

How to cut tenons on long stock

Easily done with a router. Chuck a short pattern bit into your router - these bearing-guided bits are sometimes sold as dado clean-out bits. Glue and screw together a simple scrap wood T-square like the one shown *below*.



To steady the workpieces, stack and clamp parts for routing out the edge cheeks before clamping the assembly to the workbench.

Nibble away the field of the cheek cut in multiple passes, repositioning the T-square to guide each cut until the tenon is complete.

To begin the process, mark out your tenons. Then, clamp your rails as shown *above left* to begin the tenon with the edge cheek. Set the bit to rout away the depth of the shoulder, then use the T-square as a bearing guide to rout a first pass, removing about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the bed-rail material. Reposition the square closer to the mark and repeat the routing, removing more material. For the last pass, align the T-square with the marked tenon and finish the cheek.

Repeat the process on the opposite edge cheek before laying the rails flat *above right* to rout the face cheeks in the same manner.