variable spacing!

The Variable Space Upgrade + instructions is \$29

PRECISION SQUARE

The **Pocket Square™** is machined from laminated phenolic resin in a 5 step process using CNC machinery to ensure accuracy.

With other woodworking squares, no matter how expensive, they will only be accurate until they are dropped for the first time (the better squares *can* be recalibrated). The **Pocket Square™**, being machined out of a solid piece of (dimensionally stable) material, will maintain its accuracy *forever*, even after being dropped on concrete!

You *may* chip the corners, but *it will still be accurate!*

Technical details: Guaranteed square $\pm 0.05\text{mm}$ over its 125mm length (temp. range -20°C to 100°C)

Square $\pm 1/20\text{mm}$ ---- that's Square!!!

Convenient size for your pocket so it's always within reach! With your next woodworking project, cut down on sanding time by preparing your stock accurately - use a **Pocket Square™** Use the **Pocket Square™** to check and adjust your other squares and jigs. Only available from Gifkins Dovetail @ \$20

JIG DEMO VIDEO

In conjunction with Woodmill Video, we have recorded a 15 minute demonstration video on the Jig. It covers setting up and using the jig, cutting trial joints and changing templates, and is available for \$16 plus P&P.

BOXMAKING PLANS

I have written a set of detailed plans for a simple dovetailed box with shaped feet and a sliding lid. This is an ideal introduction to small joinery for those who haven't worked at a small scale before.

- 25 pages of step by step instructions
- Over 40 detailed drawings
- Renowned Australian Boxmaker Roger Gifkins reveals his secrets

A one hour Video of this boxmaking project is now available, which follows the plans step by step. It is often good to see things in action as well as read about them. The video also includes the jig demonstration video. The plans and video together are \$69 plus P&P.

FACE INLAY CUTTER

For slotting and rebating in my boxmaking work I use a Face Inlay cutter, which cuts a slot 4 mm wide and 4.8 mm deep, and is fitted with a top bearing. For cutting the rebate for the floating base of boxes, I dry assemble the box and run around the inside with the Face Inlay cutter, using the router in the table. This cuts all four sides in one go! As the cutter is only 22 mm diameter, it reaches right into the corners of the box. Previously, these cutters were only available from Germany or New Zealand, however we have now had some specially made to my requirements by Carb-I-Tool. They are only available direct from Gifkins Dovetail, at \$43 each.

CMT CUTTERS - OVER 30% OFF

We still have stock of the CMT & Jesada cutters used with the old model jig (red template model). We have reduced prices to **below cost** to clear excess stock. Cutters available are:

818.097.11 - A dovetail cutter - \$30

818.674.11 - B dovetail cutter - \$30

811.081.11 - A straight cutter - \$21

811.628.11 - B straight cutter - \$25

CELEBRATING BOXES EXHIBITION & BOOK

In September last year, I was invited to take part in Celebrating Boxes, the first International Box Exhibition. I was also one of the speakers at the conference held in conjunction with the exhibition opening. To quote from the exhibition flyer:

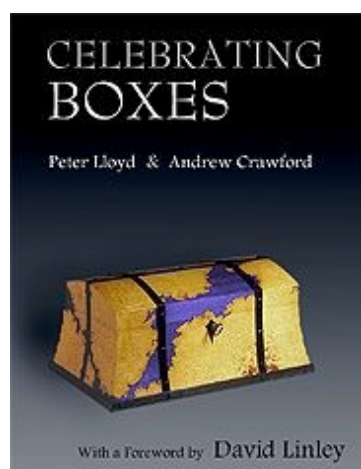
"Wooden boxes - these simple words encompass so many possibilities: fine sculpted or carved work, functional or fanciful, immaculately constructed and veneered - or just hollowed out. From exquisitely made traditional boxes to some of the wildest creations by today's most outstanding and innovative designer/makers - 'Celebrating Boxes' will feature them all."

By presenting this rich diversity of contemporary work the organisers hope to promote the 'Art' as well as the 'Craft' of this fascinating branch of woodwork. The '**Celebrating Boxes**' project is being organised by Peter Lloyd and Andrew Crawford in collaboration with Tullie House Museum and Art

Gallery, Carlisle. Originating at Tullie House in September 2001 this unique show will go on to include 4 or 5 premier galleries in the UK, each running from 6-8 weeks, and then on to tour some of the finest venues in US, Australia and Europe. An exact itinerary is still being finalised and details will be posted on the full version of this site in due course: celebratingboxes.com

The show will be accompanied by a high quality book by Peter Lloyd and Andrew Crawford also called 'Celebrating Boxes'. With 162 pages in full colour and around 270 images this wide ranging and extensive new book will feature the work of 68 of the makers represented in the exhibition.

The 'Celebrating Boxes' book includes a foreword by David Linley and was published to coincide with the opening of the show in September 2001"



I have a small number of these inspirational books left, priced at \$68

TIMBER & WORKING with WOOD SHOWS for 2002

This year, we will be at the following shows:

Brisbane 24 - 26 May

Sydney 21 - 23 June

Adelaide 26 - 28 July

Newcastle 10 - 11 August (not definite)

Canberra 6 - 8 September

Melbourne 25 - 27 October

Call by and say hello, and check out our new products.

As in previous years, I will be giving a seminar each day, demonstrating small joinery techniques using the Gifkins Dovetail jig. The content of the seminar will be new this year.

ALUMINIUM STOPS

We are currently getting a custom extrusion made up for the sliding stop on the jig. Whilst I like the timber stop with its dovetail joints, timber is not the best material to use for components that need to be accurate. The cut surface on the new aluminium

stops will be milled flat and square, providing long term accuracy. The new stops will fit all jigs made since May 1999, and should be available around July this year. Price yet to be determined. The current style dovetailed timber stops will still be available for those that want them.

WEB SITE

We have slowly been adding to our web site over the years, and it is now almost working the way I want. We have just added some pages as PDF files so you can download and print them. You need Acrobat Reader to access these (if you don't have Acrobat Reader, you can download it from our web site). They include:

- Full instructions - updated March 2002
- Router Table Plans
- Flyer with full details on the Jig

PDF files still to come;

- Frame and Panel lid - for boxmaking plans
- Wooden Hinges
- Newsletter

If you wish to receive our newsletters by email, please send your email address to gifkins@midcoast.com.au so we can update our records. Whilst we will occasionally send newsletters like this by post, we will email newsletters whenever we have new product releases or special deals on offer. Check out our site at:

www.gifkins.com.au

DOVETAIL JIG PACKAGES

With the new "H" templates, we have had to change our Dovetail Jig Packages. We now have a Masters Package as well as the Standard and Deluxe Packages, and "The Lot" has changed, to include all 6 templates plus 3 pairs of cutters. See details of packages on the price list.

GUARDS

I have been experimenting with different guard ideas for the router table that can be used with the dovetail jig. The idea is to keep fingers away from the cutter as much as possible, especially when the jig is not actually in use. If anyone has come up with an idea that works, I would be most interested to talk to them about it, and I would be prepared to pay royalties on any original idea that we end up manufacturing.