

# Ozzie Multi Jig

A versatile dowelling jig that's easy to use, accurate and fast. And it's Australian made.

"A marvelous example of Australian ingenuity". That's what the Senior Curator of Engineering and Design at The Sydney Powerhouse Museum said when he first saw Ozzie Jig's Mirror Image Guide Block system. And I'd have to agree with him.

In the past, my attempts at dowel joinery have often been a bit frustrating. It seems that no matter how hard you try, you can't get the holes in the

matching pieces located accurately enough to make the joint fit well. Like a lot of other woodworkers, I had pretty much abandoned dowel joinery in my projects.

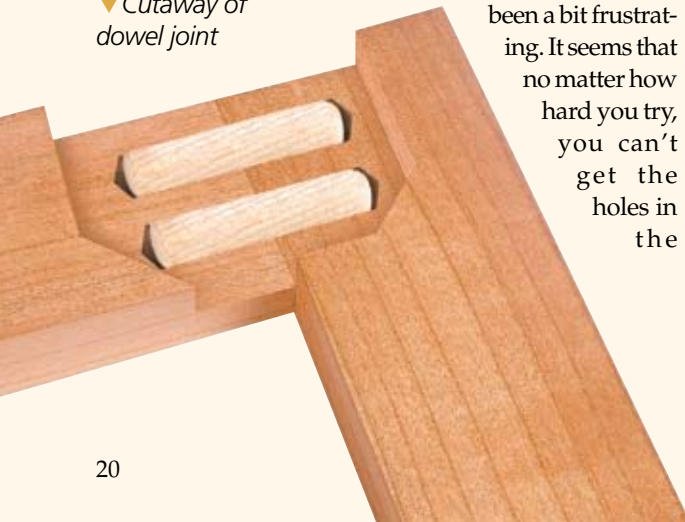
That's why I had a pleasant surprise when I first used Ozzie Jig's Mirror Image Guide Block system. Using the jig can be summed up easily. Firstly, it's quick and easy to use. Secondly, the joinery it produces is next to perfect. And it's also more versatile than almost any other jig on the market.

**THE JIG.** When you pick up the Ozzie Jig, the main thing you notice is its simplicity. The body is hardened steel and it comes with an array of spaces, plates and socket head bolts, but the real key is in its design. The jig allows you to drill the holes for both workpieces, without the need to reconfigure.

**A BASIC JOINT.** When the jig first arrived, I found a couple of pieces of stock, got my cordless drill out, and had a quick look at the instructions. The jig comes with two rows of six holes on each mirrored block. The holes allow 6mm or 8mm dowels, at either 11mm or 22mm intervals. I simply marked the face side of my timber, placed the two pieces against the blocks and clamped them in place. I then drilled the holes, removed the timber from



▼ Cutaway of dowel joint



the jig and inserted the glue and dowels in place. After matching the joints I clamped the work piece and wiped the excess glue. That simple. The basic step-by-step process is shown in the box at the bottom of this page.

The key to the accuracy and easy use of the jig is the precise spacing of the holes and the fact that you drill both sides of the workpiece at the same time. What this means is that you don't need to do any measuring. You simply place the timber, face side in, against the spacer plate and butt the edge of the timber against the stop plate. Then clamp and drill. This saves time and eliminates the chance of setup or measurement errors.

My first attempt was completed in no time and when I assembled the joint, both the faces and edges were perfectly flush. And once you have the fundamentals sorted, most other types of joints come easily. Next, I tried a mitre joint, as in the main photo on the opposite page, and things went just as smoothly with identical results.

**BEYOND THE BASICS.** Simple frame joints are just the tip of the iceberg for the Ozzie Jig. One of the things I especially like about this jig is the ease in which you can dowel a glued-up panel. If you've ever tried to use dowel jigs to reinforce an edge-to-edge joint, you know how difficult it is to get the holes to line up so that the joint fits together easily. The

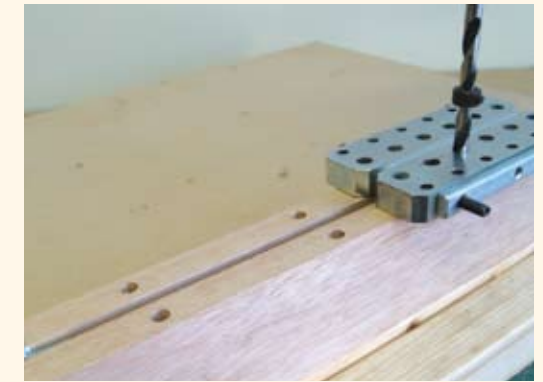
Ozzie Jig solves this problem like no other jig. By clamping a spacer between the two boards, and sliding the jig along, drilling at the required intervals, you end up with accurate dowel holes every time. See photo at the right. The result is that the holes match up perfectly and the joint goes together without a fight.

By adding a simple 45 degree angle bracket (and watching the supplied DVD) you can also reinforce a mitre with a through dowel joint (photos below right).

**AND MORE.** The Ozzie Jig can be used simply and easily to create angle joints for louvres, rail-to-post joints, T-butt joints for shelves, corner joints and face butt joints.

The jig suits most standard timber sizes but if you use thicker stock, spacers (washers or nuts) can be inserted between the guide blocks. The spacers also allow you to make an offset joint, such as when joining a table rail to a thicker leg (rail to post joint).

**WORTH THE COST?** The Ozzie Jig comes in two sizes; for 6 and 8mm dowels or 8 and 10mm dowels. The price starts from around \$250 including the 45 degree plate, dowels, instructional DVD and postage. This may seem high but I can't think of too many other tools that can deliver the way it does for the price. And given its solid design, it will never wear out. The jig is only available through the Ozzie Jigs. See the Sources page for details. [W](#)



▼ **Edge-to-edge joints.** The unique design means that once you clamp up you can drill both sides together.



▼ **Reinforce a mitre joint.** Using the supplied 45 degree plate drill the holes through the mitre.



▼ **Create the box.** Insert dowels, cut to length and sand flush for a strong yet interesting mitred joint.

## STEP-BY-STEP: THE MIRROR IMAGE GUIDE BLOCKS



▼ **Mark-up.** The first step is to mark the face side of the timber and the face that will be joined. There is no need to measure.



▼ **Set-up.** Place the two work pieces face side in, against the spacer plate and butt the edge of the timber against the stop plate.



▼ **Clamp and drill.** With the work pieces firmly clamped to the base plate, drill the number of holes required on both pieces.