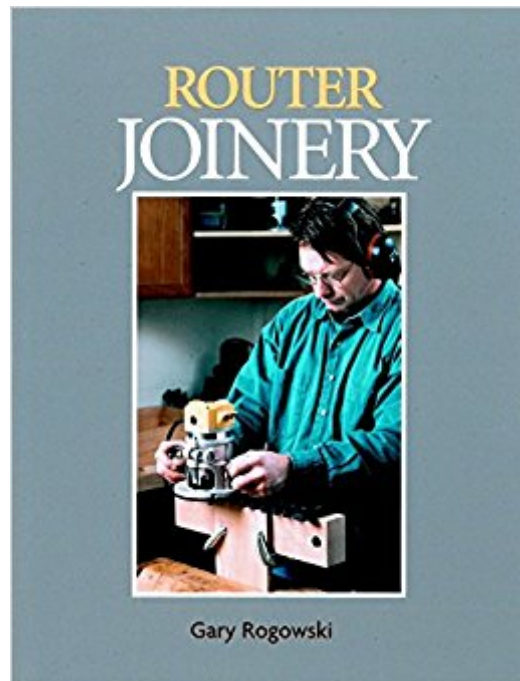




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# Router Joinery: With Gary Rogowski (Fine Woodworking DVD Workshop)



## Synopsis

Routers can be used to cut a wide variety of joints quickly and accurately. In this video, professional woodworker Gary Rogowski demonstrates router joinery techniques that can be mastered by any woodworker. You'll learn why correct setup and good stock preparation are essential to accurate work, and you'll see how to cut common frame and carcass joints using a hand-held or table-mounted router.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gary Rogowski, the Director of The Northwest Woodworking Studio, has established himself as a force within the woodworking community. Not only has he been building furniture since 1974, he is also frequent contributor to a number of woodworking magazines. His acclaimed book *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Joinery* was released by Taunton Press in 2003 and still remains a valuable resource for woodworkers. Other publications include the DVD *Router Joinery* and a number of videos on Mortise and Tenons, Plywood Drawers, and Router Joinery.

There are a number of good introduction, overview, and general techniques books out there. The best I have seen is *Woodworking with the Router* - By Bill Hylton. I bought this book hoping that

it was geared towards an intermediate router user who wanted to study specialized techniques in detail. Unfortunately, almost half (Parts 1 and 2) of this smallish book is spent on router basics, and while it is ok, it is less complete and less clear than the Hylton book on that subject. Part 3, titled "Joinery with the Router," a bit over half of the book's 181 pages, has SOME of what I am looking for, but it does not discuss the rabbet-groove (a.k.a. rabbet-dado) joint I was specifically looking to create. It's a common joint; seems like it should be described. For the joints it does cover, there is no discussion of strategy, how to lay it out and techniques to make it fit perfectly. He gives you a drawing and some general commentary on the joints but leaves it to you to figure out how exactly to accomplish it. I bought the book to walk me through the creation of joints, and it does not do that in sufficient detail to make it fast and easy. The chapters in Part 3 are organized by the kinds of furniture you might want to build, rather than as an encyclopedia of joints you need to create. This book might be just the thing for people who are new to routers and enjoy taking the time to figure out how to make the joints he described. The pictures, though black and white, are of good quality, and the drawings are good. The explanations are clear as far as they go. If you're looking for a book like I was hoping for, check out *Classic Joints with Power Tools*, where author Yeung Chan describes more kinds of joints and focuses on how to create them. Keep in mind that that book covers both router AND table saw use, often telling you how to make the joint using either one. For the rabbet-groove joint I wanted to learn, it tells you TWO ways of doing it with the router and one with the table saw. Overall I found this book disappointing: it suffers from being far too broad in coverage and having very little and superficial information on the subject of the title. At less than 200 pages, with only half on the subject, it can't begin to cover the subject adequately. Three stars means "It's OK". It's not what I was looking for, so I can't say "I Like It." Note: I do not know any of these authors and have no association with them or the publishers; in recommending a different book, it is simply because it was better suited to my needs, and may be for yours.

I bought this book 'hot' off of my first project, my Joints needed help, and I loved to use the router - the title just sold the book to me. I wouldn't classify this book as a beginner book, nor would I say it's an advanced book. However it does have something for everybody, and it's very easy to follow. Personally I think that every beginner wanting to do more than plywood boxes should pick up a copy. It starts you out with basics of a router (good to read before you buy one, though not definitive in that area). This book really shines with all the stuff that a beginner doesn't know to worry about - how different boards are sawn from the log, and how that affects the way that they shrink/expand. How to plan your project so that the changing seasons do not cause it to self destruct. While this

sounds out of the scope for a beginner - it is very easy to understand and will help anybody (short of a seasoned pro) get the most out of their work. And this is all before the basics of joining wood. When it comes to the different joints the book is laid out from easiest to most complex. You can work to the back of the book as your skill and knowledge improve. Everybody should have it, and beginners should not feel intimidated by it!

I can't think of anything to add that the prior reviewers didn't say already. It's very well written, and easy to read and follow the diagrams. There are plans for versatile but simple to build and use jigs. This book has inspired my woodworking and also helped me simplify many processes. Highly recommended!

It's okay.

This is a good book. It's sort of written in the Fine Woodworking magazine tradition of the 1970s and 1980s - and the routers the author uses are more primitive than the ones available today. You don't need a new whiz-bang tool to accomplish accurate, attractive joinery with a router. Infact Rogowski's cheap-o router table is a welcome antidote to the expensive tables you can buy today - which, as nice as they are, don't make you a better woodworker. This book will in fact make you a better woodworker because a thread of thoughtfulness runs through it. The jigs are mostly simple and easy to build - and they depend on operator skill to get good results in general. You can invest a lot of money trying to set up your woodshop to get perfection in an idiot-proof way - an approach that is folly but more or less the thrust of a lot of the jigs and tools on the market today. If you want to putter around and make a perfect workshop with the latest tools this is not for you. If you want to produce beautiful furniture with an old second-hand router, a small collection of bits, a few handtools and a bandsaw you will find great value here - because this book most importantly shows you how Rogowski thinks and that is very valuable because he is an excellent craftsman and he shows us the thought process that gets those results. Yeung Chan's book on power tool joinery is also very good but a little broader.

I've looked around for a good book that explains how to make joints with a router. The others I've seen do not explain the whys and hows as well as this book does. There are pictures and very good drawings. One of the things I like most about this book is that it explains clearly the mechanics of jointery; why should you choose this joint for this application and the strengths and weaknesses. It

explains about how wood expands and contracts to effect the joint. The book is broken into three main parts; 1) intro to routers, 2) intro to joinery, 3) joinery with the router. More than half the book is spend on this third section. In all this is the best book I've seen on routers and makeing joints with routers.

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