

How to Use the Vertical Support Bar On the ChipsFly Router Table

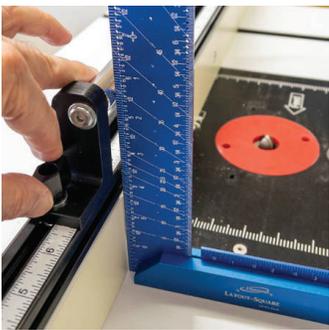
(With a guide to making a simple drawer-lock joint on the Router Table)

The Vertical Support Bar increases the physical height of the router table fence, providing additional support when tall workpieces are held against the fence and fed vertically past the bit (e.g., a raised panel cut with a vertical panel raising bit.)

A drawer-lock and a lock miter joint are wood joints where one piece is cut horizontal (flat) on the router table and the joining piece vertically against the fence. Here's how to set up the Vertical Support Bar on the router table for these types of joints:

a) Slip the Vertical Support Bar (VSB) onto the top T-track just behind the ruler and slide it to the middle of the fence. The steel bar is about 1/64" proud of the support mechanism. This lets you slide wood across and past the support bar and not catch against the VSB body.

b) There is about 3/8" forward and backward adjustment for setting the bar placement flush with the fence surface. Use this movement to adjust the front surface of the bar parallel to the fence surface before tightening the diamond-headed knob. Place a right-angle square firmly on the table surface and against the fence on the left side. Slide the Vertical Support Bar to the square and tighten the knob. Repeat on the right side.



c) Put a router bit into the router collet, and use the smallest insert ring that fits around the bit. [Be sure you've unplugged the router or removed the yellow locking pin in the On/Off Switch before installing the bit.] Set the bit's height and distance of the bit to the fence using setup blocks or our digital or analog router setup gauges.



d) To make a simple drawer joint with boards milled to 1/2", use a 1/4" straight bit and set both the bit height and bit distance from the fence to precisely 1/4". A 1/4" setup block is excellent for this.



e) Collect all your drawer side pieces and determine which is the outside face. With the outside face facing up, use a perfectly square block (backer board) to push a side piece along the fence at 90° to route a 1/4" groove 1/4" from the end of the board. The backer board also serves to reduce tear-out as the bit exits the workpiece. Once the drawer side piece is past the bit, pull that piece away and carefully back out the backer board. Repeat on the opposite end of the drawer side, and then do the other drawer sides.

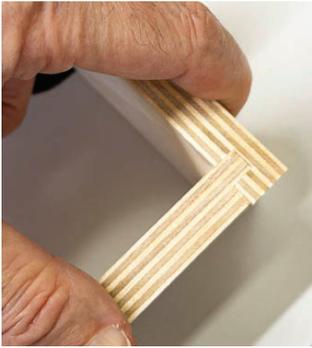


f) Now, without moving the bit or the fence, take the front and back pieces, determine which is the outside face, and stand one piece up against the Vertical Support Bar and the fence with the outer face facing you. With the same backer board, slide the piece left to right past the bit to create a rabbet at the end of the workpiece. Rotate the part to rabbet the other end

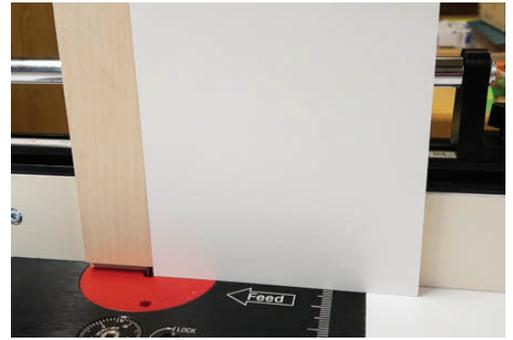
and continue with the rest of the front and back pieces.

g) Finally, take all the pieces, and run one side of the inside faces along one edge to create a 1/4" groove for placing the drawer bottom.

h) The joint should be nice, tight, and snug. If you used plywood, there would be a slight bit of the side's end extending past the front



and back because plywood is slightly thinner than 1/2". After you complete assembly and the glue has dried, you can remove this extended part by putting a flush-trim bit into the router table, standing the drawers on their sides, and routing past this edge, making removal fast and easy. If you mill solid wood to precisely 1/2", there will not be any overhang to remove.



NOTE: This simple drawer-lock joint method works only with 1/2" wood and a 1/4" router bit. It is unsafe to cut opposite the fence if the bit is outside the wood.