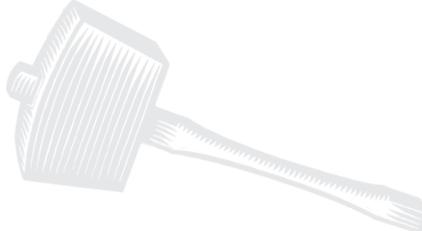
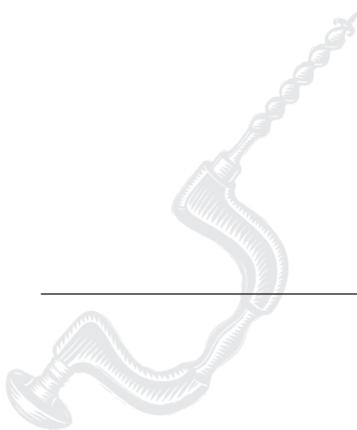
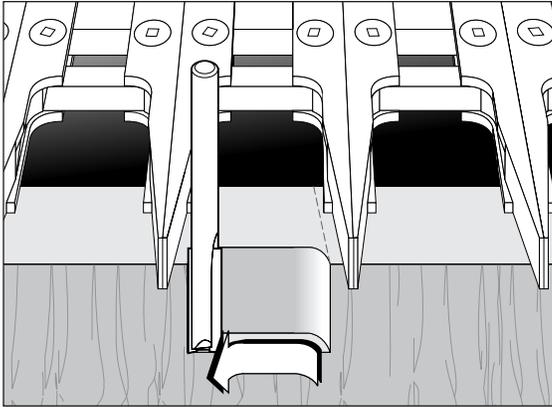


# Hints and Tips

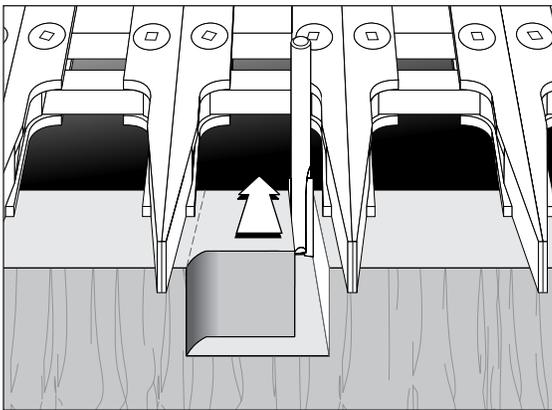


**Chapter Foreword**

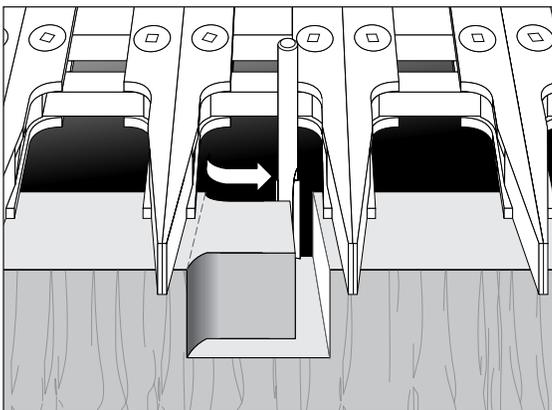
Here are some special techniques and ideas to help you get the most out of your Leigh jig.

**17-1**

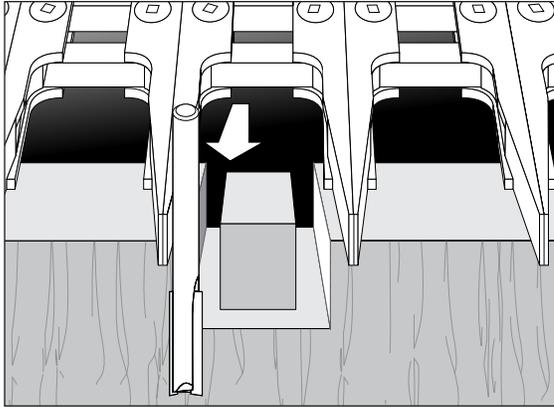
With the straight cutter, carefully climb-rout from right to left. Make sure you control the router firmly when climb routing. Note: For clarity, the guidebush is not shown in this sequence.

**17-2**

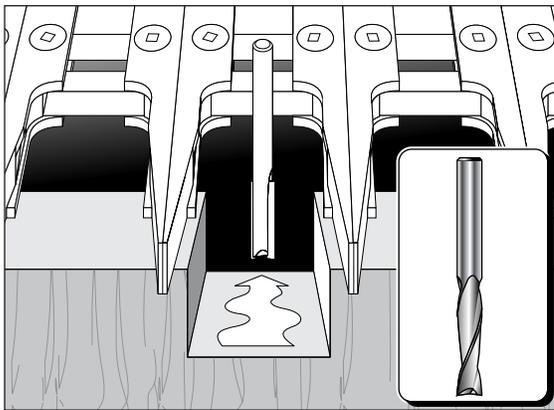
Rout through on the right side.

**17-3**

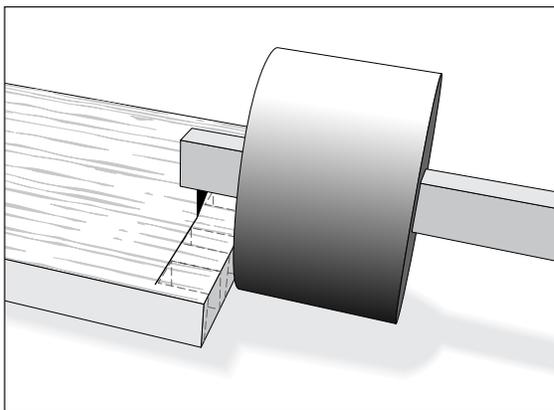
Climb rout from left to right from the rear of the cut. Take care to control router.



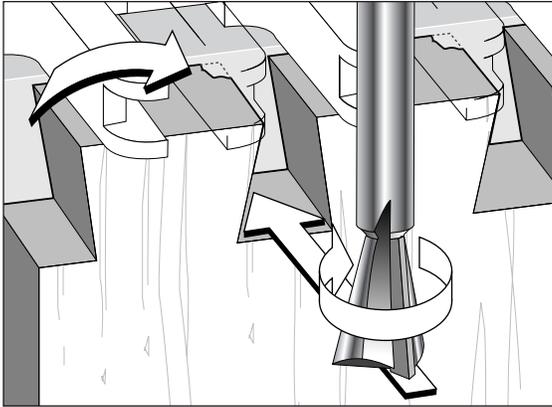
**17-4**  Rout back through towards you on the left side.



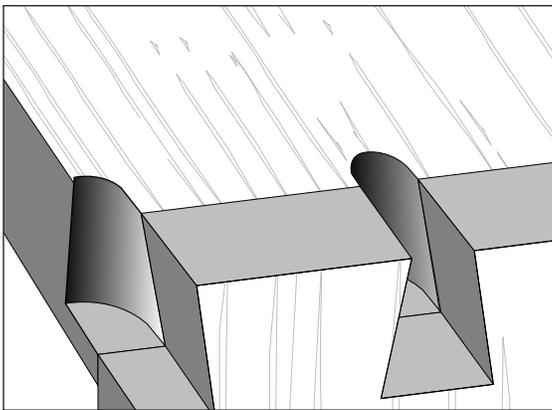
**17-5** Rout away the rest of the waste.  
**Note:** Spiral up-cut straight cutters (inset) generally rout more smoothly than the two-flute carbide-tipped bits. If you want to try them, you should be aware that while the high-speed steel bits take a better edge, they are much less durable than the more costly solid carbide type.



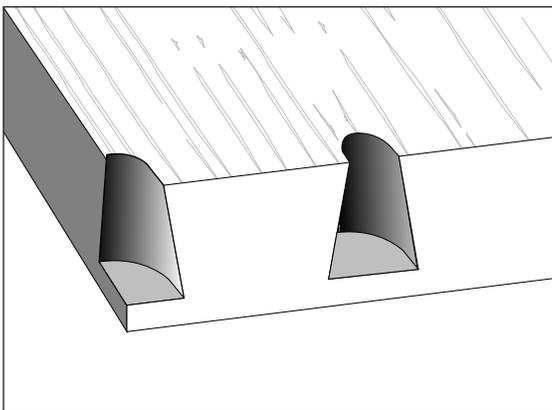
**17-6 Through Dovetail Pins Tearout**  
 To prevent tearout at the back bottom part of a straight cut, scribe a line with your marking gauge across the back of the pin board at exactly the depth of cut.

**17-7 Dovetail Tails Tearout**

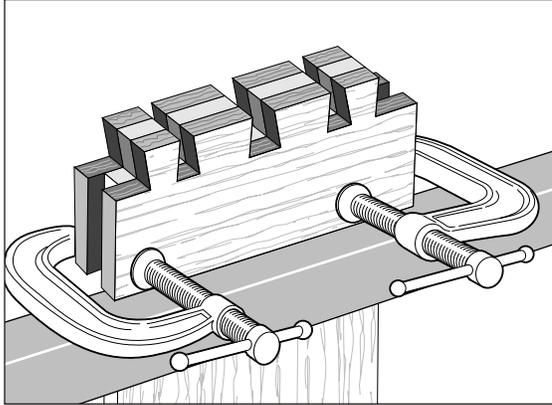
With the dovetail cutter, most tearout occurs at the top left exit of the cut.

**17-8**

To help prevent this, back up the cut with the end-grain of a horizontal board pushed against the back of the workpiece and held in the rear clamp. This board replaces the spacer board.

**17-9**

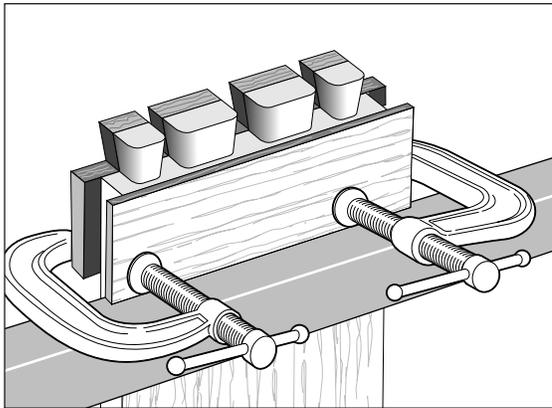
This same scrap piece can remain in place for successive cuts.

**17-10**

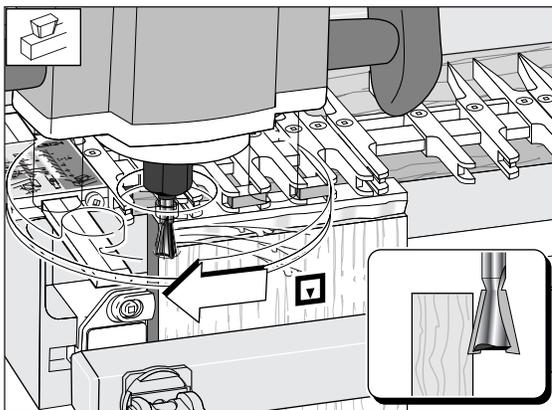
For particularly vulnerable pieces or that last piece of exotic wood, the best solution is to clamp horizontal scrap pieces to front and back of the work piece. **Make sure the clamps are below the cutter depth.**

 **PLYWOOD**

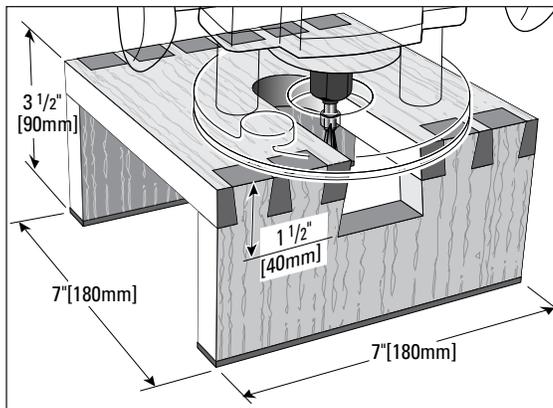
Plywood is not a suitable material for routing; the laminates are very prone to tearout. Either of these two procedures (17-10, 17-11) are essential for plywood but provide no guarantee of success.

**17-11**

A single scrap piece can be C-clamped on the back of half-blind tails, *but make sure you protect the workpiece from the clamp pads.* Note: There is no 100% solution to tearout. It's not the jig's fault, just something that happens when machining, sawing and even chiseling wood. Important pieces fall off from where you least want them to.

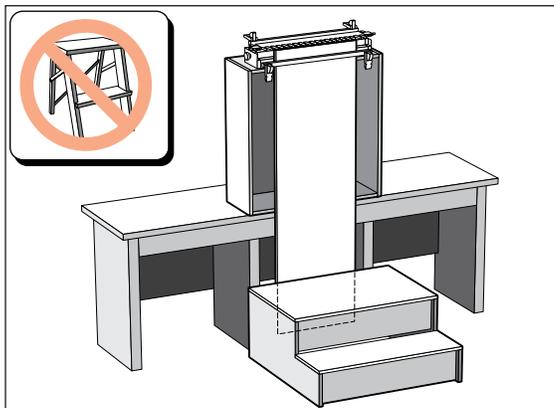
**17-12** 

On face cuts, whether using a straight cutter or a dovetail cutter, climb routing or back routing will leave a clean edge; **but great caution must be exercised in controlling the router's movement from right to left, as the cutter rotation pulls the router in that direction anyway.**



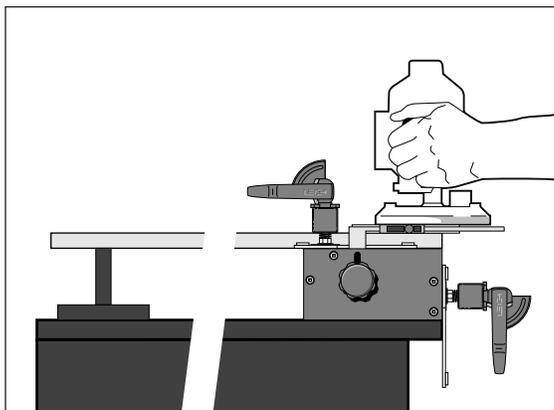
### 17-13 General Hints

Router Stand: Make up a small router stand as illustrated, to mount the router securely on the bench when not in use.



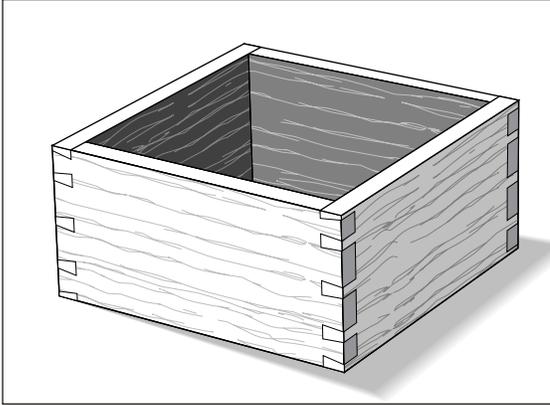
### 17-14

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.**

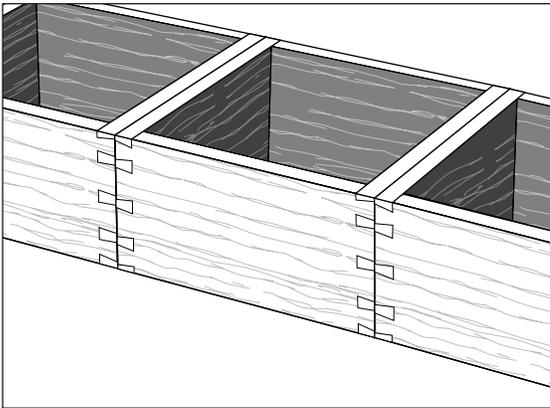


### 17-15

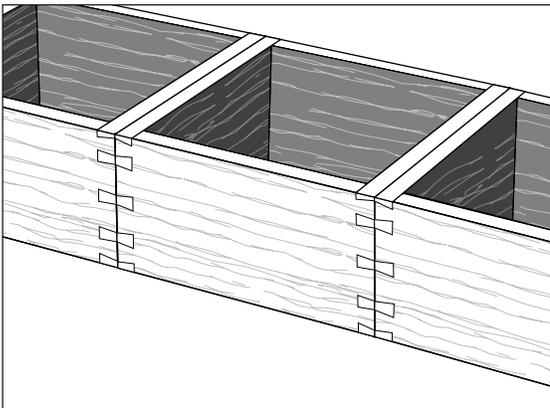
When placing long horizontal boards in the rear clamp, make sure the rear end of the board is supported to prevent unnecessary racking of the jig.

**17-16 More On Symmetry**

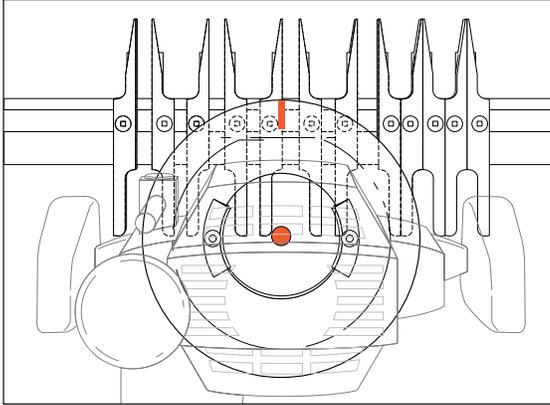
It doesn't matter if symmetrical-looking joints on a single box do not precisely mirror the adjacent corners. No one will ever know the difference. These joints look perfectly symmetrical on their own, but...

**17-17**

If a number of these boxes end up side-by-side, the slight misalignments of the joints could be unattractive. So when making boxes or through dovetail drawers that will be lined up beside each other with the joints showing...

**17-18**

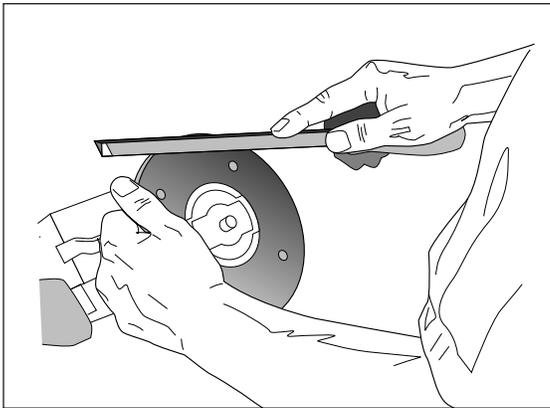
Use the asymmetrical *mirror image* aligning techniques on pages 104-106 for perfectly aligned *neighbour* joints.



### 17-19 Using The Router

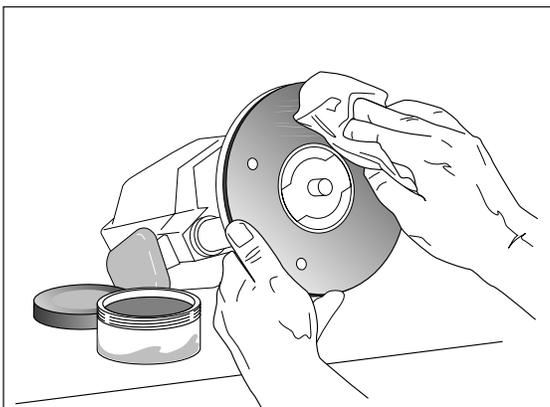
Mark the router base top edge at the 12 o'clock position with a felt marker pen. Without wood or cutters, try some **dry runs** in each jig mode. This will soon get you used to positioning the guidebush against the correct guide surface without looking under the router.

 **Do not rout at face level.**



### 17-20

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.



### 17-21

An occasional very light application of soft wax on the router base makes for smooth easy router movement on the jig.

