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Subject: Other plywood tricks

Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 2004 18:57:59 GMT

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The most exotic cutting trick I know comes from Terry Cain which is a mitered furniture joint that gives a total of one inch of glue line. Can't recall the name but it's a combination of miters and finger joints that only a furniture shop has the tolerances for. At the local level here, I made a stab at using quarter round and butt joints to get an edge treatment. The quarter round a.) was not milled to the same dimension as the plywood I have and b.) trying to cut oak quarter round in a \$3 miter box is not real reliable. So I'm wondering what can be suggested here for joinery besides butt joints and biscuits. Splines have occurred to me, but ripping the edge of plywood is asking for trouble. I got curious about what could be found at a picture frame shop. But they probably charge for that stuff by the inch.

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Subject: Re: The veddy British 'Housing Joint'

Posted by [The Auntie-Polly](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2004 01:35:43 GMT

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Lon, grab a piece of plywood 3/4" thick. Put a 3/8" Dado stack in your table saw and set the fence for a 3/8" cut, 3/8" deep. You'll have to play around a bit because the 3/4" plywood is actually 23/32. What you want to arrive at is a fence and blade depth setting that puts a rabbet on the edge that is exactly 1/2 of the thickness of the plywood in both dimensions. Run the plywood on edge and cut the rabbet. Now move the fence back another 1/2 width, approx 3/8" so you cut a groove approx 3/8 from the END of the board you are joining. That's a Dado. 3/8 from the edge, 3/8 wide and 3/8 deep. The tongue you made on the EDGE of the one panel will fit perfectly into the groove you made on the inside FACE of the other. That's a housing joint. It's very strong not just from the increased gluing surface but a good mechanical joint too. The Terry Cain recommended joint is a LOCK MITER and is easy to cut with a set of lock miter cutters and a router table. NBD

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Subject: Re: The veddy British 'Housing Joint'

Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 04:50:22 GMT

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A very good lesson. Unfortunately I don't have a dado stack or table. I have a helper who has the saw but no fancy blades. That's why I'm butting everything. I'd like to see a deal on a biscuit joiner. Maybe some day.

Subject: Re: The veddy British 'Housing Joint'  
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 10:50:41 GMT  
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If you want to see some fancy-ass joinery, get a copy of Fine Woodworking's "On Making Period Furniture" and look at the article on Mr. Emmet's building of a reproduction Newport kneehole bureau. He built it from a photo, never actually having seen one. I've been up close and personal with a Goddard original, and seeing how far Emmet took it, it's hard to imagine a there ever being greater American cabinetmaker than Emmet. That man was some kind of skilled.

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Subject: Biscuit joiner deal  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 11:05:07 GMT  
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Check out Harbor Freight ([www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com)). They have a biscuit joiner for around \$40.

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Subject: Re: Biscuit joiner deal  
Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 17:25:34 GMT  
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One of those just moved into town but I don't recall seeing a biscuit machine that low. Will have a look soon.

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Subject: Re: Freud strikes again!  
Posted by [The Auntie-Polly](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 23:07:52 GMT  
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100 bucks. Had one for years. Nothing fancy.  
FR100

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Subject: Re: Freud strikes again!  
Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 2004 00:14:22 GMT  
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I checked out the ones at Harbor Freight. They were \$40 as stated. Someday in the future they might run those on deal. Right now I am practicing with my other gizmo: RotoZipclone with circle cutter. I have not been able to bring myself to spring for Jasper circle cutters with my level of inexperience.

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Subject: I have a Freud as well.

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 2004 13:14:25 GMT

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You're right, nothing fancy, and you can't use it on mitered joints. I got mine as a gift; if I had to replace it I'd go Porter-Cable.

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Subject: Don't need no stinking saw

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Sat, 28 Aug 2004 01:48:22 GMT

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Ion, Don't need a tablesaw to do the joint Bill described. You can do it with a router, an upcut bit, a rabbeting cutter with bearing and a guide. That's what I used on my current JBL project. See posting in High Eff Forum here.gar.

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