

WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 28, Issue 12 December 2023

From The President's Workbench

Seasons Greetings fellow woodworkers , winter is here as I look out over the fresh snow and have a desire to work on a few loose end projects for Christmas. We have come to a time of change in our club. It is with a sense of pride, gratitude, and a touch of nostalgia that I announce my departure as the President of our remarkable woodworking club after an immensely rewarding ten-year journey. The experiences we've shared, the friendships we've forged, and the beautiful creations we've collectively brought to life have defined this chapter of my life in ways words cannot fully express.

One of our proudest achievements during this tenure has been the transformation of our club into a financially robust entity. Through collaborative efforts, dedication, and your unwavering support, we've placed our woodworking family in a much stronger position. This financial stability not only secures our present but also promises a flourishing future for the generations of woodworkers yet to come.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every member who has been instrumental in the success of our tractor shows and the many years we've dedicated to promoting our club at the county fair. Your enthusiasm, hard work, and commitment have not only showcased our craftsmanship but have also been instrumental in creating a positive and lasting impression on our community.

As I transition to a new role within the club as Chairman for Programs, I am excited about the future and the continued growth of our woodworking endeavors. In this capacity, I will be reaching out to each of you, the talented and passionate members, to contribute your skills and expertise. Together, we will ensure that our programs thrive, and our club continues to be a hub of creativity and inspiration.

I am pleased to introduce and wholeheartedly support Jeff as he steps into the role of President and George as he assumes the position of Vice-President. Both individuals

bring valuable insights, dedication, and enthusiasm to their new roles. I am confident that under their leadership, our club will continue to flourish and reach new heights.

Let us all rally behind Jeff and George with the same fervor and camaraderie that has defined our woodworking club. Your continued support and passion will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing success and vibrancy of this community.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as your President. The memories we've created together will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to the exciting chapters yet to be written by this incredible woodworking family.

Thank you, and let the spirit of craftsmanship and collaboration endure! Enjoy this weather and don't let your tools rust!

Kevin Sturgeon Outgoing President Northwest Indiana Woodworking Association

Upcoming events: The Woodworking Shows has posted some of the dates for 2024 already.

Columbus, Ohio is January 19th through the 21st.

Indianapolis, Indiana is January 26th through the 28th.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin is February 16th through the 18th .

Check their link for more information. <https://www.thewoodworkingshows.com/>

The Christmas Party is coming up on December 14th, 2023 at 6:00 PM (a week before and an hour earlier than our normal meeting) at 6 PM. A sign up sheet for our members and their guests will be at the November meeting. The dinner will be buffet style with the club providing the meat and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dish and some handmade presents to share with the ladies. We always have a wonderful selection of foods.

TOYS FOR KIDS





SHOW AND TELL



Kevin Sturgeon



Norm Johnson



Bill Schoech



Kevin Sturgeon



Jon Robbins

CHASING DREAMS TOY GIVEAWAY

Here are some of the toys our members made being given to children by Chasing Dreams at the Hobart Moose Lodge.





PINEWOOD DERBY CAR CUTOUT



Kevin Sturgeon and Norm Johnson



ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have any wood working related items that you wish to sell through the newsletter please contact John Hunter john.b.hunter@frontier.com Include a description and the price you are selling them for, also how you may be contacted.

If you are looking for a tool that another member would like to sell you can place a wanted ad in the newsletter, just contact John Hunter at john.b.hunter@frontier.com

2023

December 14th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN
6:00 PM Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

Woodworking Tips

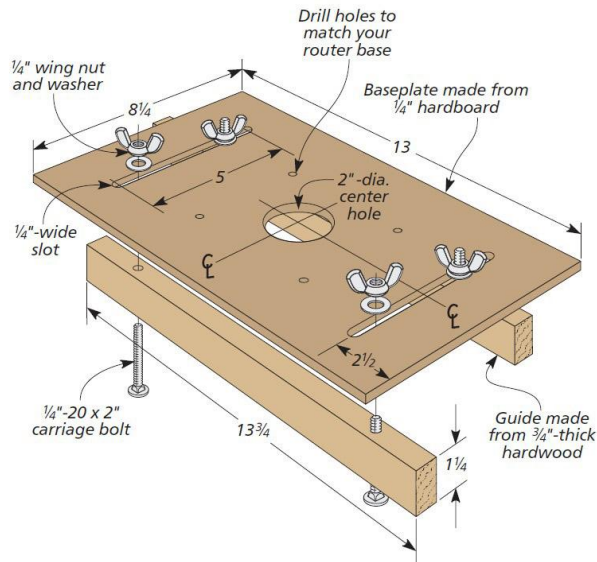
Simple Mortising Jig

By: Rob Petrie

This easy to use router jig helps you create accurate mortises.



When it came to building the Industrial Bookcase in issue 258, I found myself staring down quite a few mortises. If I'm going to be making that many mortises (or making sure that my bookcase is going to end up square), this is the jig I prefer. Honestly, if all I ever did with my plunge router was rout mortises, I would still consider it a great investment. It's fast, easy, and most importantly, I get a clean cut with dead-on accurate mortises every time.



THE JIG. A good jig for the plunge router needs an easy way to guide it while making the cut. My solution is the jig you see here. To rout multiple mortises efficiently, it incorporates a pair of adjustable guides attached to a hardboard baseplate, which replaces the router's baseplate. The guides on the jig snug up to either side of the workpiece to position and stabilize the cut. Then you can follow the guides with your router to cut a perfect mortise. Keeping the guides tightened down will make sure that each subsequent mortise on a piece will stay properly aligned.

THE SETUP. To get started, you'll need the jig in place and a bit installed in the router. I prefer a spiral upcut bit when it comes to mortising. Once the mortise is laid out, clamp the workpiece down so that the jig can slide freely along it without obstruction.



ADJUST THE JIG. The next step is setting up the jig using the layout lines on the workpiece. To do this, set the plunge router and jig on the workpiece with the bit roughly over the layout, then slide the guides loosely up against it.

To center the bit on the layout, lower it to the surface and lock it in place. Now, you can “tweak” the position of the jig on the workpiece until the bit falls between the layout lines. Once you’re satisfied with the position of your router on the workpiece, snug the guides up to the piece and tighten them down. The jig should slide easily along the workpiece, without any slop or wobble, while also not catching on anything.



THE CUT. With the router in position over the mortise layout, you’re ready to start the cut. I use multiple passes with this jig to “step” the mortise down at about 1/4" per cut. I like to start the cut by plunging just to the inside of the end line. Then, I rout back to the layout line before routing forward. I find this to be much easier than trying to plunge multiple times in the exact same spot. When I reach the end line, I step my depth down and repeat the process.

To end the cut right on the mark, I like to clamp a stop block to the workpiece, which will bump into one of my guides once I reached the end line. Since the workpiece is trapped firmly between the two guides and the stop block will keep you from routing too far, all you need to concentrate on while cutting are the “plunge mechanics.”

While working on the long posts of Industrial Bookcase, I marked out all of my layout lines beforehand, then when it came time to rout I was able to leave my guides in place after the initial adjustment and simply work my way up the post, moving my clamped-on stop block along with me.

When you try this jig out for yourself, I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised that a technique this easy can give such top-notch results. All it took was a little cleaning up in the corners of the mortises with a chisel, and I had all 40 mortises made in the posts of my bookcase.