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Member

**Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

#1965716 - 11/03/05 09:39 AM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Registered:

11/03/05

Posts: 3

Loc: NY

Hello,

Start by looking at the Thomas Moser Blanket Box shown here: [Thomas Moser Blanket Box](#)

Notice how the drawer front is the lumber that was directly removed from the front panel of the box. This is a trick that adds visual interest to the piece, and must be done perfectly during construction to avoid ruining the entire front panel.

What is the best way to make a perfect cut for removing the material that will become the drawer front? The cut must have a thin enough kerf so as to not leave too wide of a gap around the drawer. And the cut must not do any damage to the box's panel or to the drawer front as the cut is made.

Any suggestions?

Steve Goldstein

Post Extras:

[SteveS](#)

Member

**Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965722 - 11/03/05 09:38 AM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Registered:

12/09/02

Posts: 1418

Loc: Marysville, WA,
USA[Solution](#)-----
Cellulose runs through my veins!

Post Extras:

[patrickrock](#)**Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965730 - 11/03/05 09:43 AM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

very careful plunge guts with a circular saw.

Post Extras:

Member

Registered:
10/22/03
Posts: 864
Loc: Indianapolis,
IN

Eddie F.

Member

Registered:
01/13/04
Posts: 228
Loc: Roanoke
(dallas area)

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [SteveS](#)]

#1965733 - 11/03/05 09:43 AM



Edit

[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

unless I am missing something, I would rip the front into 3 pieces, cut the middle slice (where the drawer is) into 3 pieces. Then glue it all back up, leaving out the drawr face and moving the 2 smaller end pieces in a little to compensate for the kerf of the blade.

rip it to straighten the edges, and then square the panel up. what is left is a front panel with a hole for the drawer and you will get a good grain match from it.

Post Extras:

mark1459

Member

Registered:
07/24/00
Posts: 2022
Loc: chester springs
pa

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965745 - 11/03/05 09:50 AM



Edit

[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Steve

seems to me one way to accomplish that would be as follows;

The front of that chest is obviously several boards glued up. I would make the bottom board in the glue up the drawer height plus a little. I would then cross cut the two end pieces that are dovetailed and glue them to the other boards before dovetailing. The remaining piece could then be planned to a perfect almost seamless fit. I'm sure someone else will come up with some other solutions. I'll be anxious to read them.

When worn all sand paper is the exact same grit

<http://home.comcast.net/~mark1459/wsb/html/view.cgi-home.html-.html>

Post Extras:

Trosey

Member

Registered:
07/22/02
Posts: 16149
Loc: plain oak TX

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965751 - 11/03/05 09:52 AM



Edit

[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Eddie F., nailed it correctly. 😊

Post Extras:

vitabile

Member

Registered:
06/27/04
Posts: 2678
Loc: Westchester
County, New York

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [Eddie F.](#)]

#1965753 - 11/03/05 09:55 AM



Edit

[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Eddie F. said:

unless I am missing something, I would rip the front into 3 pieces, cut the middle slice (where the drawer is) into 3 pieces. Then glue it all back up, leaving out the drawr face and moving the 2 smaller end pieces in a little to compensate for the kerf of the blade.

rip it to straighten the edges, and then square the panel up. what is left is a front panel with a hole for the drawer and you will get a good grain match from it.



Post Extras:

[Gary G.](#)
Member

Registered:
10/20/03
Posts: 89
Loc: Florida

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

Edit

Reply

Quote

#1965799 - 11/03/05 10:10 AM

Trying to cut the drawer out of a finished piece is asking for trouble. And, you can't make drawers fit as well as theirs do if you try that -- the gap will be too big. Consider, even if you had a 1/16" plunge router bit following a pattern, the gap left by that kerf will be larger than what's on their furniture.

Rip cut & crosscut before gluing the panel. Use the offcut as the drawer face.

Cheers,
Gary

<http://user.gru.net/garyg-1/woodwork/woodwork.html>

Post Extras:

[yak](#)
Member

Registered:
02/11/04
Posts: 929
Loc: Green Bay, WI

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [patrickrock](#)]

Edit

Reply

Quote

#1965859 - 11/03/05 10:32 AM

patrickrock said:

very careful plunge guts with a circular saw.

The guts would be yours, when the saw kicks back at you.

Post Extras:

[bsheffer](#)
Member

Registered:
12/06/04
Posts: 858
Loc: Frederick,
Maryland

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [Eddie F.](#)]

Edit

Reply

Quote

#1965878 - 11/03/05 10:38 AM

I'm with eddie...

Post Extras:

[patrickrock](#)
Member

Registered:
10/22/03
Posts: 864
Loc: Indianapolis,
IN

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [yak](#)]

Edit

Reply

Quote

#1965890 - 11/03/05 10:43 AM

yak said:

patrickrock said:

very careful plunge guts with a circular saw.

The guts would be yours, when the saw kicks back at you.

People make plunge cuts with a circular saw all the time. Festools circular saw is specifically designed for plunge cuts.

Its a very safe maneuver.

But, the other suggestions are better anyways. I didn't notice how small the reveal on the drawer was. No way to get that with a circ saw.

Post Extras:    

[SteveWeb](#)


Member

Registered:

11/03/05

Posts: 3

Loc: NY

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [Gary G.](#)]

#1965954 - 11/03/05 11:09 AM

 [Edit](#)

 [Reply](#)

 [Quote](#)

Gary G. said:

Rip cut & crosscut before gluing the panel. Use the offcut as the drawer face.

Gary, thanks for the reply. Please explain your suggestion with some more detail. I understand Eddie's suggestion, but I'm not sure about yours. What do you mean by "offcut"? Will your suggestion work if I want it to look like the drawer was cut from the middle of one solid board? I don't want it to look like the top and bottom of the drawer opening lines up with where I edge-joined the panel's boards together. I hope I'm making sense....

Steve Goldstein

Post Extras:    

[tsproul](#)

Member

Registered:

01/14/03

Posts: 6644

Loc: Livermore, CA

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [Eddie F.](#)]

#1965961 - 11/03/05 11:16 AM

 [Edit](#)

 [Reply](#)

 [Quote](#)

Eddie F. said:

unless I am missing something,

The part you are missing is being sure to do the rips on vertical grain rather than flat grain. Doing the rips on the parts of the panel that are vertical grain makes the glue up

very inconspicuous....whereas ripping and the rejoining the ripped pieces on flat grain pretty much leaves a big 'tell' for how the craftsman managed to get the drawer front out of the same panel. This then makes it necessary that you plan out of glue up panel very carefully....so you have vertical grain in the places you want while maintaining a pleasing glue up panel.

I'd also highly recommend you try a thin kerf 7 1/4 blade in your table saw when doing the rips and cross cuts for that drawer front.....leaves just about the right amount of reveal.

Tim

On the neverending quest for wood.

And yes, routers precede electrical utility companies.

Post Extras:    

[Mr Mike](#)

Member

Registered:
03/02/03
Posts: 3395
Loc: So Cal, USA

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965965 - 11/03/05 11:15 AM

 Edit

 [Reply](#)

 [Quote](#)

SteveWeb said:

Gary G. said:

Rip cut & crosscut before gluing the panel. Use the offcut as the drawer face.

Gary, thanks for the reply. Please explain your suggestion with some more detail. I understand Eddie's suggestion, but I'm not sure about yours. What do you mean by "offcut"? Will your suggestion work if I want it to look like the drawer was cut from the middle of one solid board? I don't want it to look like the top and bottom of the drawer opening lines up with where I edge-joined the panel's boards together. I hope I'm making sense....

Gary's suggestion is the same as Eddie's.

Move along please. Nothing to see here.

Post Extras:    

[FordPrefect](#)

Member

Registered:
12/17/04
Posts: 128

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1965982 - 11/03/05 11:22 AM

 Edit

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 [Quote](#)

I will give you one piece of advice... (I learned this the hard way)

Don't cut your piece to length before you start this since adjusting for the vertical kerfs

will shorten the usable length of the wood. If you leave it long to start, you are okay, if you cut it to length before hand, well then your project dimensions change 🙄

Post Extras:    

[ShopMa](#)

Member

Registered:
05/20/05
Posts: 219
Loc: NorthCentral
OK

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [Mr_Mike](#)]

#1965989 - 11/03/05 11:27 AM

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Enlarge the picture & look at the lower right. I swear you can see the glue line going out to the right just below the bottome dovetail. The others are less conspicuous, but they are there.

Carolyn

Post Extras:    

[sonnyfl](#)

Member

Registered:
12/12/04
Posts: 248
Loc:
Ft.Lauderdale,Fl.

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [ShopMa](#)]

#1966020 - 11/03/05 11:42 AM

 Edit  Reply  Quote

I've seen Norm do it both ways. But w/ plunge cuts you'd better have a steady hand. And tearout is almost guaranteed . I've used Eddie's method. With good jointing, it's always a success . 😊 I

Post Extras:    

[photog](#)

Member

Registered:
10/13/03
Posts: 520
Loc: Sacramento,
CA

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [patrickrock](#)]

#1966028 - 11/03/05 11:41 AM

 Edit  Reply  Quote

Patrick, from my observations yak is having a little fun with your spelling and not your technique.

photog

Post Extras:    

[patrickrock](#)

Member

Registered:
10/22/03
Posts: 864
Loc: Indianapolis,
IN

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [photog](#)]

#1966152 - 11/03/05 12:21 PM

 Edit  Reply  Quote

photog said:

Patrick, from my observation yak is having a little fun with your spelling and not your technique.

Ha! I totally missed that. Sorry Yak. Jokes on me I guess. 🙄

Post Extras:    

[MMarzluf](#)

Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel

[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1966270 - 11/03/05 01:00 PM

 Edit  Reply  Quote

Member

Registered:
11/04/02
Posts: 3468
Loc: Reynoldsburg,
OH

That front is 4 pieces....

One of seams is right at the top of the drawer.

I've drawn black lines in where the seams are..

On the bottom one - they did just as Erick suggested. The crosscut for the drawer, then glued up front minus drawer front.

I didn't highlight the seam at the bottom of the drawer because that's all from the same board, but you're right. You can see that glue joint as well in the lower right corner.



I put money INTO my tools, not on them...

Post Extras: 

[ShopMa](#)

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [MMarzluf](#)]

#1966280 - 11/03/05 01:02 PM

 Edit

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Now that we know how he did it, what on earth makes that chest worth over \$4,000, no matter how well constructed it may be? Except, of course, for the fact that there's someone with more money than sense.

Carolyn

Post Extras: 

Member

Registered:
05/20/05
Posts: 219
Loc: NorthCentral
OK

SteveWeb

Member

Registered:
11/03/05
Posts: 3
Loc: NY

☺ Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [MMarzluf](#)]

#1966323 - 11/03/05 01:16 PM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

MMarzluf said:

That front is 4 pieces....

One of seams is right at the top of the drawer.

I've drawn black lines in where the seams are..

On the bottom one - they did just as Erick suggested. The crosscut for the drawer, then glued up front minus drawer front.

I didn't highlight the seam at the bottom of the drawer because that's all from the same board, but you're right. You can see that glue joint as well in the lower right corner.

Thanks for all your help, everyone! Now this project doesn't make me as nervous as it did when I first decided to build it.

My plan is to build a taller version of this blanket box with two drawers rather than one, so my concerns were doubled. But now I think I can manage it.

Again, thanks for the advice!

Steve Goldstein

Post Extras:

📖 Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1966334 - 11/03/05 01:21 PM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Another vote for Eddie F.'s method!!!!

Post Extras:

📖 Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel[Re: [ShopMa](#)]

#1966521 - 11/03/05 02:45 PM

[Edit](#)[Reply](#)[Quote](#)

Here's a link to another collection of ridiculously priced furniture. Granted most of it requires some extraordinary craftsmanship but, still. Makes you think there is a future in the commercial aspects of WWing.

http://www.kohlerinteriors.com/baker/1_0_0_baker_home.jsp

PecanCreek

Member

Registered:
09/12/05
Posts: 31
Loc: Texas

Kizar Sozay

Member

Registered:
01/28/05
Posts: 365
Loc: Yucaipa, CA


Kohler apparently bought this furniture company to cater to the people who buy the outrageously priced Kohler plumbing fixtures.

Post Extras:    

[mark1459](#)

Member

Registered:
07/24/00
Posts: 2022
Loc: chester springs
pa

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [PecanCreek](#)]

#1966707 - 11/03/05 03:57 PM

 Edit

 Reply

 Quote

I think the method I suggested was the same as Eddie F. he just said it better.

When worn all sand paper is the exact same grit

<http://home.comcast.net/~mark1459/wsb/html/view.cgi-home.html-.html>

Post Extras:    

[Joe Lyddon](#)

Member

Registered:
07/11/03
Posts: 4890
Loc: Alta Loma, CA

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [MMarzluf](#)]

#1967089 - 11/03/05 07:10 PM

 Edit

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Mark nailed it... in this case...

If the side was a one piece slab, then Cutting into 3 parts, cutting ends off middle part, glueing the ends back on, and using the left-over for the drawer front, would work just fine.

Plunging anything would ruin the piece & have easily seen flaws.

IMHO.

Have fun, Joe

...Learn from my Collection at:

<http://woodworkstuff.net/> . . .

Post Extras:    

[oak](#)

Member

Registered:
04/26/05
Posts: 64
Loc: silicon valley

 **Re: Cutting perfect square holes in a panel**

[Re: [SteveWeb](#)]

#1967143 - 11/03/05 07:43 PM

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squares.. nope..

but i do know how for rectangles..



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