

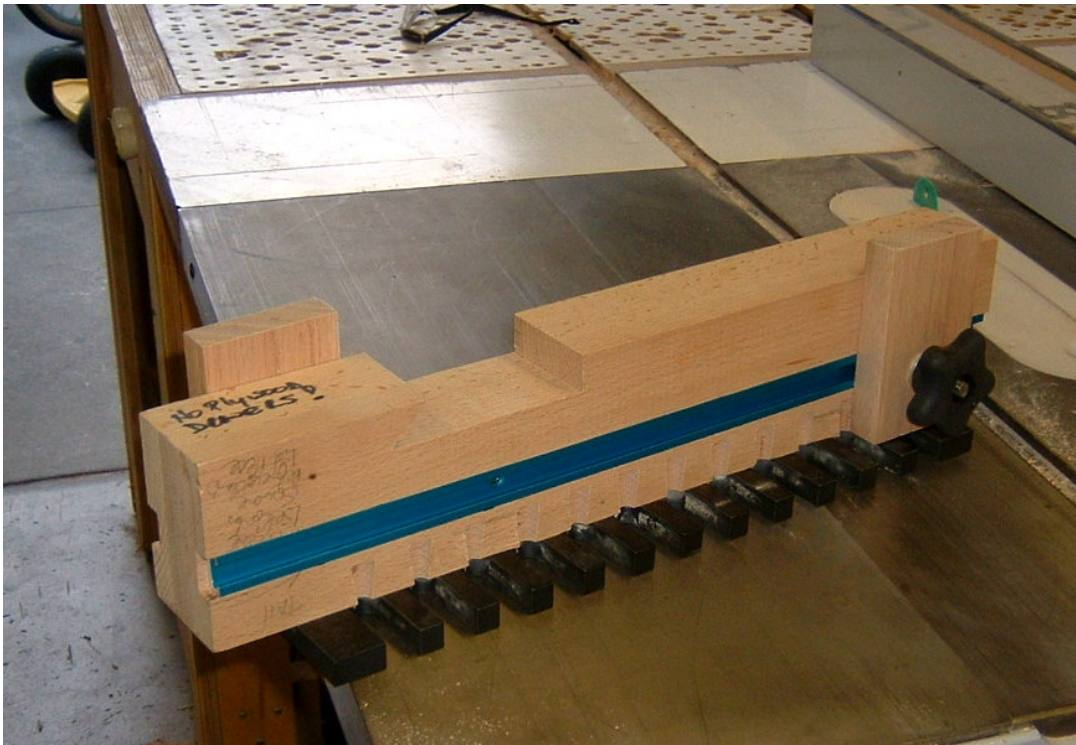
## Some Keller Jig Tips I Have Learned Using My Keller Through Dovetail Jig – by Paul Comi

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I really appreciate how easy it is to whip out a set of perfect fitting drawer sides using my [Keller](#) jig. Buying the jig seemed like a step backwards after considering buying the Leigh jig and others, but my motivation was simple. I wanted a jig that was ready to go without any set up and that had no limits to the width of parts being dovetailed. For heirloom projects, I intend to hand cut my dovetails and I'm not a fan of decorative dovetails cut by machine so for making cabinet drawers, utility boxes, etc where I just want to put together functional and strong dovetails, the Keller is "killer." I bought mine on Amazon for only \$99 and it's been worth every penny compared to the fuss of the half blind jig I was using before.

You can read about how to use the Keller jig on the company website if you aren't familiar with it. Basically you just clamp the jig to your drawer part and rout the joint with the appropriate bearing guided bit. Before going on, I need to interject that after milling drawer parts for a big project and going through the clamping, locking the assembly in a woodworking vise, lifting a router and making the cut, back and forth process, I got tired of that and switched to making dovetails with this jig on my router table. To do so, you just clamp the stock to the jig and slide the assembly on its plate on the router table. I much prefer this method because its quicker plus my dust collection picks up much of the mess.

With either handheld or use in a router table, Keller suggests clamping a stop block to the jig before unclamping the first part you've cut so you can duplicate the cut on subsequent parts. That does work; however, being essentially lazy and wanting to make the process even easier, I plowed dado's into the sides of my jig board and recessed T-track with jig hardware so that I had ready to go stop blocks like this:

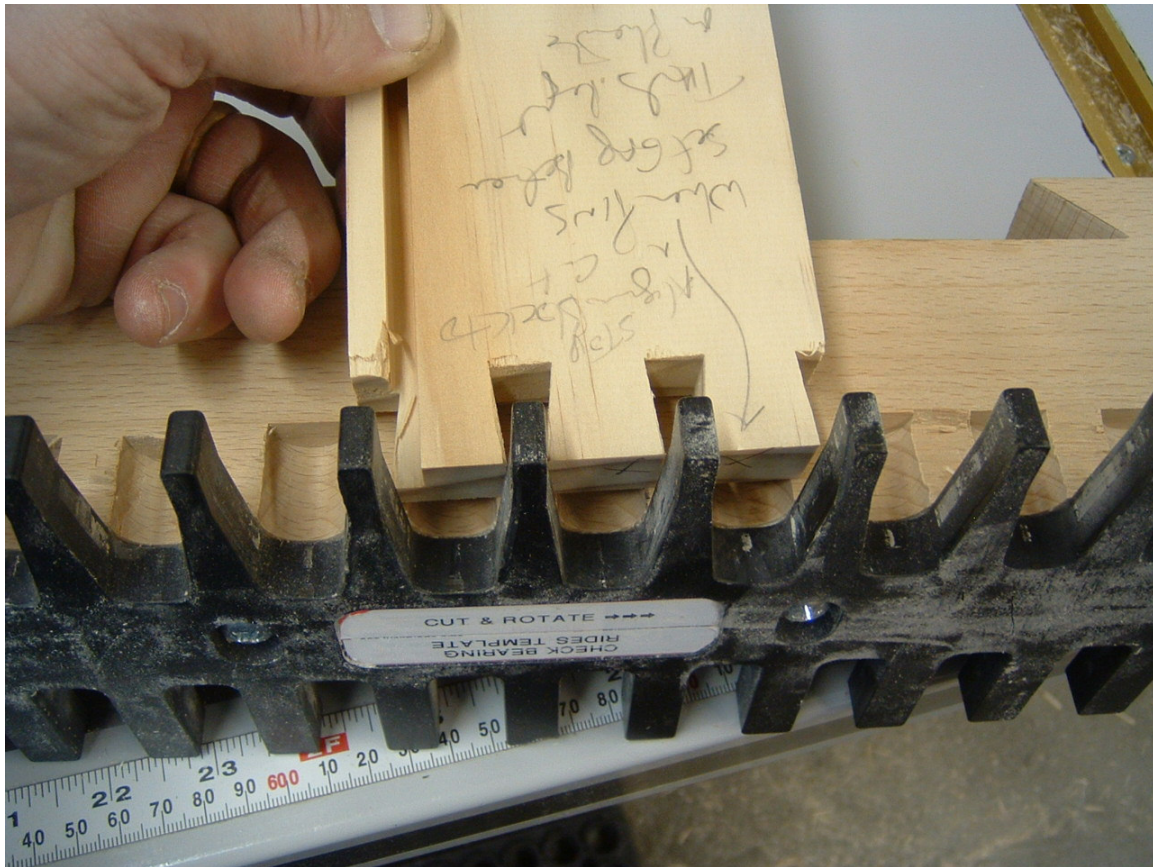


Here you're looking at the jig with the Keller template resting upside down. This T track and stop block is installed on both sides of the jig which has the benefit of retaining the pins AND tails setting. I like this a lot because if something happens to one of the pieces I make and I have to go back and make a duplicate,

the stop is still set unlike with the Keller clamped stop idea where when you set a stop for the pin side you are remove the stop from the tail side.

Secondly, Keller teaches you to first cut the tail boards and then, in the same fashion as marking pins from the tails like done in cutting dovetails by hand, you are told to either use a pencil or marking knife and make your mark – and then position your marks with the pin side of the template. To me, that just seems like extra work so I came up with a faster way.

After cutting the tail boards, flip the jig around to the pin side, and with a tail board at a slight angle to the jig, slide it back and forth gently and notice that the tails will slightly register with the pin fingers. In this picture (taken with a scrap piece of tail board), notice how the space between the tails is resting right on the black template fingers. The template fingers are more narrow toward the front edge and that's why you need to lean the stock outward at an angle so that the gaps in the tail boards wedges into the template fingers.



When you find the dead center by feel, hold the tail board with firm pressure against the jig and clamp the board to the jig. Then, slide the stop block against the stock and lock it down. Now, remove the tail board and clamp a drawer part against the stop block and using the pins cutter cut make your cut.

Everything else about the jig I find works fine and I follow their suggestions about how to set the jig for bit height etc. Kudos to Keller for producing a very useful and effective tool.