



bespoke

Squaring Jig

Whenever I glue up a frame and panel assembly, like a cabinet door, I want it to be dead-on square. That's why I created the jig you see in the photo above. The two sides act as reference datums when assembling square projects. It squares up doors, drawers, or picture frames with no measuring or fuss.

As you can see in the drawing below, the jig has two fixed fences. But the key is the adjustable fence that forces an assembly into the fixed fences and automatically squares it while you add clamps across the joints.

BUILDING THE JIG. To make the jig, I cut two pieces of plywood and glued them together for a base. The next step is to cut grooves to house a pair of T-tracks. Then attach two fixed fences along the left and top edges of the jig, making sure they're perfectly square to each other.

Finally, the adjustable fence is added. It's held in place with flange bolts and star knobs. A couple coats of paste wax applied to the jig keeps glue squeezeout from sticking to the base and fences.

To use the jig, I fit my assembly against the two fixed fences and slide the adjustable fence up to meet it. Then you can tighten the star knobs. A couple of clamps across the frame hold it together until the glue dries. You can see what I mean in the photo.

Since the fixed fences are perfectly square to each other, the assembly is virtually assured to be square as well. Once you get the hang of using this jig, you'll find yourself reaching for it for all sorts of glueups.

