

## Trend Beadlock Kit



The work and the jig is clamped so that the mortises can be drilled. A piece of tape around the bit gauges the depth

**D**owel jointing has been for some time, and still is, a popular quick and straightforward alternative to cutting mortice and tenon joints.

However, this jointing method has its flaws and the relatively new process of biscuit jointing maybe wonderfully quick and hassle free, but it doesn't quite live up to a good old mortice and tenon joint for many woodworkers.

So it looks pretty much like there is no really satisfactory alternative, until those innovative people at Trend introduced this rather ingenious loose tenon joinery system.

The basic idea behind the beadLOCK is that with the aid of a jig a series of overlapping holes can be drilled into both wooden work pieces. Consequently,

the resulting mortises are shaped to accommodate a 'reeded' loose tenon that has been sawn to size from a longer machined length. Glue is then

The loose tenon is cut from a length of reeded moulding

applied and the joint is cramped up.

This Trend kit offers two 300mm lengths of each thickness of tenon dowels:  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9.5 mm) for minimum  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (19mm) timber thickness and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12.7 mm) for minimum 1" (25.4 mm) timber thickness.

Two drill blocks are provided, for each size of tenon dowel, and the factory has set the jig with the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " guide block to provided a central tenon in  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (19 mm) timber.

However, a set of shims are conveniently supplied, to fit between drill block and front plate, so that differing wood thickness can be accommodated.

You can use your own drill bits or obtain a HSS  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bit from

Trend, which are sold separately.

To form the joint, you have to firstly draw a thin line accurately across the centre of the joint (the two work pieces).

The guide block is set to position 'A' of the front plate,

and the drawn centre line of one of the work pieces is aligned with the 'window' in the plate. The jig and work is then clamped, by a F-cramp or into a vice, and the appropriate size of drill bit is run down through the drill block's holes to the required depth.

The jig is then set to position 'B' and the holes drilled to form the 'reeded' mortice. This process is repeated for the other work piece and then the tenon dowel is cut about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (3mm) shorter than the total mortice depth. The joint is then assembled with glue and cramped.

So does it work as well as it sounds? The answer to this is a resounding yes, but you may need to ensure that plenty of care is taken in a couple of instances.

For example, those with long eyesight may find aligning the work's centre line with the vertical line of the front plate's window a little tricky (especially as there is often glare from its bright plating – a matt finish would be much better) and great care needs to be taken to ensure that the jig and work doesn't move out of alignment, not even a smidgeon, as they are clamped. Three hands would be very useful here!

Many accessories and spare parts are available, including router cutters to make your own lengths of tenon doweling.

It is well worth taking a look at the relevant page on the Trend web site as this lists the entire range and prices.

The Trend beadLOCK loose tenon joinery system really does appear to be a genuine alternative to forming a mortice and tenon joint. It's a great idea that should appeal to all woodworkers who, for whatever reason, need a quick and strong jointing method that would appear, in certain instances, to be far more appropriate than regular dowel and biscuit jointing.



### Verdict

A satisfactory way to quickly form strong loose tenon joints.

### Price

$\frac{3}{8}$ " Loose Tenon beadLOCK - £24.95  
 $\frac{1}{8}$ " and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Loose Tenon beadLOCK – £34.95 (ex VAT)

### Contact

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