

Live Edge Slabs and Waterfall Tables

Stan Houston Equipment

George Vondriska

Vondriska Woodworks

George's shop-made slab flattener

George's jig is clamped to his 4' x 8' workbench. You can scale your jig to the size of slabs you'll be working with. If your bench isn't big enough, clamp it to a sheet of plywood on sawhorses. Just be sure the platform you're clamping it to is rigid enough to withstand the weight of the slabs.



The jig is constructed from $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood



Clamp the rails to a workbench or sheetstock. The rails are 6" tall. Make the length to suit your needs.



Make the gantry to fit your router. If you're using a large diameter bit, you'll need a variable speed router.

The gantry parts are all 2" wide.

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Include a stop at both ends of the gantry to prevent the router from falling off, or the bit contacting the rails.



Include a stop on the bottom of the gantry to prevent the gantry from sliding off the rails



Gussets glued and fastened between the horizontal and vertical surfaces keep the parts square, and add rigidity.

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Lay the rails in the other direction for thinner slabs.

Be sure to secure the slab to the bench, and shim it as needed to take any wobble out of it.

Take light passes, approximately 1/16" of stock removal per pass.

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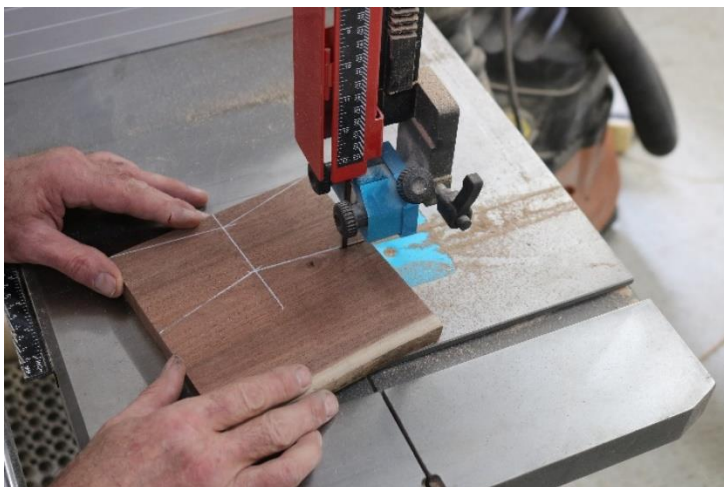
Making and Installing Bowties



If you own a CNC machine, you can make use it to make your bowties.



A 12-degree angle works great for the bowtie/dovetail. Use a charcoal pencil for good visibility on dark wood.



Use a bandsaw, jig saw or handsaw to cut the shape. Stay outside the lines.

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Use a hand chisel to pare down to the layout line. Work downhill on all the cuts, toward the waist of the bowtie. Be careful to not angle the edges.



Trace the bowtie onto your work. Use a very sharp pencil or, better yet, a marking knife.



Use a plunge router freehand to excavate the bowtie socket. A 1/4" upcut spiral works well. Set the depth slightly less than the thickness of the bowtie. Get as close as you can to the layout lines, but don't go outside them.

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Use a chisel to remove the waste, cutting to the layout line. Test the fit frequently. The bowtie should easily tap into the recess.

When you have a good fit, apply yellow glue to the bottom of the recess and tap the bowtie in.

Sources

[Woodpeckers Slab Mill](#)

Amara flattening router bit [Amazon.com](#)

Armor self-adjusting clamps [Amazon.com](#)

Bessey 12" GearKlamp [Amazon.com](#)

White charcoal pencil [Amazon.com](#)

¼" upcut spiral bit [Amazon.com](#)

[ISOTunes Pro Hearing Protection](#) Use the code George10 at checkout to get \$10 off your purchase.

West System Epoxy [Amazon.com](#)

Rockler Bowtie Inlay Set [Amazon.com](#)

Whiteside inlay kit [Amazon.com](#)

CMT extension collet [Amazon.com](#)

Hairpin legs [Amazon.com](#)

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