

# Hot Rod jig

**T**he Hot Rod jig is designed to let in sets of commercially available stainless steel rods to keep direct heat away from the work surface, so hot pans can be set down.

It's configured to run a diamond or square in a diminishing pattern from a 300mm long centre rod down to a 100mm outer.

With location pins to set from an edge in 50mm increments it's quick to set, positioning in a 90° to the edge configuration giving a diamond formation and 45° for a square pattern. You simply set the pins to gauge the position from the edge, clamp down and rout.

It needs a 6mm or 6.5mm radius cove cutting bit to set the rod width to suit the rod diameters being used (12mm and 12.5mm are common diameters), routing each groove around 5-6mm deep by sitting the router on the jig and bottoming the bit out on the work surface, zeroing the plunge post and then backing off to set the depth.

A 30mm guide bush is again required, but with the jig sitting directly to the work surface waste builds up within the jig slots, stopping the router from travelling fully along the slots.

It's simple enough to blow out the slots as you go and get a full pass, but extraction is certainly better if you have the option, and it's important that the slots are routed in their entirety to ensure the rods sit in correctly.

Etched gridlines allow you to be inventive with your rod layouts or use identical-length rods for easier positioning or setting up the jig for other positions.

## Conclusion

With this more convoluted method you have to do your own setting and marking out of positions of the rod centres for the jig to be aligned to, and there's the associated chance of setting the wrong jig slot to the layout lines so of course concentration is key, but this is a jig that gives scope for experiment and a different look to the standard layouts should you require it.

**Good**

## The Woodworking Verdict

- + Can be used for different designs; quick to use as standard configuration
- Needs accurate marking out for patterns other than the standard design; no bit supplied

**Rating ★★★★★**

**Typical price: £66.00**

**Groove pitch: 50.0mm**

**Groove length: 100, 200, 300 and 400mm**

**Length: 700mm**

**Width: 390mm**

**Thickness: 12mm**

**Weight: 3.5 kg**



▲ Use the pins on the 45° position for a parallel design



▲ Alternatively set the pins on the 90° setting for a diagonal pattern



▲ Clamp off securely ready for routing



▲ Set the depth by plunging the cutter to the worktop and zeroing the post



▲ Back off the post by the correct depth and it's ready to go



▲ The cuts can be made in a single pass



▲ The slots have some feathering after routing



▲ A few light passes with a fine abrasive soon cleans them up