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## Router inlay template patterns

This classic style inlay design (also known as Bow-Tie) works great for everything from decorative accents to your project to strengthening joints. These two template sets are designed to work with our copper insert set and contain butterfly inlay templates of different sizes. The large butterfly template has 3 inlay templates ranging in length from 3-5/32 to 4-3/4. The small butterfly template has 4 inlay templates ranging in length from 1-11/16 to 2-1/2. Don't forget to get your brass inlay kit, which comes with a 1/8 carbide spiral bit, bushing, template guide, and a centering pin. The brass insert kit is sold separately. Tall b c D 3-7/16 2-1/2 2-5/32 L 4-3/4 3-19/32 3-5/32 inch d 2-1/4 1-3/4 1-3/8 Small d e f g D 1-9/1 6 1-5/16-inch 1-1/8 L 2-1/2 2-5/32 1-29/32 1-11/16 d 1 13/16 11/16 9/32 I receive commissions for purchases made via the links in this post. This is How to Make Router Inlay Templates the Easy Way. Router inlay templates are used with a router inlay kit, which makes inlay works very easily. I'll show you everything you need to know, and you'll do great inlays before you know it. Enjoy. See My Woodworking Books HereRouter Inlay TemplatesIf you haven't used an inlay template for the router, or if you don't know what it is, I recommend you check my post on router inlay to get started. You'll learn everything you need to know about the kits, and how to start creating great inlays without much practice. Once you understand how the process works, you'll be glad it's based off of templates. These templates are easy to create, but there are some tips along the way that will help you create good templates from the start. The beauty of a template is that it creates a repeatable process and the results are uniform from example to example. All you have to do is get one thing right, and you get every other thing right. Again there are a few tricks, but it's a pretty simple process and anyone can follow to create an excellent router inlay template. Here's a quick overview of the process, and then we'll go into each of these parts in more detail. Start with the right materialMake the templates big enoughMake a design without tight anglesAnd simple designs on FirstMake Several smaller templates on one BoardMark from the design Very ClearDrill First To Allow Saw AccessHow to Saw By Hand and With PowerSand the Inside Walls SmoothMake Your Template PerfectTest the Template on ScrapsSee Also: A Beginner Guide to WoodworkingStart With the Right Materialthe first thing you need to consider for your inlay template is the material. This is based on economy, but it is also based on your router inlay kit. Take a look at your bushing on the kit, and see how far below the router baseplate sticks out. You need to create a template that is at least a pincher than that distance, so that canisters on the kit do not drag on the wooden surface below the template. Drag, means that if your bushing is more than a quarter, but less than a half, then a half inch piece of wood is a good choice. Another thing to consider is the actual type of wood itself. One of the easiest types to use is MDF, and it's actually very easy to work with. It's not super expensive, and it doesn't cause the same problems in a template that plywood sometimes does. The edges and inside of the wood are very easily smooth, and that means a smoother cutting with your router. Another thing you could do is use hardwood, or at least solid wood. This is going to be more expensive, but it will still be a very good template. For all my templates I use MDF. It's very cheap, and if you buy a big enough sheet, you cut out several smaller pieces to make router templates. Make them all look the same, and if you cut them about the same size, you save them all in the same spot. See also: Woodworking TemplatesMake the templates big enoughThis is one of the biggest beginner errors when doing router inlay. Until you put the router on top of the template, it doesn't really dawn on you to keep the template a lot bigger than it actually needs to be to keep the design. However, once you put your router on top and try to start working, you will quickly notice that you have no room to move because the clamps get in the way. If the template is too small, it's not something that you actually use. Instead, leave several inches on all sides of the design, and then a small buffer of extra space for clamps. This depends on the size of your router baseplate, and even the handles on your router, so make sure you measure. If you want to make it easy, just measure the full width of your router and add that much distance to at least on all sides of the inlay cavity. This is too much, of course, but at least you know you have a ton of space, and you don't have to worry. It's very important that you clamp the template really well when you use it, so adding this extra size will make that part of the process easy. It will also make your template safer, making your overall deposit much better. See also: Binding Inlay to Dress up a ProjectCreate a Design Without Tight CornersRouter inlay uses a rounded bit. Typically this is 1/8 of an inch in diameter, so you need to keep that in mind when you make a design. You really don't make anything with sharp corners, or very tight turns. See My Woodworking Books HereYou, however, would be surprised, because that limitation doesn't limit you that much in the end. Most inlay shapes have room to be adjusted to have slightly more rounded curves and no sharp angles. It's not something that most people would notice on the design itself, and even something that looks pretty complicated can be done with the router Method. All you have to do is create the right templates and experiment with the product. See also: Pickup Routing TemplateSimple Designs at FirstOne FirstOne The best things you do for yourself in the beginning is to create a simple template, and gain a little experience. You'd be surprised how beautiful even a simple design looks, and it's a really good place to start and get your feet wet. Run a simple design really well, put a lot of time and attention into the template and be careful as you send out the cavity. Practicing like this will let you put your technique down, and without the headache of a complex design. Once you have a few of these simple designs under your belt, you then branch out into templates that create a more comprehensive design. Sometimes this can be a template, but often it involves several. See also: 19 things I wish I knew when I started woodworkingMake multiple smaller templates on a boardIf you have a design that calls for different cuts, consider creating all the cavities side by side on the same board. They may not look like the final design, but as long as you know which cavity is for which part, you're fine. All you have to do is arrange them so that the openings on the template all fit side by side somewhere near the middle. This will give you enough room for router clearance as we talked before, and it will keep all your designs in one place. The other nice thing about having all the openings in one place is that you look through your template to put the design on your project. Normally you'd just measure and make marks before laying the template, but it's nice to be able to see through. If you're going from pass to pass, all you have to do is switch which part of the template you're using. Keep going until you complete the entire design, then cut out your positives to fill the gaps. See also: How to make printable drawing templatesMake the design very clear When you work on your template, you can clearly mark the design of your opening with a sharp pencil. You don't want to have wide or blurred lines, and that's important for a few reasons. First, wide and blurred lines make it difficult to tell where the design actually is, and that makes it harder to carve out. When you make your brands, they are perfectly possible, so that way you know exactly where to cut to create the opening. The lines you draw actually have thickness to them. This is the second point. If you draw a really thick line, and then come back and try to cut it, it can end up being turned off by sometimes as much as an eighth of an inch. In a situation where you are trying to work in a confined area, or you need to make a certain size deposit, that can be the difference between success and failure. Also, if you sand, thin lines make a big difference. It is much easier to sand to a thin line than a thick strip. Thicker lines make it harder to know you are, and blurred lines are just about useless. Make your numbers beautiful and clear, and make them thin when you the template. See also: 15 great tips for making wooden tool handlesDrill First to allow saw AccessThe next step in creating a template is to create an access for the saw. To get your saw into the wood, you have to be able to thread it through a hole. This is where the drill comes in. Drill a series of holes that are all tangent to the lines you drew on the template. Keep the boreholes on the inside section of the design that will be cut out as waste. Space them as tight or wide as you want, depending on how many points you need access with the saw. See My Woodworking Books HereIf you don't have the ability to cut out the middle, you can always drill your holes very close and then use a chisel to finally clear the center piece. This is a little more work, but it can definitely be done if you just have some patience, and spend the time. Be extra careful when drilling the holes, because you don't want to cross the line. It's actually better to play it safe and drill something inside of the line, so in case you make a mistake, you won't be completely over it. Once you cross the line, you'll need to change the entire template to make that blemish disappear. It's not a nice place to be, and you'd probably better just mark a different design and try again. See also: How to break a practice can make you a better woodworkerHow to cut by hand and with PowerEr is a few different ways that you saw off the middle section of your router inlay template, and they are both pretty simple. The non-power version is a coping saw, and the power version is a scroll saw. Another non-power option is to take a scroll blade and embed most of it in a dowel rod, and use that. Essentially you make a small saw, and that you can get in the middle of templates that you saw the head can't reach inside of. If you're lucky enough to have a scroll saw, all you have to do is thread the blade through one of the boreholes, and then start cutting it. Continue with the saw until you complete the cut and the middle section falls out. Enter with the saw in different places if that's what it takes, and make sure to follow just inside the line so you don't have to go over it. The next step will ensure any excess outside the line area, so make sure to get close. See also: Clearance Notch For Acoustic Guitar MakingSand the Inside Walls SmoothThat you remove most of the material with the saw, it's time to refine the edge of the design so that the router scrub can move smoothly. This is going to chafe, and it's a pretty quick process. Use abrasive stick, or a sanding block when you. If you make a small flat stick with sandpaper, feel free to do so because it will make a big difference. It is sometimes frustrating to see the of a small design, so do what you need to make it more comfortable. Take your time, and smooth the inside of the template really well. You must have the inlay template router free of scratches and marks, that way in a router can move around the design without transferring these imperfections to the insert cavity or piece. See also: Printable Woodworking Tips CardsMake your template perfectThis part can't be underestimated. Make your template perfect. Take the time you need to make the template absolutely perfect, and it will reward you many times with successful deposits after successful deposits. The deposit you do with its template will only be as good as the template itself, so that should be all the motivation you need. Make the template right and don't start using it until it's 100% correct. You'll be very happy that you've spent this extra time, because you're inlays that you make with the router will have nice smooth edges, and they'll look professional. All those little scratches and dents will come out, you just have to sand. See also: 17 key tips on how to woodstest the template on scrapsY to test every template you create, especially in the beginning. After a while you get good enough to know how tight you make a curve and what you actually do with the designs on your router templates. Until then, spend time and just test the template. All you really have to do is scrap it underneath, and run the router around the template to check. Evaluate the cavity after you're done and trouble with the template. If you zoom the router around the new template, and it leaves a cavity has nice smooth edges, then you know you've done the right thing. Your template will work well, and it will serve you for a very long time. See My Woodworking Books HereSee Also: 16 great tips for setting up a workshop in the GarageYour Action AssignmentNow you know everything you need to know about making router inlay templates, it's time to go into the store and make one. Don't read all the time and don't really go out and make some sawdust. It's easier than it looks. Choose a design, and put it on it. It doesn't even matter if it's something you're ever going to make, this is just to teach you how to create templates. Once you see how fun and easy this is, you'll end up finding a lot of reasons to do it. Choose something easy, and something that you turn off within a few hours. Make yourself a great looking template, and make it perfect. Then choose a scrap and create a cavity. Finally choose another thin piece and make a inlay piece of it. Glue them together, and sand they blink. You've just officially made your first deposit using a router inlay template that you've created yourself. You should be proud. You should also be ready for all the amazing woodworking ideas this new technique will give you. If you have any questions about this post, then you post a question and I will be happy to answer them. Happy building.

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