

Jointing on a Router Table

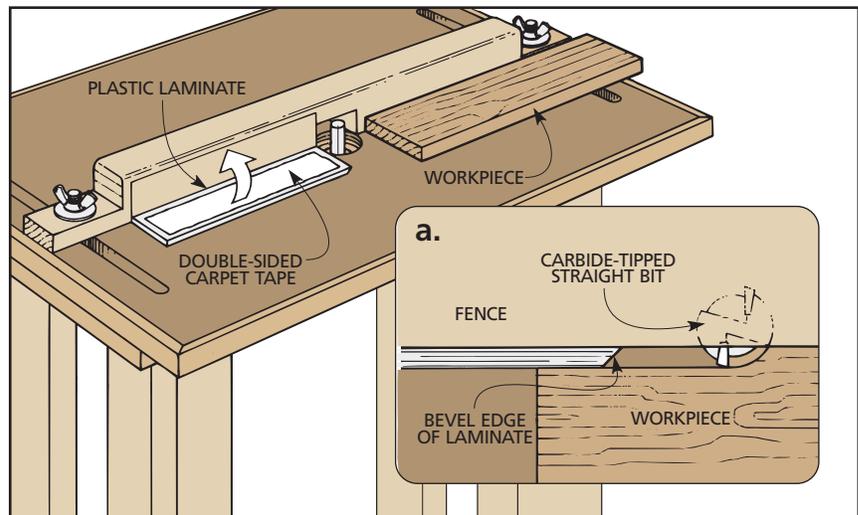
A jointer has separate infeed and outfeed tables that are offset from each other. To create the same effect on the router table, I attached a piece of plastic laminate to the left (outfeed) side of the router table fence. The router bit removes stock like the knives of a jointer, and the laminate supports the newly-cut edge.

Before attaching the laminate to the fence, file a slight bevel on the edge of the laminate by the bit opening. That way it won't catch the leading corner of the workpiece (detail 'a'). Then I used double-sided carpet tape to attach the plastic laminate to the fence so one end aligns with the bit opening (see drawing).

Next mount a straight bit in the router table. (If your router will accept it, a 1/2" shank bit works better than a 1/4" shank bit because the thicker shank helps cut down on vibration.) Then adjust the fence so the surface of the laminate is aligned with the outermost edge of the bit (detail 'a').

Now turn on the router and push the workpiece along the fence from right to left. For the best edge, move the board in a smooth, non-stop pass.

This method has a couple of limitations. First, the thickness of the stock to be jointed is limited to the length of the bit's cutting edge. Also, the length of the pieces to be jointed is limited by the length of your fence.



For more ways to joint an edge, see "Jointing With a Hand Plane," "Jointing With a Router," and "Jointing on the Table Saw."