

# Routing with Denis

## Routing workshop RW1: Tapered dovetail housing joints

Some woodworking joints need to handle a lot of stress and strain. Drawers are regularly yanked out of their housing and the inertia of the weight of the drawer plus contents places a lot of strain on the drawer-front-to-drawer-side joints. Traditional half-blind dovetails are a good solution to this problem. I use a tapered dovetail housing joint (aka tapered sliding dovetail), which is equally strong. The taper is necessary to avoid binding when assembling the joint. This joint is suitable for both inset drawers and overlay drawers and dispenses with the need for a false front on overlay drawers. This joint is shown below:



This joint is also ideal for attaching fixed shelves and partitions – bookcases are a prime example. Attaching stair treads to the risers are another application. You will find other uses for this joint. Learn how to cut it by attending my half-day workshop. You will also pick up several general routing techniques, jig design and construction tips and learn a lot about making drawers. We build a drawer on this workshop.

To cut such joints in your shop you will need:

- ¼" or ½" router hand-held router and guide bush (16 mm diameter or larger)
- router table
- ½" diameter dovetail router bit (shank size to suit the router/s being used)
- table saw or radial arm saw to make the necessary jig

Dovetail router bits, optional kits (see below) and other router accessories will be on sale.

## Workshop details

**Level:** Advanced

**Date and time:** This multi-student, half-day course is held on a Saturday morning (09h00 to 13h00)  
(dates will be announced on my website)

A one-on-one session can be arranged for a weekday morning (09h00 to 13h00)  
(the odd Saturday morning can be accommodated)

**Venue:** Unit E24, The Storehouse, Midrand – a map is available on my website

**Course fee:** See my website for the course fee

Optional kit 1 - all materials and fittings necessary to make a jig to cut a tapered housing – R100,00

Optional kit 2 - all wood needed to complete a drawer – build a drawer in your own workshop – R100,00

**Prerequisite:** Familiarity and confidence with the use of a hand-held router and router table

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