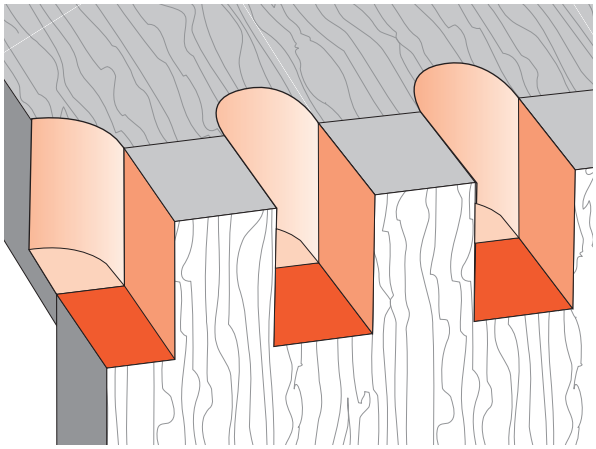
F2, F1600 ***CHAPTER 11***

Hints and Tips

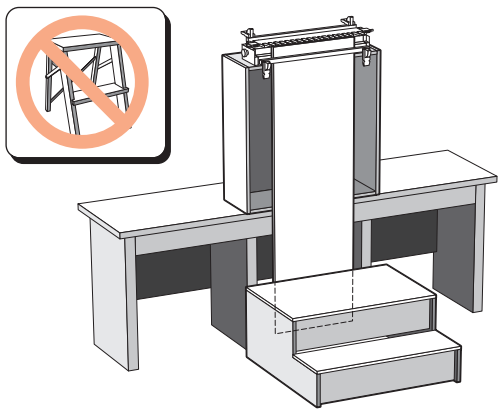
Here are some special techniques and ideas to help you get the most out of your Leigh Finger Joint Template.



11-1

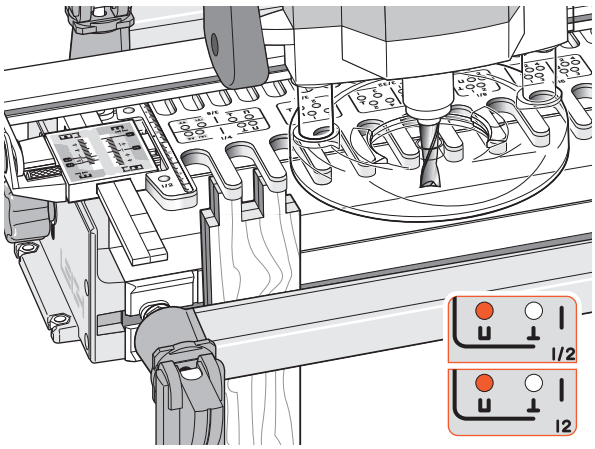
To help prevent tear-out on the sides and bottom of the exit cut, back up the cut with a horizontal board end-grain pushed against the back of the workpiece and held in the rear clamp.

This same scrap piece can remain in place for successive cuts.



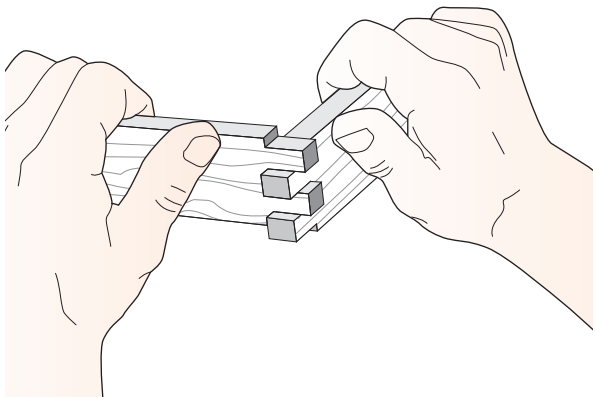
11-2

For routing long vertical boards it may be necessary to build a jig stand to mount securely on your bench. Make the stand and bench height combination sufficient to accept the board length you have in mind. The jig stand should be bolted securely to the bench. Make up a stable platform to stand on as in the illustration. Do not use a set of steps. Steps are not stable enough.



11-3 Quick Fit Test

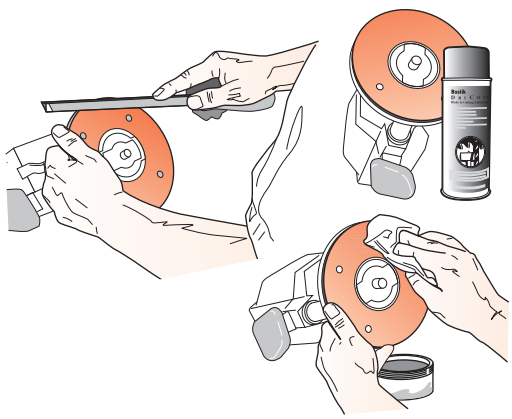
Rather than routing test pieces separately, here is a quick way to get 99% of the way there. Simply rout two thinner boards of scrap stock simultaneously. Any single pin position will do, unless you intend to rout small box joints, in which case, use the matching pin positions described in chapter 10.
If you prefer, use one piece and saw in half after routing.



11-4

Test for fit. Don't worry about board alignment, it's only the fit you're testing. Adjust the VGS by trial and error and rout more pairs of scrap board ends as required.

Once you have a good fit, rout a complete pair of separate test pieces in the same species wood as the actual workpieces, to test for final fit.



11-5

Some router bases have sharp edges on the outside and inside corners. A slight chamfer of the edges with a fine file or sandpaper block will ease router movement on the jig.

An occasional light spray of TopCote® or application of soft wax to the router base makes for smooth, easy router movement on the jig. ■