

Dowel Jigs

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools

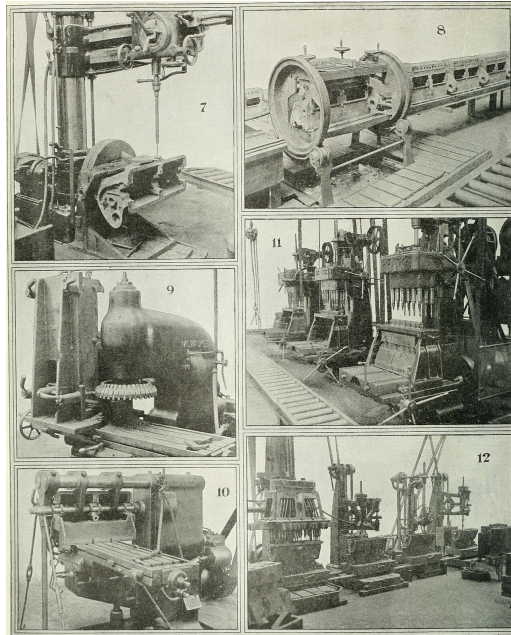


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A dowel jig aligns and drills holes for dowel joints, letting students join wood with glued wooden pins instead of screws. Good jigs drill both halves of the joint from matching positions, so alignment is quick and repeatable for frames and panels.

Key Features

- Self-centring or fence-locating designs
- Drill guides for common dowel sizes 6-10 mm
- Multiple-hole patterns for strong joints
- Clamp or wing-nut fixing to the work
- Steel guides that resist wear

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Join rails to legs in chairs and tables
- Edge-join boards with dowels instead of biscuits
- Align shelves to cabinets
- Repair loose joints by drilling and re-dowelling

Safe Operation

1. Mark matching centre lines on both pieces
2. Clamp the jig and drill the first piece
3. Transfer or set the jig for the second piece
4. Test-fit the joint before gluing
5. Glue, insert dowels and clamp until set

SAFETY NOTES

- Drill into wood, never into fingers or bench tops
- Keep the work clamped while drilling
- Wear eye protection against chips
- Do not force a blunt drill - it can snag
- Store guides in a case to protect the holes

Maintenance & Consumables

- Remove sawdust from the guide holes after use
- Check the drills are not bent or blunt
- Wipe the jig down and oil lightly
- Keep the correct drill bits with the jig
- Check alignment against a test joint

Specification & Buying Notes

A metal-bodied jig with replaceable guides covers most school needs. Match the drill size to the dowel for a firm push-fit. Buy dowels with spiral or ribbed ends for better glue grip.