

Online Extras

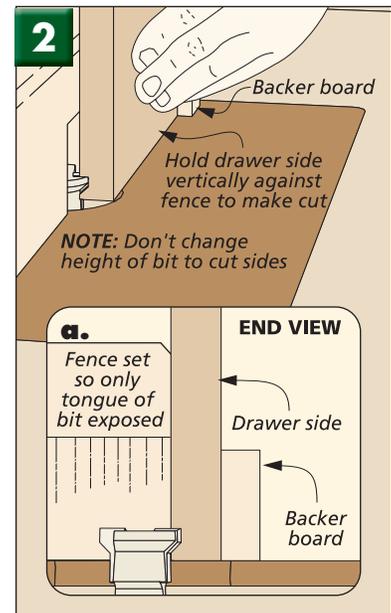
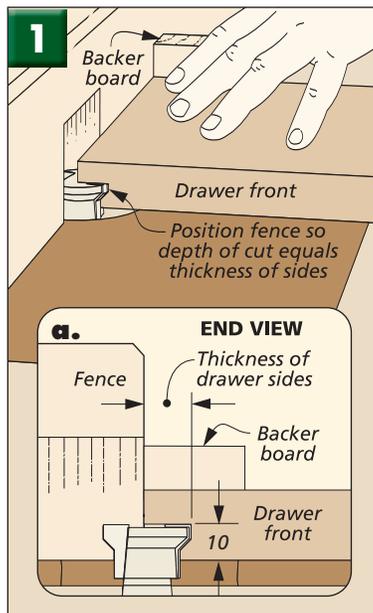
one-bit Locking Rebates

In woodworking it's easy to get into a rut. But often there's a reason. You tend to stick with what works.

That's why, when I have to build drawers for a project, more often than not I'll return to the trusted locking rebate joint for the joinery. It makes a strong drawer and I've always liked the way it looks.

A dado blade on the table saw has generally been my tool of choice to cut this joint. But recently I came across a new way to make this joint — with a drawer lock router bit. Its clever design allows you to cut both halves of the joint with a single bit. And I found that it works well.

THE SETUP. The key to using one of these bits is the setup. After you have the bit installed in the router table, the first step is to adjust it to the right height. In order for the joint to be a tight fit, this is important. The cutting height of the bit is given by the manufacturer (mine was 10mm) and it will only work right when it is set at this particular



height.

Once you've zeroed in on the correct height, you won't have to change it. Both halves of the joint can be cut using this same setting. The trick is in how you hold the different pieces as you rout the joint.

FRONT AND BACK. First you want to make the cut on your front and

back drawer pieces. These pieces are routed flat as shown in Fig. 1. Just set the fence to rout the ends to a depth that matches the thickness of the sides, as shown in Fig. 1a. You can prevent chipout with a backer board.

THE SIDES. Now all you have to do is rout a matching cut in the drawer sides. But this is a little different. Don't change the height of the bit but move the fence forward so that only the "tongue" of the bit will cut (Fig. 2a). Now you'll cut the sides with the pieces standing on end.

Just hold the side tightly against the fence and make a shallow pass (Fig. 2). Again, using a backer board is a good idea. You'll want to sneak up on the depth of the cut, testing the fit as you go. When the side fits flush with the end of the drawer front, your joint is done. **W**



Lipped Drawers

Occasionally a design calls for a drawer with a lipped front as shown in the near photo at left. Kitchen cabinets and some furniture styles often call for this treatment. And the drawer lock bit will easily accommodate it. It's simply a matter of making a deeper cut in the drawer front. A couple of passes will be necessary.