

Rule Joint

The rule joint is used to join a dropleaf extension to a tabletop. In the up position, this joint makes a tight, well-supported connection. In the down (dropped) position, this joint appears to be a nicely moulded edge.

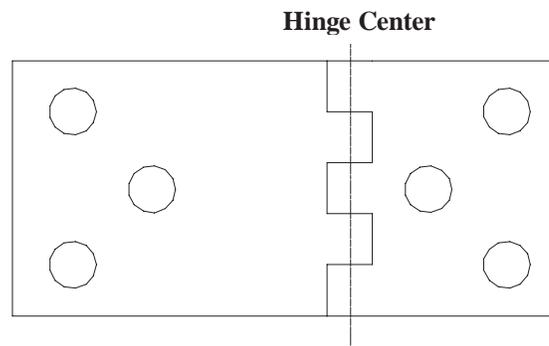
Both 5/8" and 1/2" radius roundover and cove bits are used to make the rule joint. It depends on the wood thickness and hinge type you are using. Rule joint hinges are designed with one leaf longer than the other.

The hinge knuckle is recessed into the bottom of the main table at the center point of the edge radius. Usually, there is a 1/8" notch at the top. With 3/4" thick wood, 1/2" radius cutters are used. This puts the hinge pivot point at the bottom surface of the table, so that the leaves of the hinge can be surface mounted. If the wood is thicker, say 7/8", the hinge point must then be recessed further into the bottom by recessing the hinge leaves as well. Use 5/8" radius cutters to avoid recessing the hinge leaves in this case. As always, have the hardware on hand before starting.

Ease the bottom edge of the main table to smooth the hinge action. Also, shift the hinge pivot point slightly toward the edge of the main table so the joint doesn't rub and wear.

Because the location of the hinge pivot point is so important to a properly working joint, you should practice on some test pieces of the same thickness as your final project.

Sets #6100, 8400, 8401
Katana Sets #16100, #18400, #18401



Drop Leaf Hinge

