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Doweling Jig

MEMBER RATING: 8.1

BEST FEATURE: DESIGN

Milescraft Inc., (847) 683-9200, milescraft.com

The JointCrafter (\$14.99) from Milescraft Inc. is a self-centering doweling jig for creating maximum joint strength when building and repairing furniture. It includes three metal bushings (1/4 in., 5/16 in. and 3/8 in.) that help to hold the drill bit perpendicular for boring vertical holes in boards from 1/2 in. to 1-1/2 in. thick. Other features include a sliding fence (for easily transferring holes to a second board) and one-hand alignment of the dowels when creating corner, surface and edge joints. No measuring or marking is required when making an end or corner joint.

George Ridenbaugh, Butte, MT: "My son and I have used the JointCrafter with excellent results. The joints are spot-on, flat and without joint seams, and almost no surface planing is required. Our results are much better than those achieved with biscuits."

Dennis Devitt, Lombard, IL: "The jig makes edge-to-edge, corner-to-corner and edge-to-surface joints accurately and easily. It's well worth the money."

Push-Block System

MEMBER RATING: 9.3

BEST FEATURE: SAFETY

Micro Jig Inc., (855) 747-7233, microjig.com

The GRR-Ripper 3D Pushblock System (with advanced techniques DVD, \$79.90) is a moving blade guard that virtually eliminates kickback when using a table saw, router table, jointer, shaper and band saw. It provides downward, forward and lateral pressure on a workpiece for maximum control, improved accuracy, less wasted materials and peace of mind. The DVD shows you how to prevent kickback and burning on your table saw along with 30 unique and tricky cuts made safe with the GRR-Ripper.

Mike Woodley, Mineral Wells, TX: "The DVD showed exactly how to assemble and use the system. I never knew I could do so much with my table saw. It keeps fingers safe and eliminates kickback, which alone is worth the money."

Eric Divine, San Jose, CA: "I cut a lot of thin strips for edging, and I've always worried about my hands. This elevated handle and adjustable throat accommodate any cut, and the gripping pads on the bottom keep consistent pressure on the workpiece."



Multipurpose Pliers

MEMBER RATING: 8.7

BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE

Vampire Professional Tools International Inc., (949) 748-0552, vampiretools.com

Made of treated carbon steel, Vampire Pliers (\$34.97) are multipurpose pliers that feature a combination of vertical and horizontal serrations at the tip to grab and remove rusty, stripped, damaged, jammed or tamper-proof screws. The slim nose allows access to confined spaces, and the comfortable, cushioned grip and return spring for repeated grip-and-release actions make screw removal simple and easy. Other features include wire cutters and a smooth finish.

Erik McLaughlin, Newton, NC: "Vampire Pliers really come in handy when you accidentally strip a screw. Simply grab the pliers and get it out."

Dan Duffey, Milan, IL: "These are high-quality pliers that do exactly what the manufacturer says they do. I was amazed that they removed every rusted and stripped screw that I used them on."