

Online Extra

Craftsman nightstand Mortising Jig

The sides and top of the Craftsman nightstand are assembled with screws through mortises. To ensure the sizing of the mortises was consistent, I used the router jig shown at right.

The two-part base and a pair of spacers form an opening for a pattern bit. (*Amana Tools Dado cleanout bit 45460-S*) The width of the opening matches the diameter of the bearing on the bit. The bit should slide smoothly in the slot without moving from side to side. The distance between the spacers determines the overall length of the mortise.

For all of the mortises except the two near the front edge of the top, clamp the jig to the workpiece with the narrow cleat securely against the edge. Use a plunge router to make a couple of passes to reach the final depth (detail 'a'). For the two front mortises on the top, flip the jig over so the wide cleat butts against the edge.

