



TOOLS & MATERIALS

SHOP-TESTED

Doweling jig, no. 08350K, \$200

JessEm, 866-272-7492, jessem.com

JessEm's Doweling Jig solves one of the age-old problems with dowel joints (and doweling jigs): hole misalignment in mating workpieces. Here's how it works. First, lay out and drill dowel holes in one of the workpieces. The jig's fence registers along the body by way of self-indexing notches in $\frac{1}{8}$ " increments; for centered holes, you set it based on half the workpiece thickness. The drill guides are spaced in equal increments (clearly etched into the guide holder, with different holders for each size hole) so you can drill those you want without moving the jig.

With one workpiece drilled, you insert a dowel into one hole, and then clamp the mating workpieces together so you can drill the mating one. Fit the jig's slotted guide around the dowel (*right*) and clamp it to both pieces. Drill a hole using the guide directly in line with the dowel (*far right*), and then any others that align with those already drilled. Done!

On my first attempt, I drilled a dozen randomly spaced holes along the edges of two boards, and the two fit together perfectly. I still can't believe it's this easy.

The Master Kit comes with drill guides, bits, and stop collars for making $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{3}{8}$ ", and $\frac{1}{2}$ " dowel holes, as well as an indexing pin for

each size that lets you step-and-repeat by registering off a drilled hole. Don't need the whole kit? Buy the $\frac{3}{8}$ " jig for \$130. If you later need the other sizes, get them for \$40 each.

—Tested by Craig Rueggeger,
Deputy Editor
continued on page 82

