

# Get Great Results with the Hinge Mortising Jig

Using the mortising jig is almost foolproof. The photo sequence below shows you just about everything you need to know. But there are a couple things to keep in mind.

**Hinge Lay Out** – Before you clamp the jig in place, you'll need to lay out the location of each hinge. Since the jig will handle the overall length of the mortise, all you need to do is locate one edge of each hinge, like you see in the photo at the upper right. Once that's complete, you're ready to start.

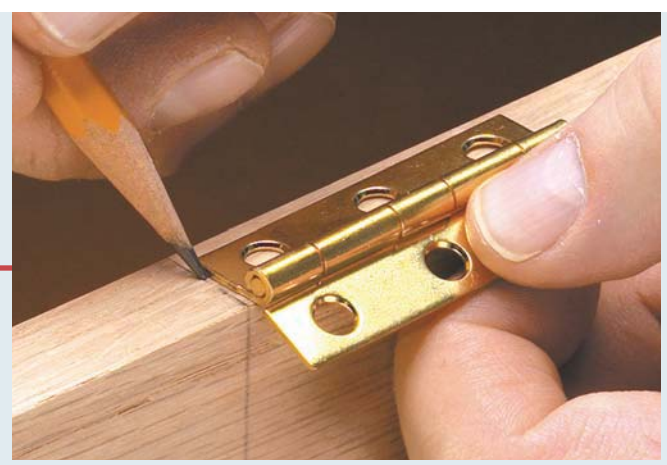
**Setting the Jig** – Step 1 shows how to use the hinge to set the length of the mortise. In a similar

manner, Step 2 shows how to use the hinge to set the width of the mortise.

**Depth of Cut** – When it comes to setting the router bit to cut the mortise to depth, you need to consider your project design, such as what size gap you want around the edges of a door, and the overall thickness of the hinge itself.

Once you have the depth determined, be sure to account for the thickness of the jig base. Step 3 shows how I do this with a scrap.

**Rout the Mortise** – With the jig set, all that's left to do is clamp it in place, aligning the inside edge of the



▲ **Lay Out Location.** The first step in routing a mortise for a hinge is to lay out the location of the hinge along the edge of the workpiece.

jig with your layout mark. After turning the router on, rout clockwise around the inside of the opening, keeping the baseplate against the guides and back stop.

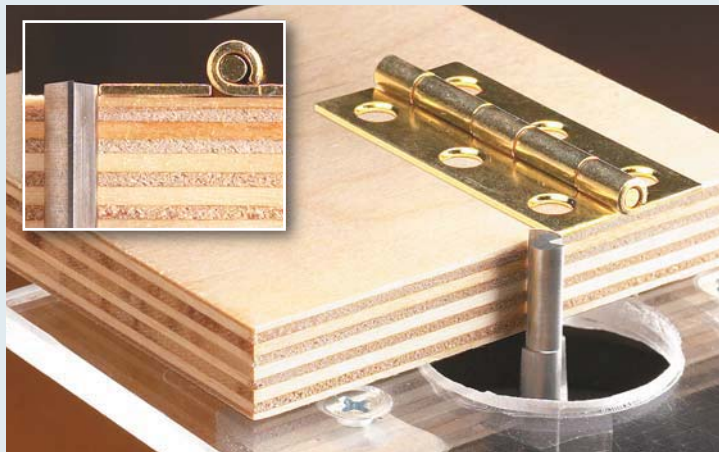
Once that's complete, remove the rest of the waste by nibbling it away with the router. Finally, remove the jig and square up the corners of the mortise with a chisel. 🪚



**1** To set the length of the mortise, you can use the hinge to position the two parts of the base. Just be sure the inside edge of each base contacts the leaves of the hinge.



**2** Here again, you can use the hinge to set the width of the mortise. A typical installation is to adjust the back stop until the centerline of the knuckle lines up with the scribe mark (see inset).



**3** The depth of a hinge mortise often depends on the project design. In the photos above, a 1/2" spacer simulates the base of the jig while setting the bit to match the depth of the hinge leaf.



**4** To remove most of the waste, rout clockwise around the inside edges of the aluminum guides and back stop. Then using the mortise as a guide, square up the corners with a sharp chisel (inset).