

routing multiple Slots

Routing accurate slots in the sanding station panels is easy using a straight bit and the router table.

■ The key to routing accurate slots is to create a series of layout lines on the grates, the fence, and on the router tabletop, as you can see in the drawings below.

Two lines, one on the fence and the other on the router tabletop, indicate the center of the bit. Once you have these lines, setting the fence and routing the

slots becomes a piece of cake.

That's because a series of lines on both faces of each grate shows the start and stop points for each set of slots. And, lines marking the center of all the slots on the end grain of the workpiece helps you with setting the fence.

You begin by raising the bit slightly above the top of the grate.

Then set the fence to rout the outer row of slots first (main drawing).

To rout the slots, carefully plunge the workpiece over the router bit, using the layout lines as start and stop points, as in the detail drawing below. Rout the first slot, then flip the workpiece end for end, lowering the workpiece one more time to complete the second slot.

It's best to rout the slots on all four workpieces before repositioning the fence for the next set of slots. Make a single pass, then reset the fence and repeat the process for the remaining slots.

