

# Tambour Router Bit Set

## Making the Slats

- Step 1: Plane stock (5/8" thick for slats, 3/4" thick for lead strip).  
 Step 2: Cut stock to required length (see Installation Instructions Step 2 and Step 3).  
 Step 3: Cut stock to width (1" wide for slats, 2 1/2" wide for lead strip).  
 Step 4: Set up bit #1 as shown in Figure 1 and rout one edge of each slat and top edge of lead strip. (NOTE: All routing operations are done with the stock face side UP.)  
 Step 5: Set up bit #2 as shown in Figure 2 and rout opposite side of each slat.  
 (Remember...face side UP.)  
 Step 6: Drill 1/8" holes for cable. Cable is 1/16" diameter plastic coated braided cable usually available at bicycle shops. Refer to dimensions shown in the illustration below. Spacing of holes will depend on the length of tambour being made. Up to 30" length only 2 cables may be needed. Longer lengths require 3 holes. The outside holes are usually spaced 6-8" from each end and the third hole (if required) may be placed slightly off center. In the lead strip drill 3/8" x 3/8" holes that intersect the 1/8" holes. These are access holes to tie off the cable (see illustration below).

Figure 1

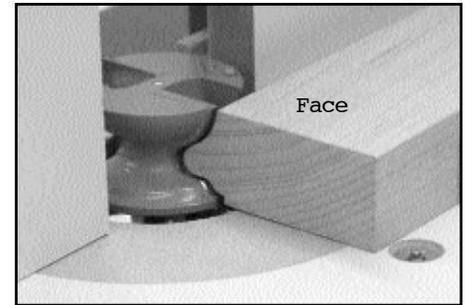
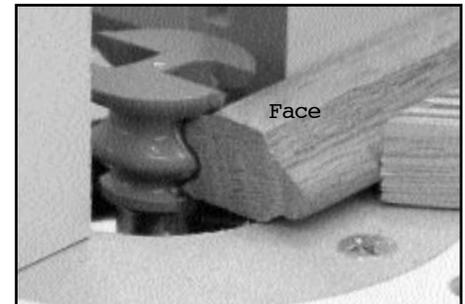
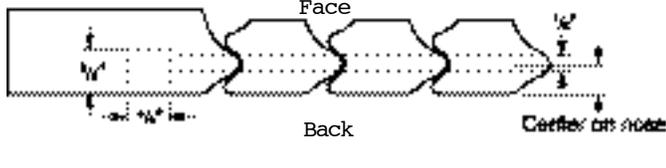


Figure 2



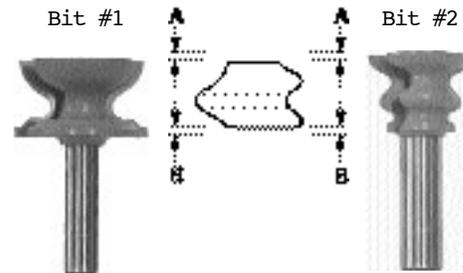
Bit guard removed for photos.

## Illustration



## Shop Tip

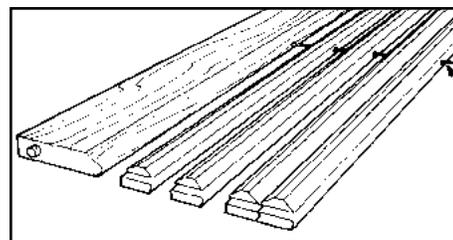
The midpoint of the tambour bits should align with the centerline of the stock when routing the slats. Fine adjustments may be needed to account for material thickness variations. Always make test cuts first. Your goal is to have A and B equal when doing the slats. When doing the lead strip with Bit #1 the height of the bit should not need to be changed. Never rout short pieces.



## Assembling the Tambour

- Step 1: Rout 3/8" wide x 7/16" deep grooves in the panel that will support the tambour.  
 Step 2: The lead strip length should be equal to the desk or cabinet opening (not including the depth of the groove). Use a doweling jig to drill 3/8" diameter x 1 1/2" deep holes centered in the ends of the lead strip. Glue a 3/8" x 1 1/2" dowel in each hole.  
 Step 3: Slat length should be 3/4" longer than the slats. Remove material on the front face at each end of the slats to create 5/16" thick x 3/8" long tenons (see illustration).  
 Step 4: Finish all tambour before assembly.  
 Step 5: With a tight knot in one end thread cables through the lead strip access hole and all the slats. Pull the cables tight and secure them by driving wood screws alongside the cables in the last slat.

## Illustration



**WARNING: KEEP HANDS CLEAR OF BIT AND WEAR EYE PROTECTION AT ALL TIMES. ALWAYS FOLLOW ROUTER MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY GUIDELINES. AVOID ROUTING PIECES SHORTER THAN 12" IN LENGTH.**

**ROCKLER**<sup>®</sup>  
 WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE