The Solid Brass Router Inlay Set #9177 will create a perfectly matched recess and inlay piece. It can be used for decorative accents, butterfly keys, and repair work. The set fits into a 1-3/16” thru hole with a 1-3/8” rim in the router base. This is standard on Porter Cable and Black & Decker routers. If needed, MLCS sells replacement bases for many other brands. An 1/8” spiral downcut bit also comes with the set.

All inlay work requires a pattern. MLCS carries a selection of shapes such as hearts, bowties, geometrics, and animals, or you can make your own pattern from 1/4” thick material. The actual inlay is 3/16” smaller than the pattern. Also notice that the bushing cannot get into tight corners. Cut the patterns into a square of plastic or plywood with a scroll saw, coping saw, and drill bits. Sand and file all edges smooth, as any irregularities will show up in the finished pattern.

Cut the recess (female cut):
Locate and attach a pattern to the background stock securely with double-face tape (MLCS Item #9489, or #9493). The 9/16” diameter bushing sleeve should be in place on the guide. Set the spiral bit to cut to a depth of approximately 3/16” by making two passes of 3/32” each. Cut around the pattern and waste away all of the material within the pattern.

Cut the inlay (male piece):
Prepare your inlay material slightly thicker than the recess depth (3/16”). Fasten the inlay stock down to a scrap board and fasten the pattern to the stock, again using double-face tape. You will cut through the stock this time, again making the cut in two passes of 3/32” each. Pull the outer sleeve off of the guide and set the to a 3/32” depth. Carefully plunge the bit and cut around the pattern edge. Repeat after setting the bit to the full 3/16” depth. The inside is the good part. REMEMBER: You MUST keep the guide tight against the pattern or the inlay will not fit properly.

Assembly: Fit the inlay piece into the recess. Some sanding may be required on the corners. Sand flush to the background and finish.