

# Triton pocket hole jigs

Want a quick, easy way to make your projects? Maybe you should invest in a pocket hole jig

There is an old adage – ‘never be the first to come up with a good idea’. Well, Triton looked at what is already out there and then come up with its own improved variant on a theme. We were lucky enough to see the new pocket hole jig range demonstrated and to have a go too. Until now you may not have considered the advantages of pocket hole jointing, but perhaps you should, because it is so quick and easy to do. Triton has a new range of four jigs, ranging from cheap and compact to more expensive and sophisticated. I gather there are more products in the pipeline but this is its starter offering.

## What are pocket holes?

Antique table tops were often held on to the underframe with ‘pocketed’ i.e. recessed, screws. The modern concept takes it to a more precise and easy level designed to create fast butt joints with or without glue. You can create anything from a photo frame, right up to a king-sized bed if you use the system correctly. Some might argue it isn’t ‘proper’ woodwork, but if you lack skill, time or inclination this is the perfect way to get a good result quickly. It is also potentially demountable for transport and installation.

The complete clamping eight-piece pocket hole jig set



The most sophisticated version with positive clamping, height adjustment and extraction port

## The jigs

The smallest and cheapest is the single mini jig. Like all the jigs it comes with a special stepped drill, which in combination with a cordless drill makes each pocketed hole by running through a hardened steel insert in the jig. It is clamped in place and has a reversible lip to position it precisely at the edge of a workpiece. It is a two-part jig with a scale on the base and tothing so it can be set according to material thickness as part of a joint, one part of which is end-drilled and the other part face-drilled. Small, rare earth magnets are used to hold the jig together and



The three smaller jigs – adjustable pocket hole left, twin pocket hole mid, single pocket hole right

the jig and clamp together – nice, neat touches. It comes with stepped drill, square tip driver, a sample pack of special screws and one each of the pine and oak plugs. The driver bit is long, so access into awkward corners isn’t an issue, and the matching screws ensure a very positive driving ability without ‘cam out’. They are flat under the heads so they sit tightly in the pockets without any danger of pulling through the wood.

The next jig has two holes but is otherwise a similar design. Most pocket hole joints will need two side-by-side pocket and screws for strength. Next up is the adjustable version where you can alter the spacing. Finally we get to the nicely anodised aluminium twin pocket jig, which has height adjustment and an extraction outlet for chipping. It can be screwed down and is the ideal production jig.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

## USING THE JIGS TO CREATE A PHOTO FRAME



Demonstrating the angle the drill must take in the wood



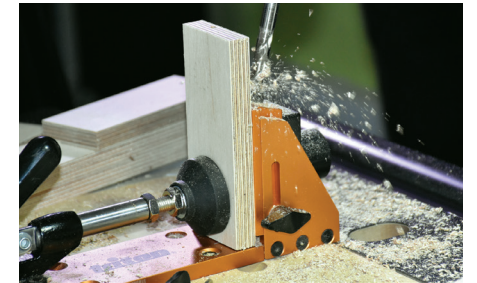
How the drill will protrude through the jig base



Reversible end stop and rare earth magnet for gripping to a clamp



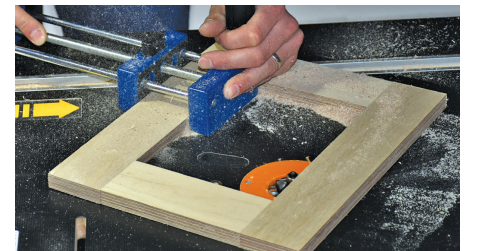
Using a 10p piece to set the correct drill depth



Fast drilling of a pocket hole with good chippings removal rate



The long, square tip bit driving in the pocket hole screws



Using a Rockler routing workpiece clamp to rout the frame



Sanding the frame corners on a Triton bench-top sander

## Verdict

On demonstration day we had to use the jigs along with a new model of Triton router and a static sander to create our own photo frames – a good test of following simple instructions and hopefully not screwing up in front of everyone. I’m pleased to say we all did this without any mistakes, which is much more down to good instruction and a jointing system that is incredibly simple to use rather than our collective skill level. I’ve used pocket hole jigs before and I know just how easy it is to make a project. A mitre saw for crosscutting teams perfectly, because you can then get nice, tight-fitting joints. So I would say the Triton jigs are good value for money and a new way of working. ■

## Prices – RRP inc. VAT

- Clamping pocket hole jig eight piece: £79.78
- Single mini pocket hole jig: £14.82
- Double mini pocket hole jig: £28.75
- Adjustable pocket hole jig: £40.60
- Pocket hole plugs 50pk: £3.89

All the jigs come with stepped drill and collar, square-tipped driver, and screws and plugs starter kit.

## Pocket hole screws

example prices only – full range available

- Zinc pocket hole screws washer head - Fine No.7 x 1½in x 250pk: £7.84
- Coarse No.8 x 1½in x 500pk: £14.98
- Coarse No.8 x 2½in x 250pk: £16.37

Web: [www.tritontools.com/en-GB](http://www.tritontools.com/en-GB)



The finished photo frame