

DA! USER GUIDE

Leigh Dovetail Jig

LEIGH
Joining Tradition with Today

Your New Leigh Dovetail Jig

Congratulations! You now own the world's most useful and versatile joinery tool. The Leigh Dovetail Jig will help you cut an infinite variety of joints, and all of its major functions are described in detail in this manual. A very helpful video is also included, but the manual is essential reading.

We recommend that you first assemble and mount the jig, carefully following the instructions in the first section of the manual. Then read the rest of the manual, following along with the basic functions and principles of operation, before you try to do any actual joinery routing. By all means, cut a few practice joints in scrap boards before you use the jig to

route a precious hardwood workpiece! If you have any questions that are not answered in the manual, please call the Leigh customer support line*.

But remember: "If at first you don't succeed, read the instructions!"

*See Appendix IV – Customer Support

Important! Inches and Millimetres

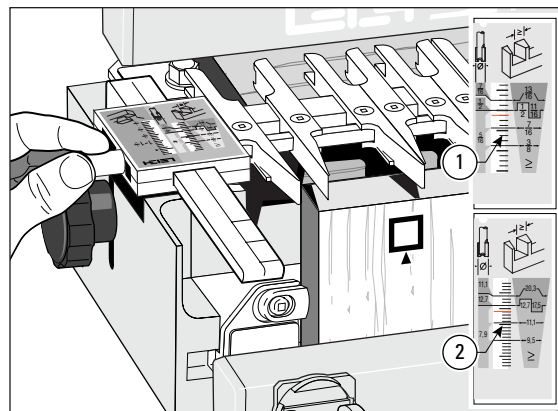
Leigh makes the D4 jig in two models; inch or metric. Text and illustrations in this Leigh English-language user guide indicate dimensions in both inches and millimetres. Dimensions are indicated in text and illustrations with "inches" first, followed by "millimetres" in square brackets.

Example: $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" [20 x 140 x 200mm]

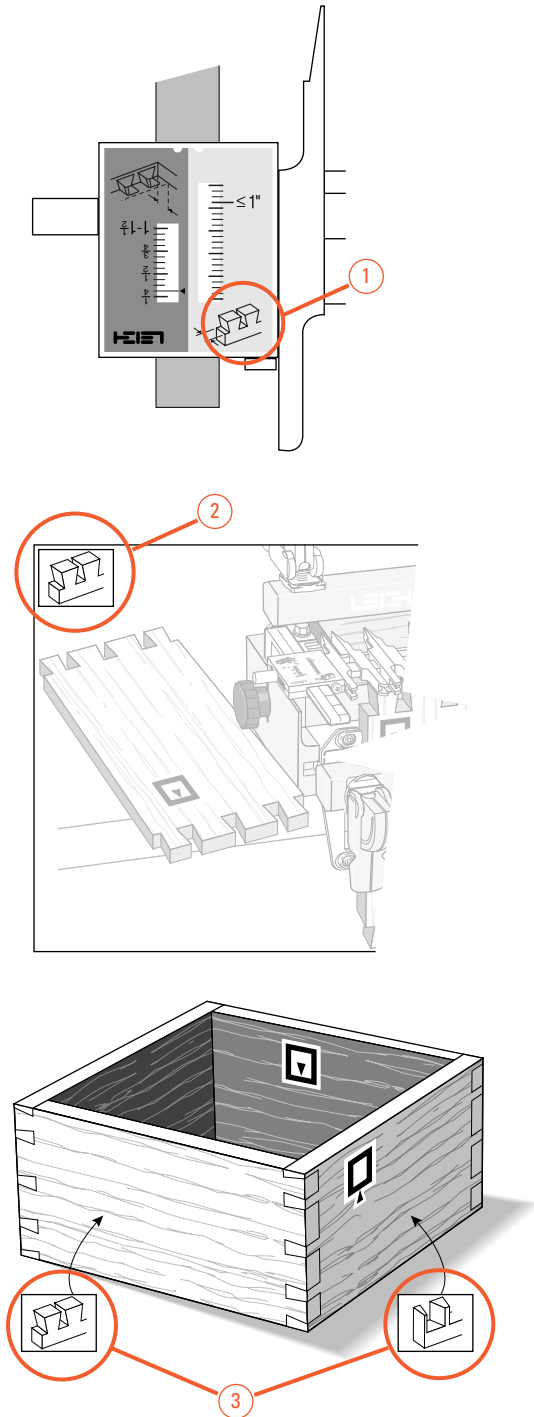
Do not be concerned if the inch/millimetre equivalents are not always exact. Just use the dimensions which apply to your jig.

Where finger assembly scales overlay an illustration, the "inches" scale ① will be at the top, the "millimetres" scale ② will be at the bottom. Only the right hand "active" half of the scales are illustrated. For clarity, setting positions are indicated with a red line in the manual only. **On the jig, the lines are black.**

To simplify the instructions, some jig illustrations show a jig considerably shorter than the standard 24" [610mm].



Glossary of Symbols	iv
Chapter 1 – Jig Assembly, Mounting and Using the Clamps	1
Chapter 2 – Adjusting the Finger Assembly	15
Chapter 3 – How Routers with Guidebushes Work	21
Chapter 4 – Operation Concepts and Basic Jig Functions	25
Chapter 5 – Using Your Jig Safely	35
Chapter 6 – Wood Preparation	43
Chapter 7 – Router Preparation	47
Chapter 8 – Through Dovetail Procedures.....	51
Chapter 9 – Large and Small Through Dovetails	69
Chapter 10 – Half-Blind Dovetail Procedures.....	75
Chapter 11 – Rabbeted Half-Blind Dovetails	89
Chapter 12 – End-on-End Dovetails	95
Chapter 13 – Asymmetric Dovetails	101
Chapter 14 – Sliding Dovetail Procedures	113
Chapter 15 – Quick Reference – Through Dovetails	131
Chapter 16 – Quick Reference – Half-Blind Dovetails.....	135
Chapter 17 – Hints and Tips	139
Appendix I – Guidebush Selection.....	149
Appendix II – Cutter Selection	155
Appendix III – Jig Parts List.....	163
Appendix IV – Customer Support	167



How to Read the Symbols

To help you understand the instructions and illustrations in this manual, we have used a number of international symbols, plus a few special ones of our own. They are all explained below. **You needn't worry about memorizing these symbols now**, because they are repeated quite frequently in the manual, and you will soon get used to them.

Glossary of Symbols

The Leigh jig's guidefinger assembly can be in any one of four joint modes, depending on what type of joint and which part of the joint you are cutting. Each finger assembly scale has its own mode icon^①, identifying that joint part. You will also find the joint mode icon in the top left corner of most illustrations^②, indicating which finger assembly mode to use. Sometimes a joint mode icon will be used to identify a board^③.

These are the four joint mode icons:



TD Tails
(tails for through dovetail joints)



TD Pins
(pins for through dovetail joints)




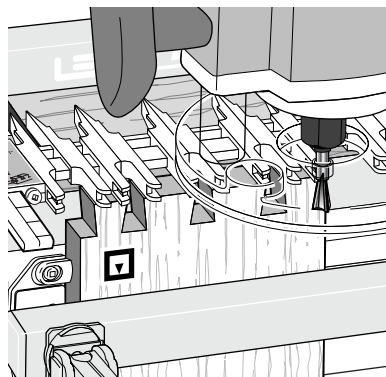
HB Tails
(tails for half-blind dovetail joints)



HB Pins
(pins for half-blind dovetail joints)

Which Way Round Should the Board Go?

Most joinery done on the Leigh jig is for case-work (i.e., boxes, cabinets, drawers, chests and so on) so in nearly all the illustrations we have indicated **which side of the board shows outwards when it is in the jig**, eg. in this figure the inside face  of the tail board is away from the jig.



This indicates the side of the board that will face outward on the finished project.



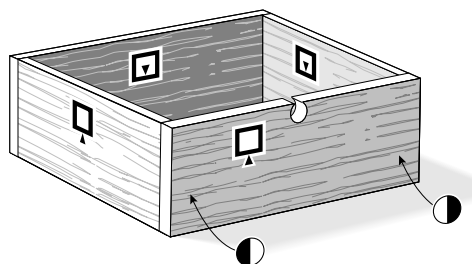
This indicates the side of the board that will face inward on the finished project.



This indicates a side that can face either way on the finished project



Dotted line icons are on the other side of the board.



The following symbols indicate:



Left side of item (drawer, box, case, etc.)



Right side of item



Top of item



Bottom of item



This edge against sidestop



This edge against sidestop

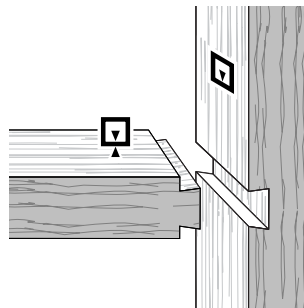


Sawcut allowance



Caution: use special care for this operation

①②③ Reference in text



Centreline of board or layout



Equals



Does not equal



Approximately



Less than or equal to



Greater than or equal to

