



How to Layout a Single Through Dovetail

Traditionally, cabinet makers and joiners have used dovetails to demonstrate intricate skill and craftsmanship with pins being cut to very small dimensions and varying sizes, as shown on the right. However, the strongest dovetails are laid out with equal spacings along the centre line of the joint. The best angle/ratio for dovetails in most softwoods is 1:5 and the best angle/ratio for dovetails in most hardwoods is 1:7. The details below show how to layout a single through dovetail for the tea tray.

