Design & Technology Resources

The Gerbil

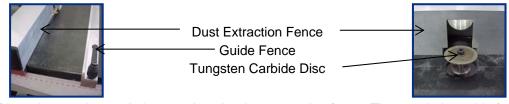


Using the Gerbil to Cut Slots and Rebates



By using the tungsten carbide abrasive disc and the guide and extraction fences on the Gerbil **2020**, it is possible to cut slots and rebates in softwood. This is very useful for making wooden boxes or enclosures.

- 1. The following safety instructions must be observed at all times: wear safety goggles, tie back long hair and remove any loose jewellery.
- 2. Fit the abrasive disc as described in the instruction manual and adjust the height of the disc to set the position of the slot above the base of the wooden item.
- 3. Install the guide fence and dust extraction fence as outlined in the manual. The distance between the front of the dust extraction fence and the front edge of the tungsten carbide disc sets the depth of the slot.



- 4. Place the wooden workpiece against the dust extraction fence. Then push the guide fence against the workpiece. Secure by tightening the Kip lock. Make sure that the workpiece is free to travel all the way along the fences without becoming stuck.
- 5. Attach the vacuum cleaner hose to the extraction fence dust outlet.
- 6. Switch on the Gerbil and turn on the vacuum cleaner.
- 7. Push the workpiece towards the disc at a slow, steady rate, as shown in the picture below. Work from right to left, so that the wood is pushing against the rotation of the disc.
- Use another piece of wood to push the workpiece along do not use your fingers to push.
 However you may need to use your left hand to hold the top of the workpiece steady as it moves along.



- 9. Switch off the Gerbil.
- 10. Clean off the dust. You can use a steel rule to clean inside the slot. Your slot is now finished.
- 11. To make a rebate, you can make it by turning the workpiece by 90° and repeating steps (4) to (9). Your rebate is now finished.
- 12. To deepen the slot, move the dust extraction fence further back and repeat the cut.
- 13. Similarly, you can widen the slot by raising the height of the tool and repeating the cut.