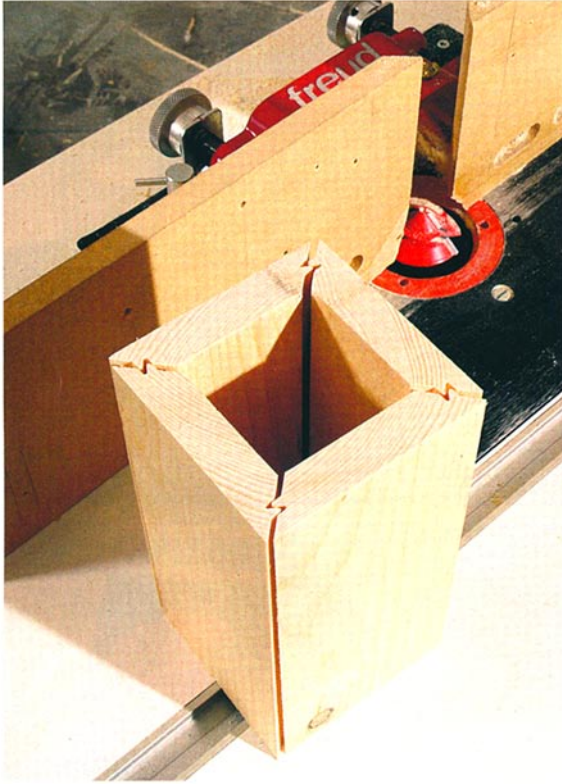


Workshop Forum

by Luc Chênevert, Cabinetmaker
as seen in *Rénovation-Bricolage* magazine

freud[®]

Lock Miter Bit



The bit used to create locking mitre joints (Freud # 99-035) is a specialized router accessory. It is used to create locking joints for certain types of furniture, columns, and architectural pieces

Many do-it-yourselfers have told me that they find it difficult to adjust the tool to get good results. This challenge stems from the system's simplicity: symmetry. You may need to make several attempts before finding the right settings.



Once you have mounted the cutter on the router table, adjust the height. A specific point of the cutter, on a corner of the joint, must correspond to exactly half of the thickness of the piece being worked on. Then you should adjust the guide so that the height of the cutting angle falls right on the upper corner of the piece. A good way to check that the settings are symmetrical is to cut two pieces and make sure that they join perfectly when laid flat.



For the second step in making the joint, keep the cutter at the same height, but move the guide so that the cutting angle falls on the lower corner of your piece. This pass will be run vertically, instead of horizontally as in the first step. I recommend that you make the cut in two parts by blowing on the guide once the adjustments are made; this step is even more important if you are working with hardwood. This will ensure that you get a splinter-free cut and reduce the load on your router. With the proper settings, you will find this operation simple and your results will be very accurate.