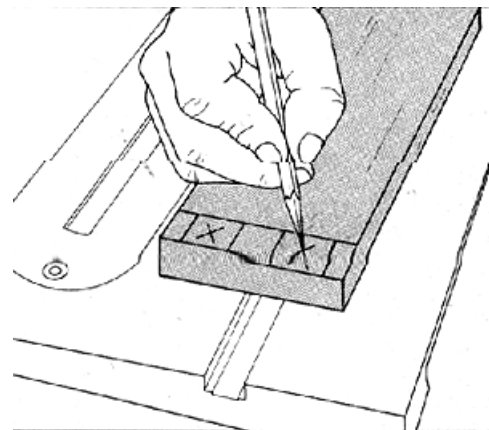
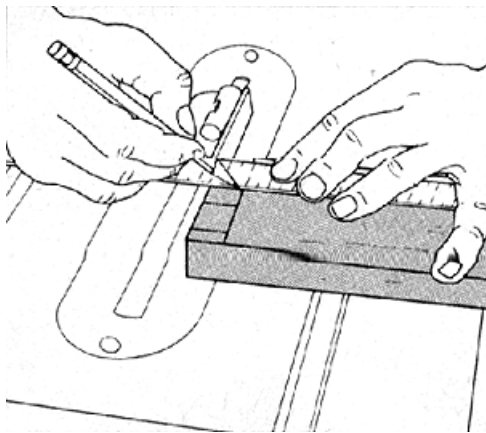


Tip #117 Cutting Dovetails on a Bandsaw

Close-fitting and durable, the dovetail joint is the mark of the craftsman. Shaped so it can be pulled apart from one direction only, the dovetail joint remains solid under stress from all other directions. When used in cabinet carcass or drawer construction, the dovetail joint only adds beauty and authority to your work, it's easy to make as well!

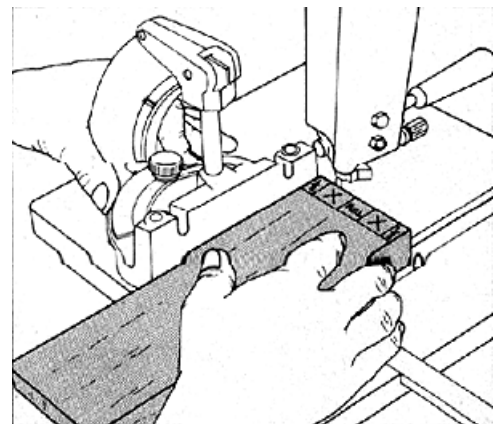
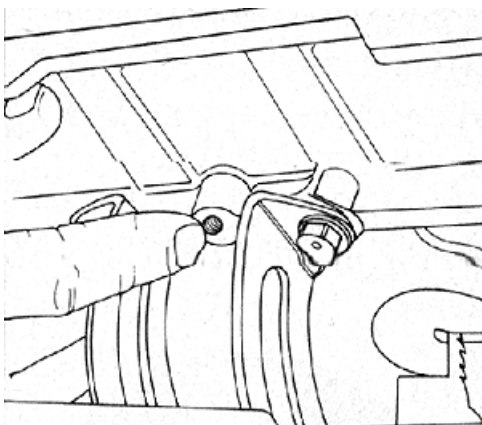
Planning and fitting hand-cut dovetails with small hand saws and chisels can be exasperating. But, believe it or not...you can actually cut both dovetail elements - the pin and the slot - totally on your Bandsaw.

Bill Hoff, Instructor at the Shoptsmith Woodworking Academy gives a step-by-step plan here. For this example, Bill used 1 x 4 x 10" stock.



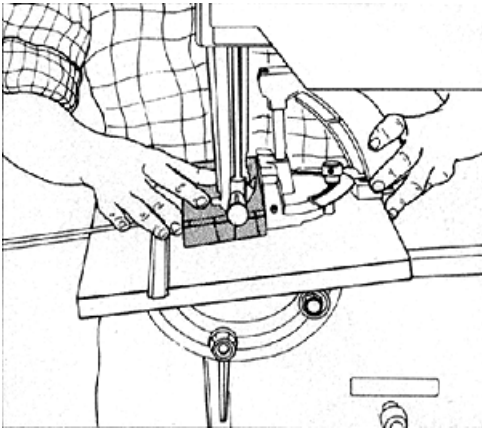
Step 1: Layout begins on the wide side of the pin. Mark the base line $1/32$ " more than the thickness of the stock. (You'll sand it flush later.) Mark a $3/8$ " half pin on both edges and a full $3/4$ " pin in the center.

Step 2: Complete the layout for your pins by marking an "X" on all scrap areas of your stock to avoid confusion later. The Bandsaw table and Miter Gauge will control all other lines, but you must leave the line as you cut!

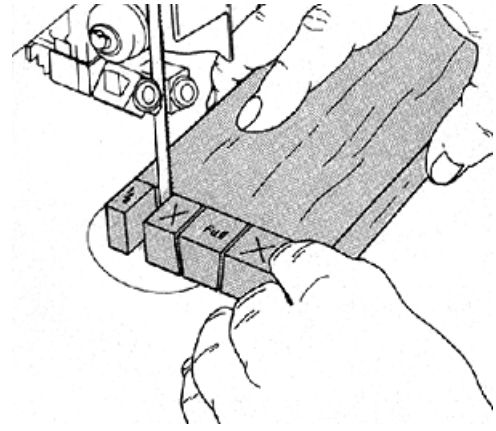


Step 3: Now remove the 90-degree Positive Stop Bolt from under the Shoptsmith Bandsaw worktable. Tilt the table 5-degrees to the left.

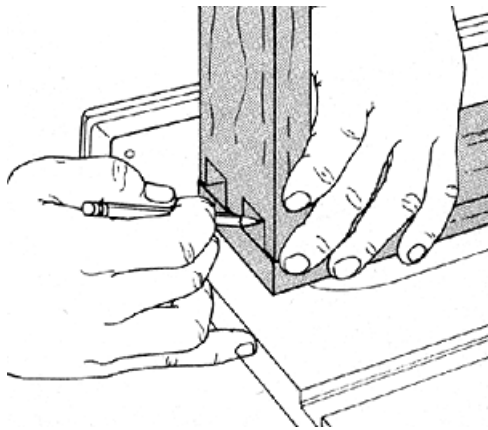
Step 4: Set the miter gauge at 90-degrees and make the first cut on the right-hand side of the pins, using the $1/4$ " Combination Blade.



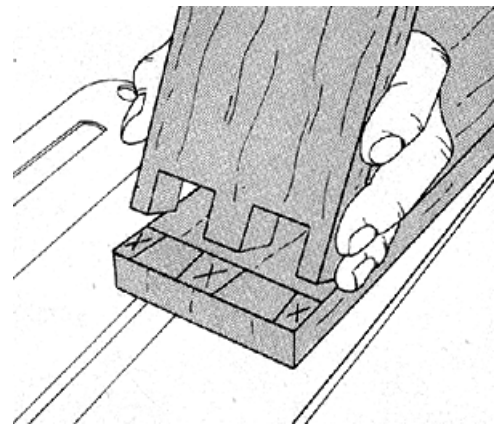
Step 5: Set the table 5-degrees to the right. Cut the left-hand side of the pins.



Step 6: Return the table to 0-degrees for all other cuts. Use a "nibble cut" to begin to remove waste stock. Once the blade can fit into the waste area, turn the stock and remove the remaining waste.



Step 7: Mark the base line on the second piece (1/32" deeper than stock is thick). Use pins on the first piece to mark for the slots, placing the wide side of the pins against the base line. Slide your mating boards against your Rip Fence or a 2" or thicker piece of stock to help you align the two pieces properly while you mark them.
much stock.



Step 8: Mark an "X" in each area where a pin was sitting. Remove this scrap stock as described in Step 6 above. Again, don't remove too

Note: Guard raised for clarity in illustrations. Keep it 1/8" above your work for safety.