

## Inlay Stringing Tutorial

Alex Reid – [www.mokkou.jp](http://www.mokkou.jp)

I recently did a dining table now and have completed the stringing on the legs. String inlay can add an elegant touch to an otherwise tried and true form – a four-sided tapered leg. In the following tutorial I will take you through a step by step process for sting inlay on table legs.

### Materials and Tools Needed

Dremel tool

Router base with edge guide

1/16" downcut carbide router bit

Scary sharp chisel

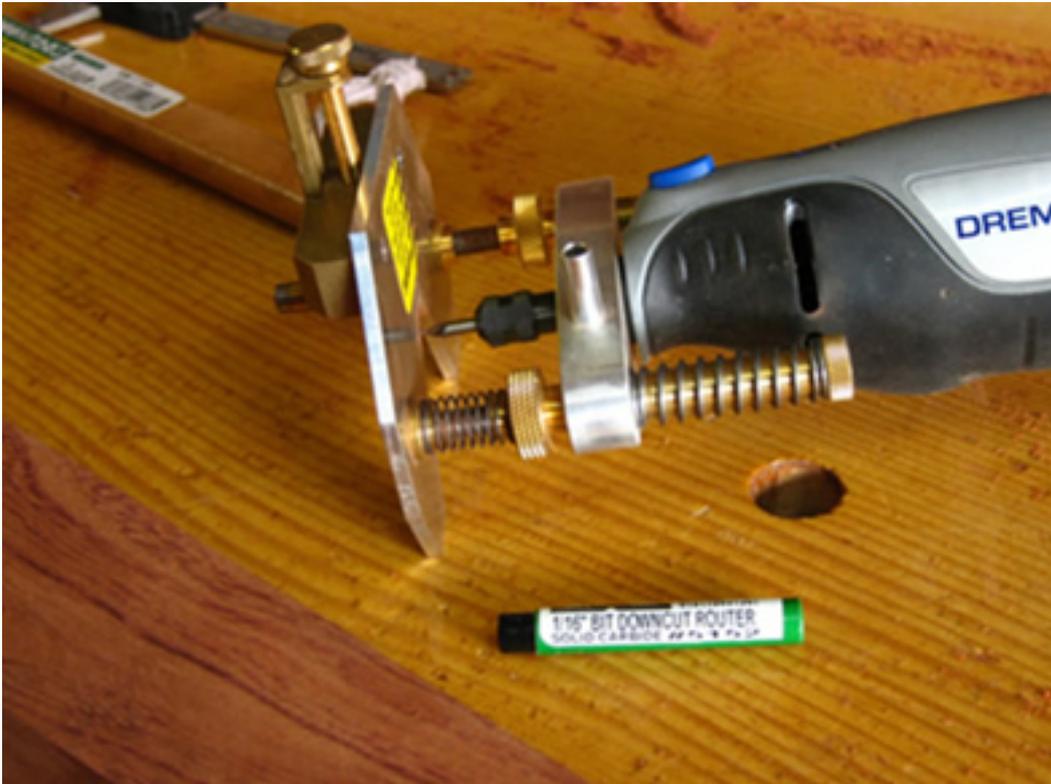
45° shoulder square

Two F-clamps

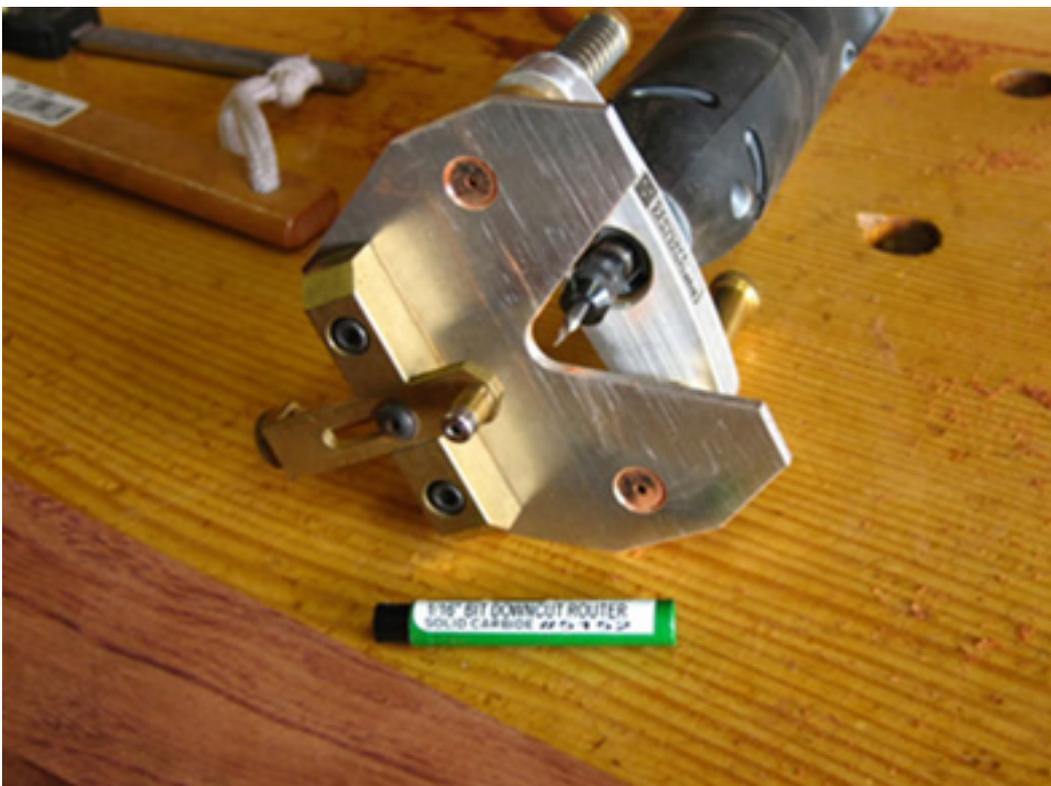
Two stop blocks cut to size

Step 1. Pictures 1 and 2 show my router setup for stringing. It is a Dremel tool with a router base made by guitar outfitters Stewart and McDonald. I also buy the router bits from them as they make a nice downcut 1/16" carbide bit for use with the Dremel. 1/16" bits are hard to find. Most makers for Dremel accessories start their bits at 1/8", which are fine and even a little more robust but the 1/16" is perfect. The 1/16" carbide downcut bit is easy to break but makes a nice refined cut if you don't set it too deep. No deeper than 1/16" is best.

Pic 1. Dremel tool with downcut bit, router base and router base guide.



Pic 2. The guide is a single point (not straight edge) so it is fine for curves also.



Step 2. Picture 3 shows my stop block setup. The end blocks are rabbetted so they simply fit on the ends and clamp down. Also they are sized so that the inlay is equidistant from the all edges concerned. For the ends I remove the edge guide and route without stop blocks so you have to be careful to not go past your vertical inlays

Pic 3. Stop blocks



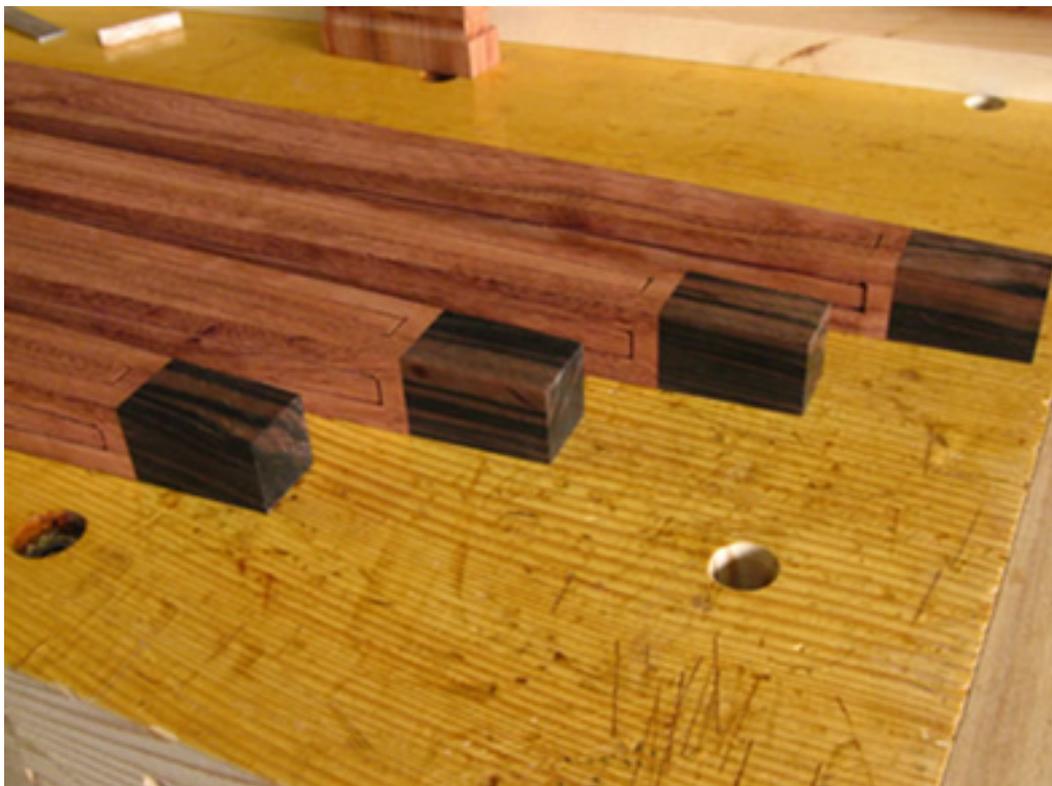
Step 3. Picture 4 shows the routing. Patience and a steady hand make this task a little less nervous. A little beeswax on the underside of the router base also helps.

Pic 4. Routing the dado cut.



Step 4. Pictures 5 and 6 show the routed groove. Now we just have to chisel out the outside corner to make it 90° and then they are ready to take the stringing inlay.

Pic 5 and 6. Inlay done. Need to square the corners.



Step 5. Picture 7 shows the stringing next to the legs. I cut them on the band saw and then I put them through the drum sander.

Pic 7. Stringing almost ready for inset into routed legs.



Step 6. Picture 8 and 9 show my method for cutting the mitered strings to length. I am using a 45° shoulder square and scary sharp chisel. This way I am able to make the smallest cut if I need to trim.

Pic 8 and 9. Cutting the mitered corners with chisel and 45° shoulder square.



Step 7. Pictures 10-12 shows the inset inlay proud. Just have to make it flush.  
Pic 10 and 11. Proud inlay needs to be flushed.



Step 8. Pictures 12 shows the finished leg with the inlay flush. You can use any number of ways to flush the proud inlays; sanding block, scraper or even orbital sander if your careful not to round the edges of the legs. I used an orbital sander to make them flush. I think most would use a card scraper to trim the excess and then hand sand in order to keep the edges of the legs square but I find I am able to keep the sander level with no problem and using a 240 grit paper for a not-so-aggressive abrasion.

Pic 12. Inlay stringing complete.

