

tools & materials

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Jig unlocks dovetail keys

ALTHOUGH LOVELY AND INTERESTING, dovetail keys in the corners of a box can be fussy to execute. However, Infinity's tapered dovetail spline jig, once dialed in, is fuss free. It cuts slightly tapered notches in the box as well as the mating keys, which slide together perfectly for a gap-free fit. Glue-up is easy but requires a bit

of attention because the splines fit from one direction only. By the way, there is a larger version of this jig that sells for \$133.

The jig has two parts. One is used to cut the notches in the box. It can be used with a handheld router, but the box must be clamped into the jig, which can be awkward. I prefer using it at the router table—the box stands neatly in the jig and gravity helps keep it in place.

The second jig rides in the miter slot of the tablesaw to cut the keys. It has an insert that can be changed so that the jig is always zero-clearance, regardless of the angle needed for the keys. To create the key's taper, the miter bar on the underside of the sled is slightly off square.

The jig is well-made and works great. After using it to make several boxes, I think it's the right choice for boxes with dovetail keys.

—Doug Stowe is a professional boxmaker and furniture maker in Eureka Springs, Ark

Dovetail key jig
by Infinity
\$170



Notch the box. Nestled in the 45° cradle, the box is run through a dovetail bit to create the tapered notches in its corners.



Cut the key. The jig's tablesaw sled is angled slightly to create tapered keys that fit the tapered notches seamlessly. A replaceable throat insert ensures accuracy, safety, and a clean cut.



Tapered key leaves no gap. The key slides in from one side only, but the taper guarantees that it fights tightly into the notch.