

Positioning the Festool Domino Machine With the Festool 32mm Shelf Hole Drilling Jig

Text and photos by Jerry Work

*Fine furniture designed and hand
crafted in the 1907 Masonic
Temple building in historic Kerby,
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The Festool Domino loose tenon jointer comes with several means of precisely locating the mortises it cuts so well. The machine has accurate fences, spring loaded alignment pins and two different kinds of side stops.

With these it is possible to place accurate mortises for most situations.

There are times, however, when you might wish to accurately locate a series of mortises like shown in the photo above that are all placed an exact distance in from the edge of the work piece.

The Festool 32mm shelf hole drilling jig with a simple modification is nearly ideal for this task. In this short tutorial I will show my preferred



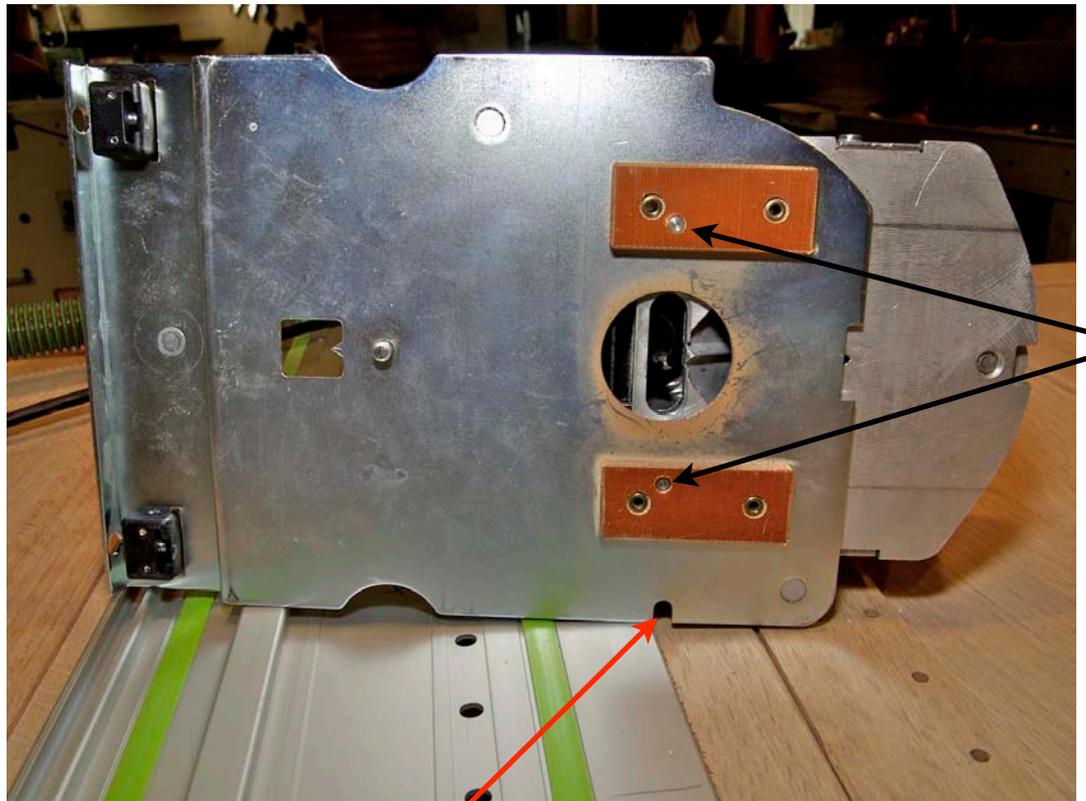
method for mounting the Domino machine onto the indexing sled of this jig instead of the router with which the jig is normally used.

In the photo above I am cutting a series of mortises, each located with their centerline 10mm in from the edge of the work piece and each 192mm apart (6 x 32mm). I positioned a second work piece of the same thickness beside the work piece in which the mortises are to be cut. This second work piece supports the Domino machine to keep it square and upright so the mortise walls are perpendicular to the surface of the work piece.

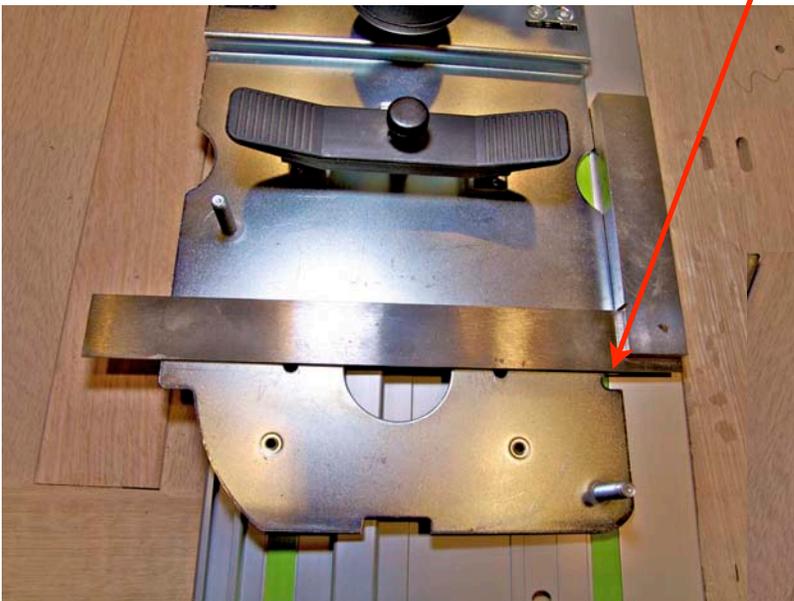
The only thing you need to do is drill two 5mm holes (black arrows) through the sled exactly on the centerline of the factory notch (red arrow) used to calibrate the edge guides to the sled that both are parts of the Festool 32mm shelf hole drilling jig.

These two holes will receive the spring loaded guide pins on the base of the Domino machine which will place the mortise cutter on that same centerline.

Use a square to mark the hole

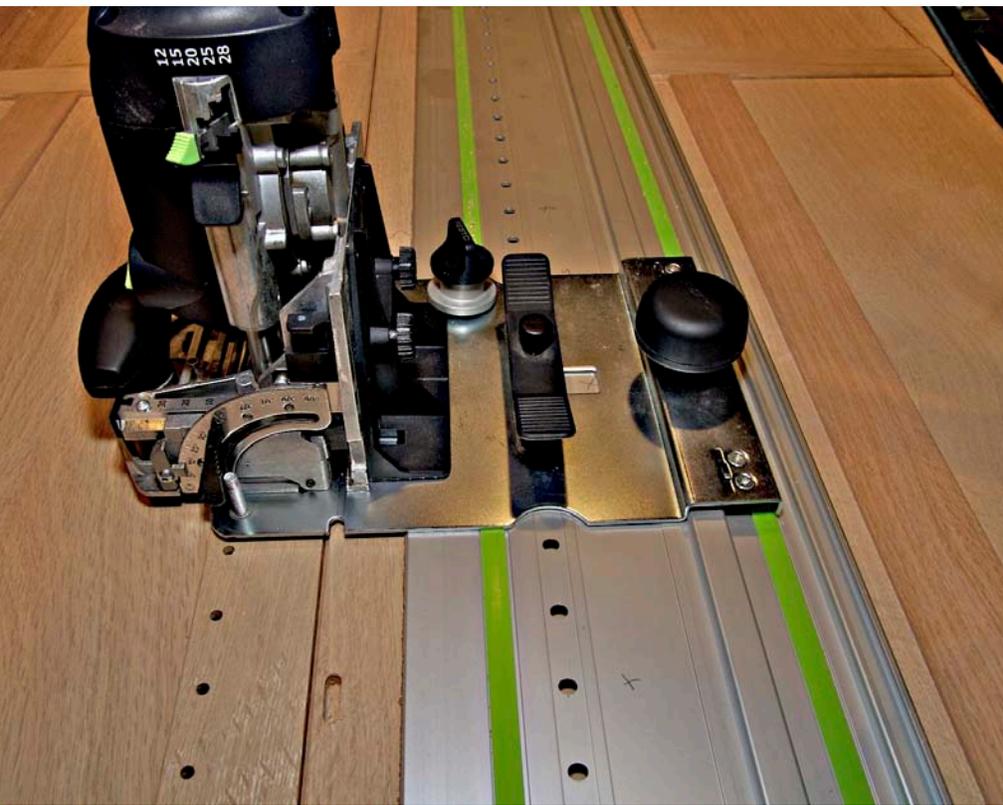


19mm from each edge of the center hole in the sled as shown in the photo below. You want to be as precise with these locations as you can to properly register the Domino relative to the sled and make sure it sits flat on the top surface of the sled with both pins fully seated in the new holes you drill through the base of the sled.



centerlines at the center of that notch as shown in this photo. Center these holes





This is one of those all gain and no pain modifications. You gain an interesting and useful positioning device for your Domino machine at no cost if you already own the Festool 32mm shelf hole drilling jig.

Enjoy!

Jerry

Once you drill these holes in the positions indicated, the centerline of the Domino machine mortise bit mounted on this sled will be exactly on the centerline of the router bit when a router is mounted on the sled.

The photo to the right shows the edge guide set for a 10mm centerline (green arrow) and the ruler shows that is exactly where the mortise slot was cut.

This simple modification in no way alters the use of this very handy 32mm shelf hole drilling jig in its normal role of drilling the holes like those shown in the photo to the right.

