

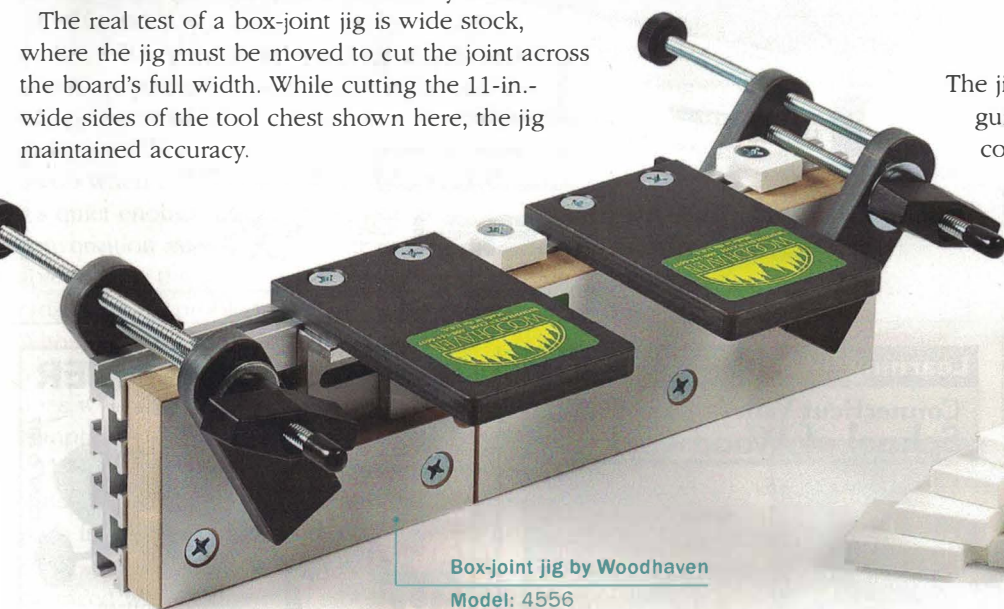
## ■ ACCESSORIES

### A jig for big box joints

**B**OX JOINTS, ALSO KNOWN AS FINGER JOINTS, are often cut using a tablesaw or router, and are modest in size, with fingers between  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. and  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide (the limits of a dado blade). They were originally used in cigar boxes, which had “locked” corners, but have become a popular joint for many small boxes, as they offer great strength and are attractive.

Larger finger joints are also a key element in Arts and Crafts furniture. Woodhaven’s 4556 portable box-joint jig is designed to cut these larger joints. The jig clamps to the end of a board. It’s designed to be used with a handheld router, but I also used it at the router table and it worked very well.

The real test of a box-joint jig is wide stock, where the jig must be moved to cut the joint across the board’s full width. While cutting the 11-in.-wide sides of the tool chest shown here, the jig maintained accuracy.



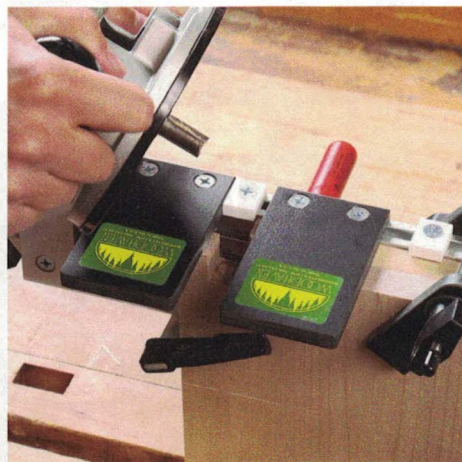
Box-joint jig by Woodhaven  
Model: 4556  
\$120

The jig, which requires a Porter-Cable-style guide bushing mounted in the router table, comes with setup blocks that work quite well for establishing the proper spacing of joints. Using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. spiral cutter in the router, you can easily make fingers ranging in width from about  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. After you’ve dialed in the fit of the joint, you can go to town with the Woodhaven jig, joining corner after corner with a perfect fit.

—Doug Stowe is a well-known box maker in Eureka Springs, Ark.



**No-measure setup.** The jig includes setup blocks that align the template guides and the adjustable stops used to index the workpiece as you cut successive notches.



**Guided rout.** A guide bushing in the router follows the jig’s black template guides, ensuring that all of the notches are identical and accurately sized.



**Accuracy assured.** A stop on the jig’s face adjusts to match the size of the notches being cut. The jig is moved along the workpiece a notch at a time, cutting fingers the right size.