

TREND DC 400

The Trend DC 400 is a multi-function jig intended for drawer and small/medium box construction that works in a different way from template-based jigs. With this one, the "template" consists of sets of carbon fibre guide fingers that click directly into an index strip located in the rear router rail. This strip allows the fingers to be inserted in increments of 2.5mm and accurately repositioned and restored.

The Canadian-built DC 400 has a board-width capacity of 16" (400mm), works with a $\frac{7}{16}$ " (11.1mm) Trend guide bush and can cut through, half-blind and sliding dovetails, plus finger joints. The key to it is the three types of guide finger: fork-shaped for cutting tail boards, straight guides for cutting pin boards for through dovetails, and angled guides for cutting

pin boards for through dovetails.

A clear plastic window is located across the front of the jig. This allows you to see what is happening without being blasted with sawdust, but more importantly it guides the dust into the extractor if you are using one.

All tail boards, and half-blind pin sockets are cut with a dovetail cutter, through pins are cut with an 8mm straight cutter, in every case using the appropriate guide

fingers. The jig claims to be 'adjustment free', but to guarantee that through dovetail pins fit the tails, two additional straight cutters are available as accessories: one of 7.9mm and one of 8.1mm – an unusual way of adjusting pin size.

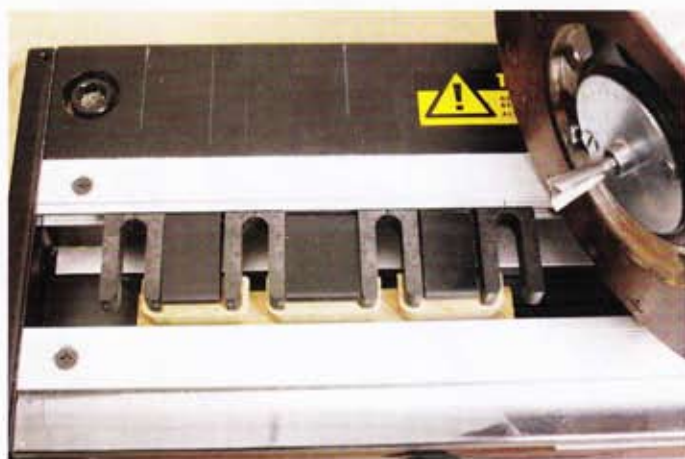
The jig comes with one dovetail cutter, for 19mm thick board. It can be used for thinner boards but the result is less elegant. There is also one 8mm straight cutter. Ten each of the three types of guide finger are supplied; additional ones can be bought as accessories. Four other dovetail cutters are also available for board thicknesses of 6.3mm, 9.5mm, 12.7mm and 15.8mm. Each of these requires its own set of angled fingers



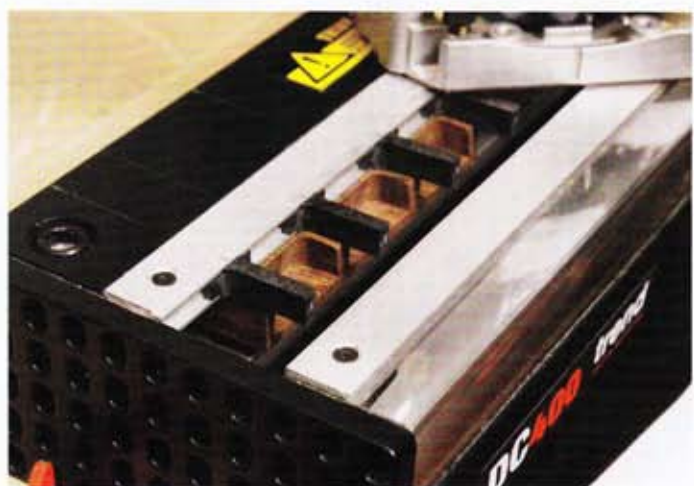
The DC400 showing the three types of guide finger, two standard cutters and guide bush



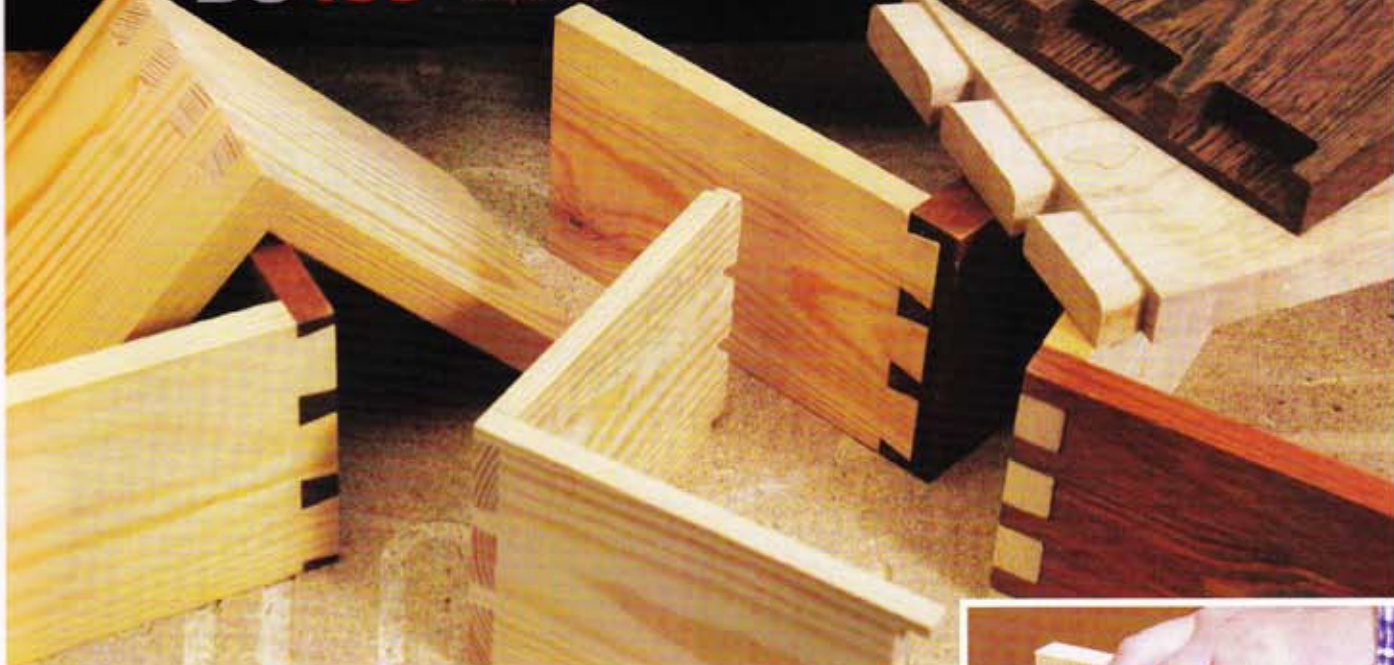
Set of additional cutters, examples of different angle guides and half-blind end stops



Completed half-blind tail board. Note the packing pieces between the fingers to prevent accidental cutting



Completed half-blind pin board clamped in horizontal position

DC400 trend

Selection of joints cut on the DC 400

for cutting through pins with the straight cutter. Two end stops for rapid repeatability of half-blind dovetails are also available. Cutters are available on $\frac{1}{2}$ in or 8mm shanks; there are no $\frac{3}{8}$ in shanks. For finger jointing an additional 8.9mm straight cutter is required.

Boards are held in the jig either vertically (for through dovetails and half-blind tails) or horizontally (for half-blind pin sockets).

The jig body has two alloy rails on which the router sits for all

operations. The rails give very stable support and overcome any tendency for the router to tip off the front, as can happen with other jigs.

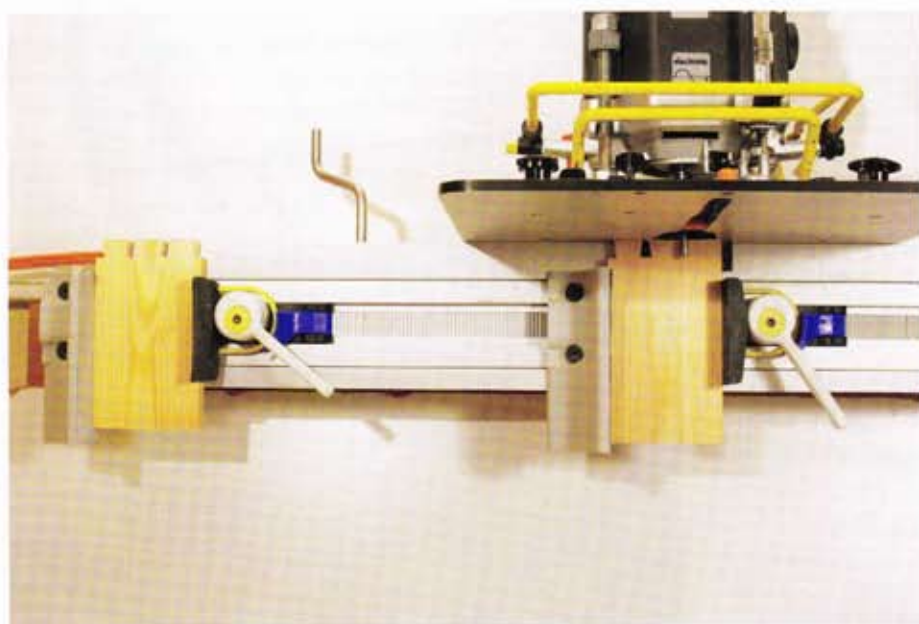
The design of the jig allows very efficient dust extraction. A plastic nozzle (available as an accessory) clips into the channel under the front of the jig and can be slid to any convenient position without interfering with the operation of the router.

Operation is far easier than a bald description of the jig might suggest. It soon becomes intuitive, and an



Cutting a tail board on the Inca jig

instructional video is available. ■



Cutting the same style of tail boards on the WoodRat

Further information

De Walt:
01753 567055
www.dewalt.co.uk

Leigh jigs:
Brimarc
www.jet.uk.com

Trend:
0800 487363
www.trend-uk.com