## **Locking Rabbet Drawer Joints**

I like to use dovetails for my drawers whenever possible. But occasionally I use a locking rabbet joint at the front corners instead *(see photo)*. It's much stronger than a simple butt or rabbet joint, and it's not as difficult as cutting dovetails. In fact, the entire joint can be cut on the table saw.

**Note:** Although I'm showing how to cut the joint on the table saw, the same procedure can be used to cut the joint with a straight bit in the router table.

To make a locking rabbet, a groove is cut in each end of the drawer front *(Step 1)*. The tongues depth matches the thickness of the side pieces.

Then the inside tongue of the groove is cut shorter (*Step 2*).

Next, a dado is cut on each side piece to accept this short tongue (*Step 3*). The distance between the dado and the end of the workpiece should equal the width of the dado in the drawer front (*see photo*).





**1** On the ends of the front piece, cut a slot to leave a 1/4"-wide tongue. The tongue should be as long as the side pieces are thick (1/2").



**2**Then to complete the tongue, it needs to be trimmed to length. Just sneak up on the cut until the tongue is 1/4" long.



**3**Finally, to hold the tongue on the front, cut a 1/4" x 1/4" dado on each side piece. (Be sure to check the setup with a test piece first.)