

Routing with Denis

Routing workshop RW6: Frame-and-panel doors

It is not practical to make a one-piece door (I call it a slab door) from solid wood for anything much larger than a jewellery case or key case. Beyond that the universal phenomenon of wood movement (shrinkage and swelling in concert with seasonal changes in relative humidity) will come and bite you. The time-honoured solution to this problem is a frame-and-panel door that consists of a least five pieces of wood. Although the construction techniques are well understood I continue to see frame-and-panel doors where the joints have been forced open or the panels have split. Let me teach you the techniques so that the same doesn't happen to you.



The following topics are covered:

- Why wood moves? The impact on cabinet doors. The frame-and-panel solution.
- Choice of wood and recommended sizes.
- Corner style – right angles or 45 degree mitre – advantages and disadvantages
- Corner joint options – traditional mortice and tenon, slip tenon, stub tenon, biscuits, dowels
- Front outer arris moulding – chamfer, round over, bead, cove ...
- Front inner arris moulding – chamfer, stopped chamfer, stopped cove, cope-and-stick
- Cope-and-stick router bits – paired, stacked, reversible
- Router table coping sled – using cope-and-stick bits
- Estimating panel shrinkage/ swelling – calculating panel size
- Panel raising bits – horizontal vs vertical. Using those large horizontal panel raising bits safely
- Hinge choice – butt or Euro (full overlay, half overlay or inset)
- Cutting hinge recesses - placement
- Assembly precautions
- Choice of knob / handle and catches
- Hanging the door

Selected router bits, coping sleds and other router table accessories will be on sale.

Workshop details:

Level: Intermediate

Date and time: This multi-student, half-day course is held on a Saturday morning (09h00 to 13h00)
See my website for scheduled dates
A one-on-one session can be arranged for a weekday morning or afternoon

Venue: 44 Talisman Avenue, Bedfordview, Gauteng (26°10' 43,0" S, 28°7' 38,5" E)

Course fee: See my website for the course fee

Prerequisite: Prior attendance at course RW8 or practical experience with a router table.

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