Tage Frid mortising jig for clean plunge-router mortises

Tage Frid mortising jig is a scrap-plywood plunge-router guide that cuts mortises up to 3 in. deep as of 2002, according to Highland Woodworking in 2002. Highland Woodworking in 2002 reports cleaner cuts than a hollow-chisel mortiser on a drill press, and our testing method focuses on that cut quality and setup repeatability. "It was a very simple jig, knocked together from scrap plywood" wrote Highland Woodworking in its 2002 mortising jig guide, adding "The design is so simple and effective that it deserves to be a standard accessory". The plan suits small shops because plywood, a straight edge guide, and spiral end-mill bits are the only stock needed.

What does the Tage Frid mortising jig do?

Tage Frid mortising jig holds work against a front wall while a plunge router rides between rails to cut bounded mortises up to 3 in. deep as of 2002. The router carries a square sub-base and its straight edge guide bears against the front wall, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. Clamp stock flush with the top edge and parallel to the rails, with scrap shims behind short pieces. The layout follows hand-marked gauge lines set to the end-mill flute width.

How is the Tage Frid mortising jig built?

Tage Frid mortising jig uses a base at least two layers thick with 3/4 in. by 3/4 in. hardwood wear strips, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. Plywood stays suitable when it is straight and flat, and the side walls must stay vertical with a constant opening. Many shops pair this layout with a table saw tenon jig for matching tenons.

Spec as of 2002 | Size

Max mortise depth | 3 in.
Cut per pass | 1/4 in.
Stop-block range | 0 in. to 6 in.

Stop blocks use slotted hardwood and 3/16 in. hanger bolts with washers and wing nuts, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. The square sub-base uses 1/8 in. or 1/4 in. board so the edge guide fits beneath it.

How do you cut mortises with the Tage Frid mortising jig?

Tage Frid mortising jig cuts in 1/4 in. deep passes from left to right, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. Set the bit inside gauge lines, position one end stop, then the other, and set plunge depth while the bit kisses the work. Rough flat stock before routing helps, as with any jointer knife setting routine that starts from a true face. Clear chips from the stops before the final full-depth pass so length stays true.

Tage Frid mortising jig FAQ

What materials does the Tage Frid mortising jig need?

The Tage Frid mortising jig needs scrap plywood, a square sub-base, a straight edge

guide, and spiral end-mill bits, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. Wax on rails and the front wall keeps the router moving freely during cuts.

How deep can the Tage Frid mortising jig cut?

The Tage Frid mortising jig cuts mortises up to 3 in. deep as of 2002, depending on bit length, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. Work proceeds in 1/4 in. deep passes to keep cuts clean and controlled.

How does the Tage Frid mortising jig control mortise length?

The Tage Frid mortising jig controls length with two adjustable stop blocks on the rear rail, per Highland Woodworking in 2002. The blocks cover mortises 0 in. to 6 in. long and lock with hanger bolts and wing nuts.