Jointer Knife Setup Jig Instructions

Easily setup or replace your jointer knives without all the headaches. Two precisely machined brass bars with powerful magnets, hold the jig exactly where you need it to be for quick alignment. Once aligned for the first time, replacing your knives will be a breeze every time after.

CAUTION: Make sure the power supply is disconnected on your power tool(s) or machinery before making any adjustments. Don't use any tools with out the proper safety guard(s) in place or without reading the instruction manual that came with the unit. Always wear the proper eye, ear and respiratory equipment when using power tools.

Jointer Knife Setup Jig

Step 1



With the power dis-connected from the power source, adjust your jointer fence so that it is to the rear of the jointer table. The Fence should be at 90° to the out-feed table. Most new jointers automatically align when secured, however older jointers may be "free floating" fence types which must be properly aligned before proceeding.

Shop Note:

It is possible to align the jointer knives without a fence in place, but it is much quicker and easier to use the fence as an indexing guide when replacing or adjusting your knives.

Step 2



Find the Top Dead Center of your jointer knife by placing a straight edge on the out feed table over the jointer knife as shown in photo. Rotate the cutter-head until the knife just touches the straight edge. The spot where the knife contacts the straight edge is the Top Dead Center of your cutter-head. **Shop Note:**

When choosing a straight edge, you may use a metal or wood piece of material. Wood is preferable to do this as some metal types may damage the knife.

Step 3



With your cutter-head and knife at "Top Dead Center" and using a square from the out feed table, mark your fence vertically in line with the knife as shown in photograph.

Shop Note:

You may want to make this line permanent by using a scribing tool or a permanent fine tipped black marker. This line is your primary indexing mark for this and future adjustments to your jointer knives.

Step 4



Place the Jointer Knife Setup Jig onto your out feed table top so the brass bar with the two scribed lines is firmly against the fence. Align the right scribed line on the brass setup jig with the mark made on your fence in step #3. Once aligned, make a mark on your fence corresponding with the left scribed line on the brass setup jig as shown in the photograph.

Step 5



Remove the setup jig. Place your square up against the fence in line with mark made in step #4. Once aligned, mark or scribe a line on your fence as shown in the photo. You now should have two scribed lines on your fence that correspond with two scribed lines on the brass setup jig.

Shop Note:

You may want to make this line permanent by using a scribing tool or a permanent fine tipped black marker. This line is your secondary indexing mark for this and future adjustments to your jointer knives.

Step 6



Place the Jointer Knife Setup Jig back onto your out feed table and align the two pre-scribed lines to the to lines on your fence. Next, place your square flat onto the table top surface and up against the jig. Square up the jig and secure the set screws with a hex key wrench. Remove the square - your jig is now ready to setup your jointer knives.

Shop Note:

It is important to keep the brass bar that is up against the fence still. If this end moves while squaring it may cause mis-alignment of your knives.

Setting & Installing Your Knives



Insert the jointer knife into the cutter-head. Next, place the setup jig back onto the table and align the jig to the marks previously made as shown in step #6. Rotate the cutter-head until the magnets on the jig pull the knife up to the jig. Once the knife is against the magnets, be sure the knife tip is aligned with index mark made in step #3. Secure your knife and repeat this process for all remaining knives.

Shop Tip:

Shifting your nicked knives can save you time and money. Simply shifting your knives by loosening them in the cutter-head and make sure the nicks do not overlap. Ensure that you follow all of the steps for re-setting your jig as detailed in these instructions after you shift your knives.