

Quick Reference Half-Blind Dovetails

You haven't used the jig for a while and just need reminding of some of the basics. Here they are for Half-Blind Dovetails.

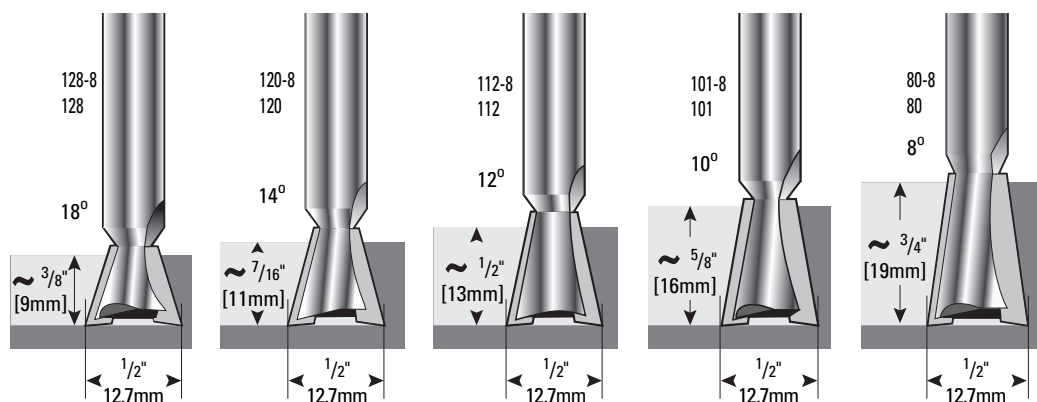
IMPORTANT REMINDER!

The most misunderstood aspect of routing half-blind dovetails is how the cutter angle affects the Depth of Cut setting.

Theoretically, there is only one "perfect" depth of cut for a given cutter that will produce perfectly mating Pins and Sockets. This one depth is determined by the angle of the selected cutter. Any other depth will produce a joint that is either looser or tighter than perfect fit.

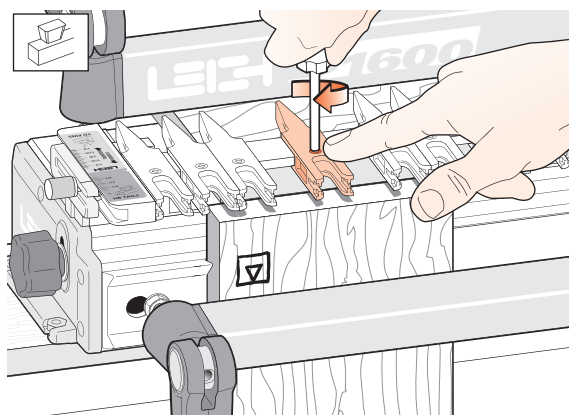
This "perfect" depth of cut is discovered by raising or lowering the cutter during trial and error test cuts.

Please read the next page carefully and note the specified Depth of Cut for each of the different cutter angles shown.




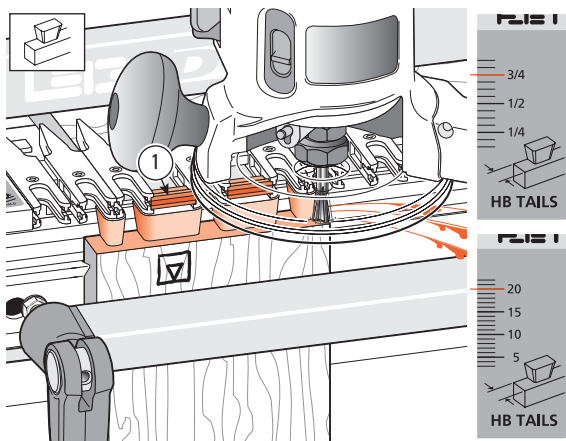
⚠ Important! Read This About Depth of Cut

- Depth of cut must be as specified for each of the five cutters illustrated above.
- Raising the cutter above its specified cutting depth will result in loose joints and may damage the jig, cutter and/or guidebush. A lower setting will result in tighter joints that may not fit together.
- Small Depth of Cut adjustments will change joint fit tightness. See 9-3 to 9-6 for why.
- Half-blind PINS and TAILS are routed with the same dovetail cutter and must be at the same Depth of Cut.
- Choose one of the five 1/2" [12,7 mm] diameter dovetail cutters shown above, and check cutter selection on page 152.
- Use only 7/16" [11,1 mm] outside diameter guidebushes.




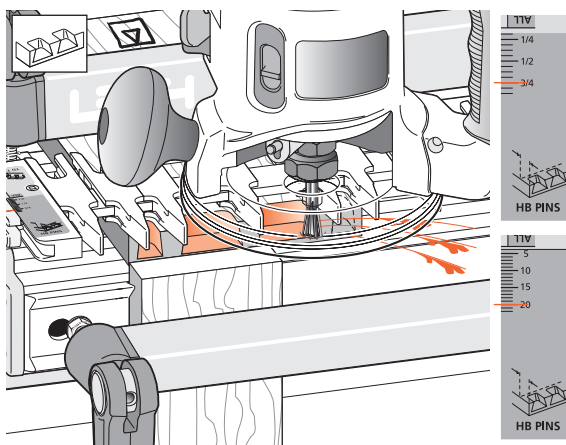
14-1

Half-blind dovetails are laid out in the  HB TAILS mode with the finger assembly slightly raised above a tailboard (e.g., drawer side).




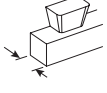
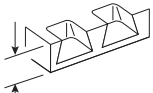


14-2

Half-blind (HB) tails: Drawer sides (tailboards) are clamped vertically in the jig. The inside face of the drawer side goes away from the jig body. The finger assembly is in the  HB TAILS mode, set to the **thickness of the drawer side**. Use bridge pieces where required ①.



14-3

Half-blind (HB) pins: Drawer fronts (pinboards) are cut with the board clamped horizontally in the jig. The inside face of the drawer front faces away from the jig body. The finger assembly is in the  HB PINS mode, and again set on the **thickness of the drawer side** (but adjusted for a flush fit, see 9-29 to 9-31).

			
Thickness of Tail Board	Thickness of Pin Board	Dovetail Cutter	Guidebush Diameter
up to 1"[26]	7/8" [22]	No.80-8	7/16" [11,1]
up to 1"[26]	3/4" -up [20]	No.101-8	
up to 1"[26]	5/8" -up [16]	No. 112-8	
up to 1"[26]	9/16" -up [14]	No.120-8	
up to 1"[26]	1/2" -up [12]	No.128-8	

Numbers in brackets are millimetres

14-4

On the Leigh D1600 Jig, all half-blind dovetails are routed using a 7/16"[11,1mm] O.D. guidebush. ■

