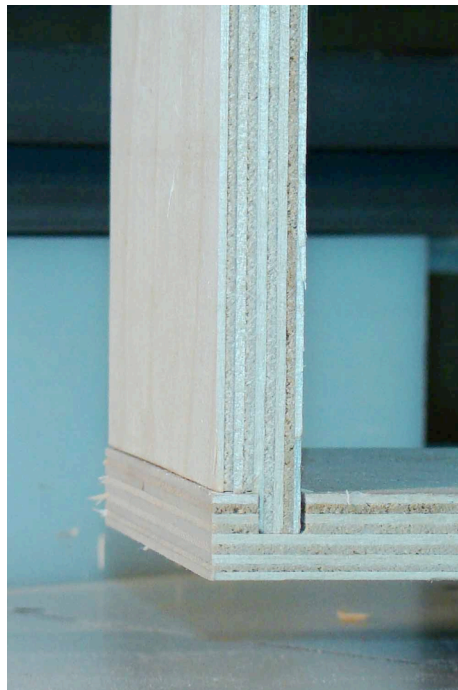




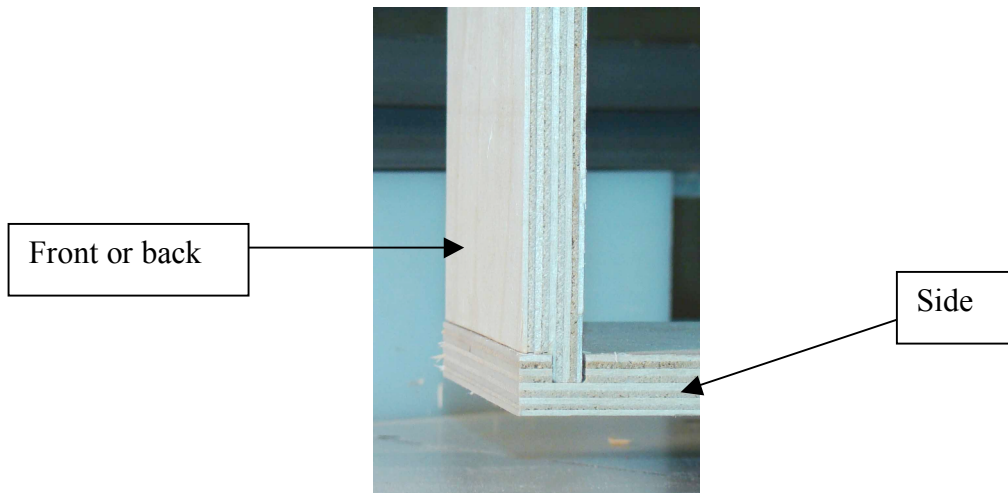
Cutting Lock Rabbets



The Joint

Lock rabbets are a useful and easy to cut joint. They provide an excellent way to join the front and back to the sides of a drawer box. Testing has shown that the strength of a lock rabbet typically exceeds that of a half-blind dovetail.

The groove of the joint is cut in the drawer side. The tongue is cut in the front and back.



Tooling

A slot cutting router bit, such as the 822.364.11 1/4-in. cutter, or those found in the 823.001.11 kit, is the only bit required for making this joint. The work must be done in a router table.

Use a slot cutter whose cut length is half the thickness of your drawer sides. So, a 1/4-in. slot cutter should be used to cut lock rabbets in 1/2-in. material.

Lock rabbets
Provided courtesy of CMT USA

www.CMTUSA.com

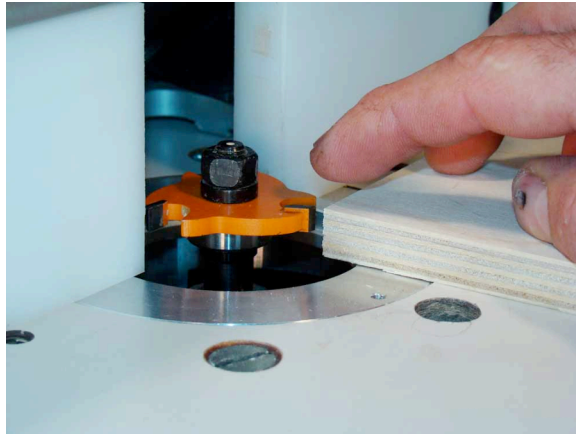
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Cutting The Joint



Set up your slot cutter. Secure it in the router.



Set the height of the cutter. The top of the bit should be even with or slightly above the top face of the material



Position the fence. Set the fence so the bit will cut into the material by 1/2 the material thickness.

Lock rabbets
Provided courtesy of CMT USA

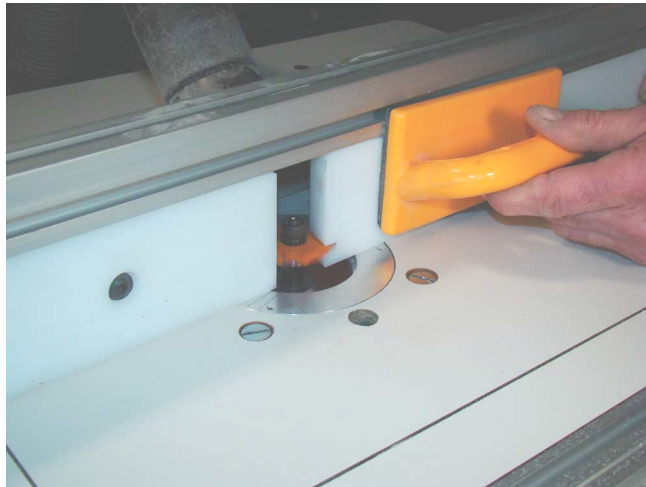
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Make a test cut. After the test cut, reset the bit height and fence position as needed, then machine grooves into the ends of the drawer sides.



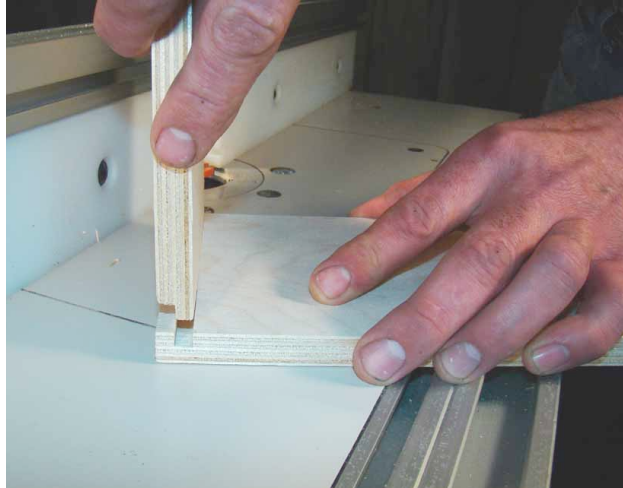
If there is excessive chipping on the inside face of the sides, **cut a zero clearance fence** on the infeed side of your router table fence



Reset the height of the bit for the next cut. Make the top of the bit even with the bottom of the groove. It's best if you don't disturb the fence position. That way the depth of the groove and the length of the tongue will be the same.



Cut the tongue in the ends of the drawer front.



Test the fit. If the joint is too loose lower the bit to make the tongue larger. If the joint is too tight raise the bit to make the tongue smaller.

Once the fit is correct machine both ends of the front and back. Glue the joints together.