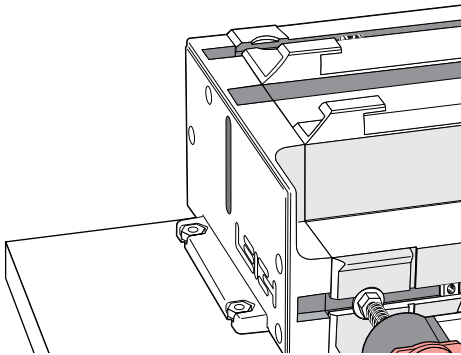


CHAPTER 5

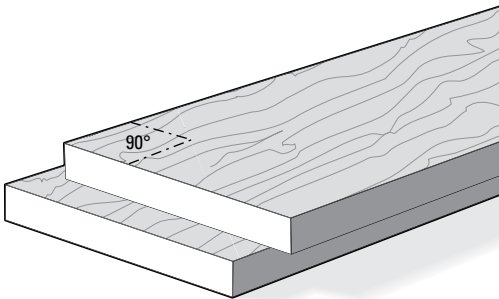
Wood Preparation

Garbage In – Garbage Out

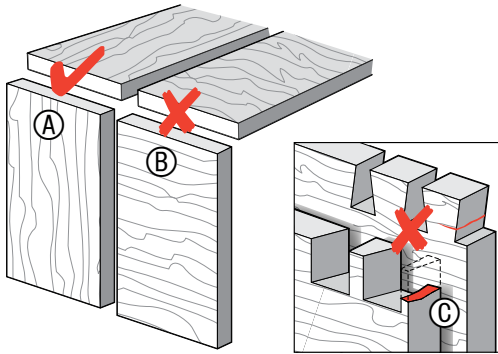
This computing phrase is equally true for the wood you choose to rout with a dovetail jig.



5-1 It is vital for accurately aligned joints that wood used on the Leigh jig be prepared straight, flat, of even thickness, of equal widths, and with square ends and edges. Plywood is generally unsuitable for routing because of tearout problems.



5-2 You'll want to test the jig. Prepare some 3/4" x 5-1/2" [20x140mm] boards by cutting them to length for jig tests. Use them for practice with the jig's various joint modes so you can see how the different modes work. Also note that two boards of different thicknesses are easy to join together.



5-3 ⚠️ Dovetails should be joined “end” grain to “end” grain (A). Routing them in “side” grain (B) doesn’t work because:

1 The wood will tear out badly when routing.

2 Even if you could rout them, the pins and tails would easily break off across the short grain (C), either during or soon after the assembly when the boards start expanding or contracting at different rates. ■