

PantoRouter®

TECH TIPS

Offsets and Reveals on Apron to Leg Joints



A common detail when joining an apron to a leg of a table is to slightly set the aprons back from the outside faces of the legs to form a reveal rather than making all of the faces flush or centering the aprons in the legs.



In this example, we created a 3/16" reveal from the face of the leg to the face of the apron. The tenon will be centered in the apron piece but the mortise will not be centered in the leg.

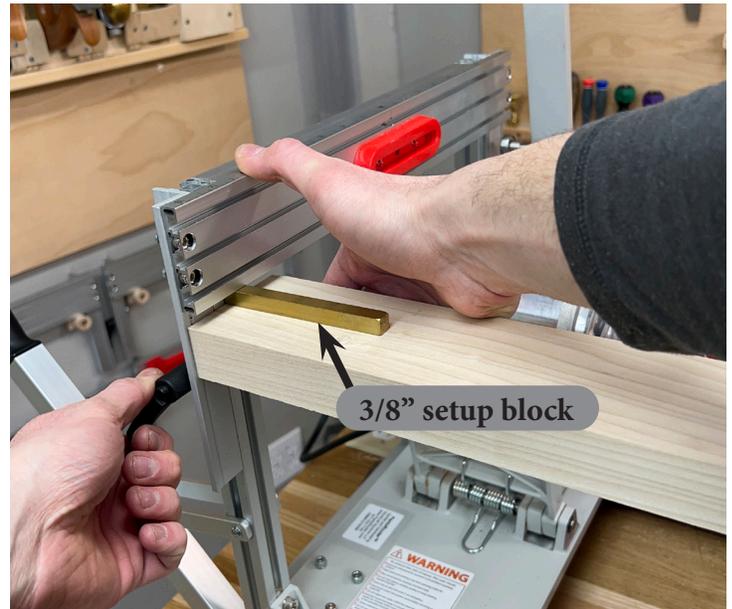


Start by laying out the orientation of the legs and mark them to keep track of outside faces and where the mortises will go.



Using the apron stock, set the Centering Scale Fence so the workpiece is centered on the table.

Next, set the height of the template holder by placing the apron stock and a setup block double the thickness of your desired reveal in-between the thickness gauge and the template holder. Due to the 2:1 ratio from the template holder to the work piece, the setup block is 3/8" to create a 3/16" reveal in the finished assembly.



Mark the rough location of the two mortises in each leg with pencil. When the leg is placed on the table and against the Centering Scale Fence, notice that mortise #1 aligns with the bit height but mortise #2 does not. For a consistent reveal, the outside face of each leg needs to be referenced against the table. The issue with mortise #2 is the outside face is not against the table and needs to flip 180 degrees. Each leg will have a mortise #1 and a mortise #2.



Cut all of the #1 mortises before moving on to the #2 mortises.

One way to cut the #2 mortises is to simply raise the template holder to the correct height and cut the remaining mortises. With careful layout and by using the pointer in the router to locate the template height, you can do this accurately, however, it is introducing the possibility for error any time reference faces are not consistent. It may not appear to be off by much but the error could compound and lead to out-of-square assemblies once everything is glued up.

The easiest way to keep all reference faces consistent is to move the Centering Scale Fence out of the way and orient the workpiece in the opposite direction from mortise #1. To do this, place the apron workpiece against the fence and slide the Auxiliary Fence onto the table to sandwich the apron between the two fences.



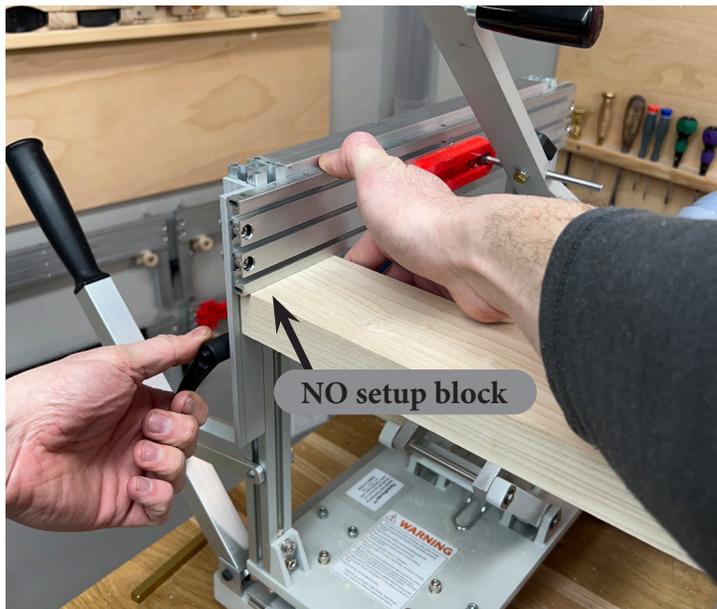
Tighten the lever knobs and then remove the Centering Scale Fence. Now there is a positive stop the same distance from the centerline of the table but on the opposite side. Notice that the Auxiliary Fence does not cover the front table slot so a clamp can still slide in easily .



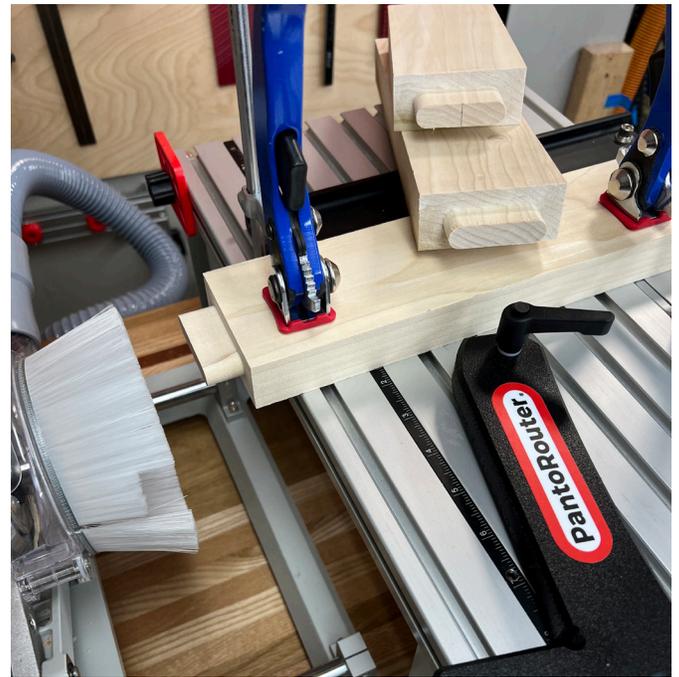
Now cut all of the #2 mortises without changing the height of the template holder.



Once all of the mortises are cut in the legs, its time to move on to the tenons.



Reset the Template Holder height without the 3/8" setup block so the tenons are centered vertically in the apron workpieces.



Now cut all of the tenons on your apron pieces. The Swing Stop makes quick work of locating the workpieces on the table in the same location.



Assemble the table base, and with the legs oriented correctly, there will be a nice consistent reveal on all of the apron and leg joints.