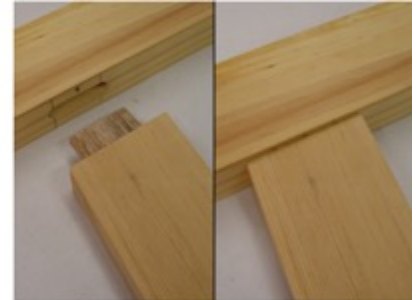
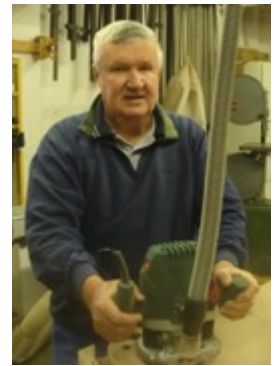


Routing with Denis

Routing workshop RW4: Mortice and tenon joints

Over the years a number of alternatives to the mortice and tenon joint have been introduced. The motivation has always been to reduce the time to make the joint and to lower the skill level required. For many applications these alternatives are more than adequate. Despite claims to the contrary, however, they do not match the strength and longevity of the traditional mortice and tenon joint. Heirloom furniture needs mortices and tenons.



If you own a plunge router it is not all that difficult to cut quality mortice and tenon joints. This workshop will teach you how to do just that. The following topics are covered:

- Why a mortice and tenon joint is inherently strong – some joint theory.
- Optimum proportions for mortices and tenons - maximising strength.
- Cutting mortices with a plunge router – fundamental approaches to making a mortice jig will be discussed. Jigs made using different approaches will be shown.
- Hardware for jigs: T-nuts, threaded inserts and knobs.
- Options for cutting tenons: bandsaw, table saw, radial arm saw or compound mitre saw, hand-held router and router table. Students will cut a tenon on the router table.
- Floating tenons – an excellent alternative to traditional tenons. Also called loose or slip tenons. Two exercises using floating tenons are used: the frame for a frame and panel door and the legs and aprons for a table.
- Gluing mortice and tenon joints.

Selected router bits, mortice jigs and other router accessories will be on sale. If you are interested in buying a mortice jig please bring your parallel fence (complete with rods) with you.

Workshop details:

Level: Intermediate

Date and time: This is a half-day course (09h00 to 13h00) scheduled on request for one, two or three students.

Venue: Co.Space, Midrand. See the 'Contact me' page of my website for a map.

Course fee: See my website for the course fee

Prerequisite: Prior attendance at course RW0 or practical experience with a router

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