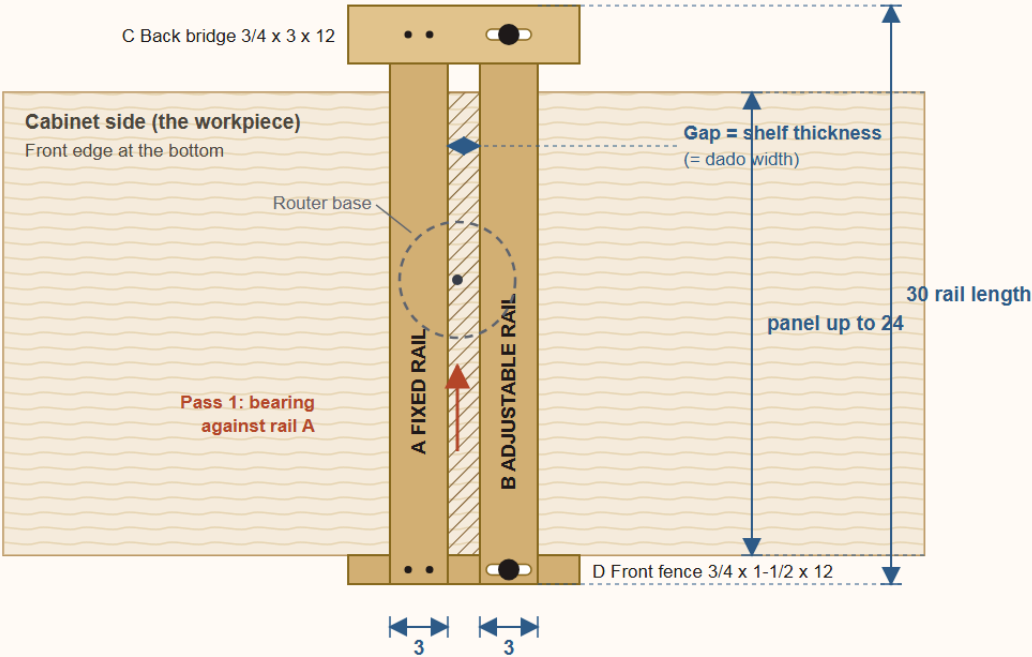


ROUTER DADO JIG PLAN

Two-rail adjustable jig for dados from 1/2 in to about 1-1/2 in wide in panels up to 24 in deep. Sizes in inches.

ROUTER DADO JIG: TOP VIEW

Two-rail adjustable jig on a cabinet side. Not to scale; sizes in inches.



Knob = 1/4-20 carriage bolt + star knob in a 2 in slot. Dots = glue + 1-1/4 in screws into the fixed rail.
Rails: 3/4 in plywood or MDF, edges jointed straight. The dado is cut between the rails (hatched).

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CUT LIST (3/4 IN PLYWOOD OR MDF)

Part	Qty	T x W x L	Notes
A Fixed rail	1	3/4 x 3 x 30	Glued and screwed to C and D, square to D
B Adjustable rail	1	3/4 x 3 x 30	1/4 in hole at each end; counterbore the back one from below
C Back bridge	1	3/4 x 3 x 12	On top of the rails; 5/16 x 2 in slot over rail B
D Front fence	1	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 12	Under the rail ends, hooks the panel's front edge; same slot

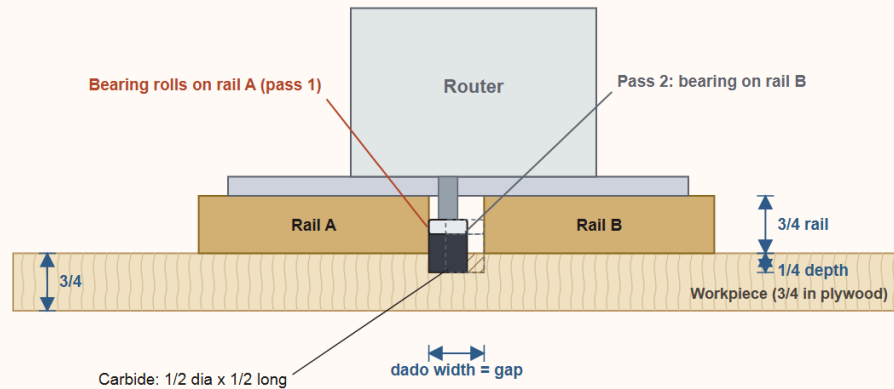
HARDWARE

- 2 carriage bolts 1/4-20 x 2 in, 2 flat washers, 2 star knobs 1/4-20
- 4 wood screws #8 x 1-1/4 in, wood glue
- Top-bearing pattern bit: 1/2 in diameter, 1/2 in cutting length (with 1 in cutting length, use 1-1/2 in rails)
- 2 clamps, 12 in or longer

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HOW THE BEARING BIT CUTS THE DADO

End view across the rails. Two passes give a dado exactly as wide as the gap.



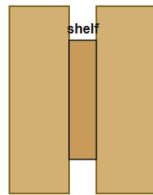
Set the bit so the carbide reaches 1/4 in below the rails and the bearing still sits on the rail edge. Because bearing and cutter have the same diameter, the cut follows the rail exactly.

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USING THE JIG IN FOUR STEPS

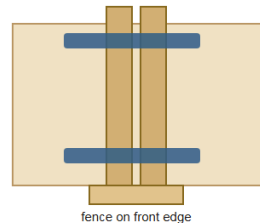
Width from the shelf itself, depth from the router, then two passes.

1 Set the width



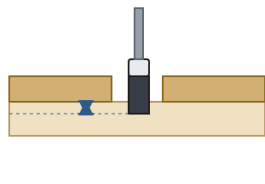
Slide rail B in against the shelf, tighten both knobs, remove the shelf.

2 Square it and clamp



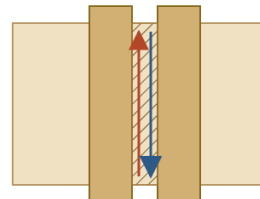
Fence tight to the front edge. Clamp both rails at each end.

3 Set the depth



Carbide 1/4 in below the rails (1/3 of a 3/4 in panel). Test on scrap first.

4 Rout two passes



Pass 1 (red) with the bearing on A. Pass 2 (blue) on B clears the middle.

Go clockwise around the opening, seen from above: away from you along rail A, back along rail B. The bit then pulls into the rail.

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BUILD ORDER

- Rip both rails at one fence setting; check the inside edges are straight.
- Cut the 5/16 x 2 in slots in C and D, centered over rail B.
- Glue and screw rail A under C and on top of D, square to D.
- Fit rail B with the bolts, washers and knobs; test on scrap and mark the gap centerline on D.

Always test the depth and fit on scrap. Wear eye and hearing protection when routing.