



Simple winding sticks show any twist between the infeed and outfeed tables of your jointer.

True Up Your Jointer Tables

If, despite your best efforts, your jointed edges and faces aren't truly flat or joints in panel glue-ups show gaps, it's time to check the alignment of your jointer tables. The end of one or both tables may sag, or the tables might be twisted relative to each other. Here's how to diagnose the problem and then correct it.

Note: The fixes described here apply to jointers with dovetailed ways. That covers most floor-standing, sub-\$1,000 jointers. For jointers with parallelogram beds, refer to the owner's manual.

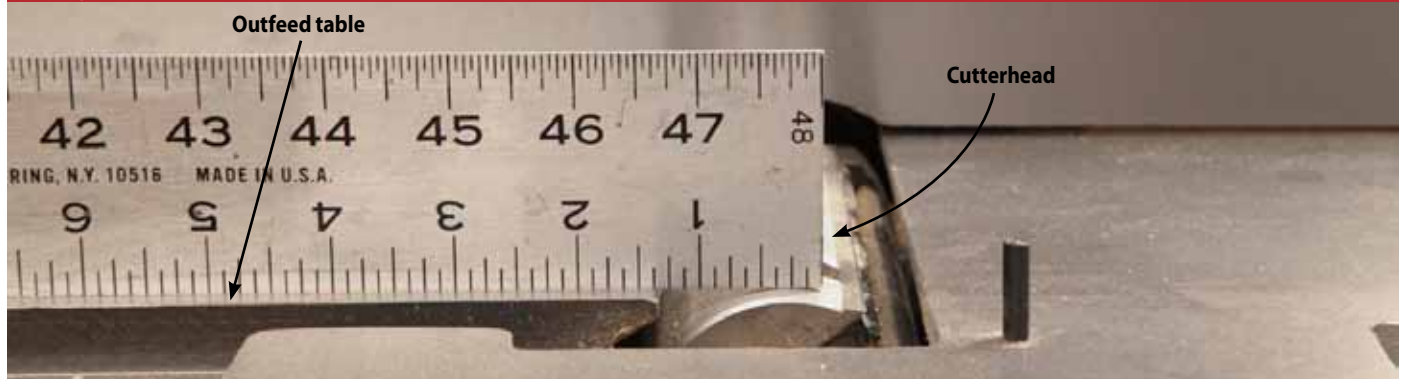
Check for twist and dips

To find if the tables are parallel across their widths, make winding sticks by ripping two scraps to equal width and crosscutting them just longer than the width of the jointer tables. Wrap blue tape around the long edge of one; then stand it on the far end of the outfeed table. Place the other stick on the opposite end of the infeed table as shown above. Squat down about 3' from the end of the infeed table until you see a sliver of blue from the far stick above the edge of the near stick. If the blue

line tapers, the tables aren't parallel; adjust them as described in the next paragraph. If the blue line is even, skip to **See if it sags** on page 22.

Now check to see if the outfeed table sits parallel to the cutterhead. Remove the cutterhead guard and push the fence back fully. Set the outfeed table flush with the cutterhead body (not the knives) as shown below. Check the table edge at its front and back. A gap below the straightedge reveals a need to raise that side of the table. Follow the steps in the photos at the top of page 22 to level

FIRST, CHECK THE OUTFEED TABLE'S ALIGNMENT WITH THE CUTTERHEAD



Set the outfeed table flush with the cutterhead, then check for gaps between the straightedge and table.

continued on page 22

CLEAN AND LUBE THE WAYS AND GIBS, THEN SHIM AS NEEDED TO MAKE THE TABLES PARALLEL



1 Loosen the gib bolts and table lock. Direct WD-40 or a similar solvent between the dovetail ways on both sides to dissolve the old grease.



2 Lift the end of the table to allow the solvent to reach all areas. Force out any remaining grease and grime with compressed air.



3 Slide the gibs (metal bars between the dovetail ways) out partially and apply a liberal coat of lithium soap grease; then reinsert them.



4 Cut .005 brass shim stock (**Source**) as long and wide as the gib, grease the shim, and slide it behind the gib. Add additional shims if needed.

the table to the cutterhead. This can be a tedious trial-and-error process; you'll make an adjustment, retighten screws, recheck the table alignment, and then repeat the process if needed.

With the outfeed table now parallel to the cutterhead, repeat the winding-stick test. If twist still exists, make the same adjustments on the infeed table.

See if it sags

Now that the tables rest parallel with each other and the cutterhead, check them for sag along their length. Raise

the tables so they align just above the cutterhead. Span both tables with a long straightedge, checking at the front and back edges of the table, *below*. Gaps below the straightedge indicate that one end of a table rests too low.

To correct this, place shim stock under the dovetail ways, beginning with the outfeed table. Shim the infeed table only if needed. Place $\frac{3}{8}$ "-long shims toward the upper end of the ways to raise the end of the table nearest the cutterhead; or toward the lower end to raise the outer end of the table. Shim

the front and rear ways the same amount. After shimming, repeat the tests to check that the tables rest parallel in both planes.

Lastly, check that each end of each knife rests parallel to the outfeed table. Set the table even with a knife at its highest point. Rest a straightedge across the knife and the outfeed table as when checking the table to the cutterhead. Adjust each knife as needed. 🌿

Source: .005 brass sheets no. 106237, \$3.49, shophobbylobby.com

CHECK ACROSS BOTH TABLES



Shine a flashlight behind a straightedge to highlight gaps that require you to make adjustments.