

Wood Magazine Pocket-Hole Guide Build

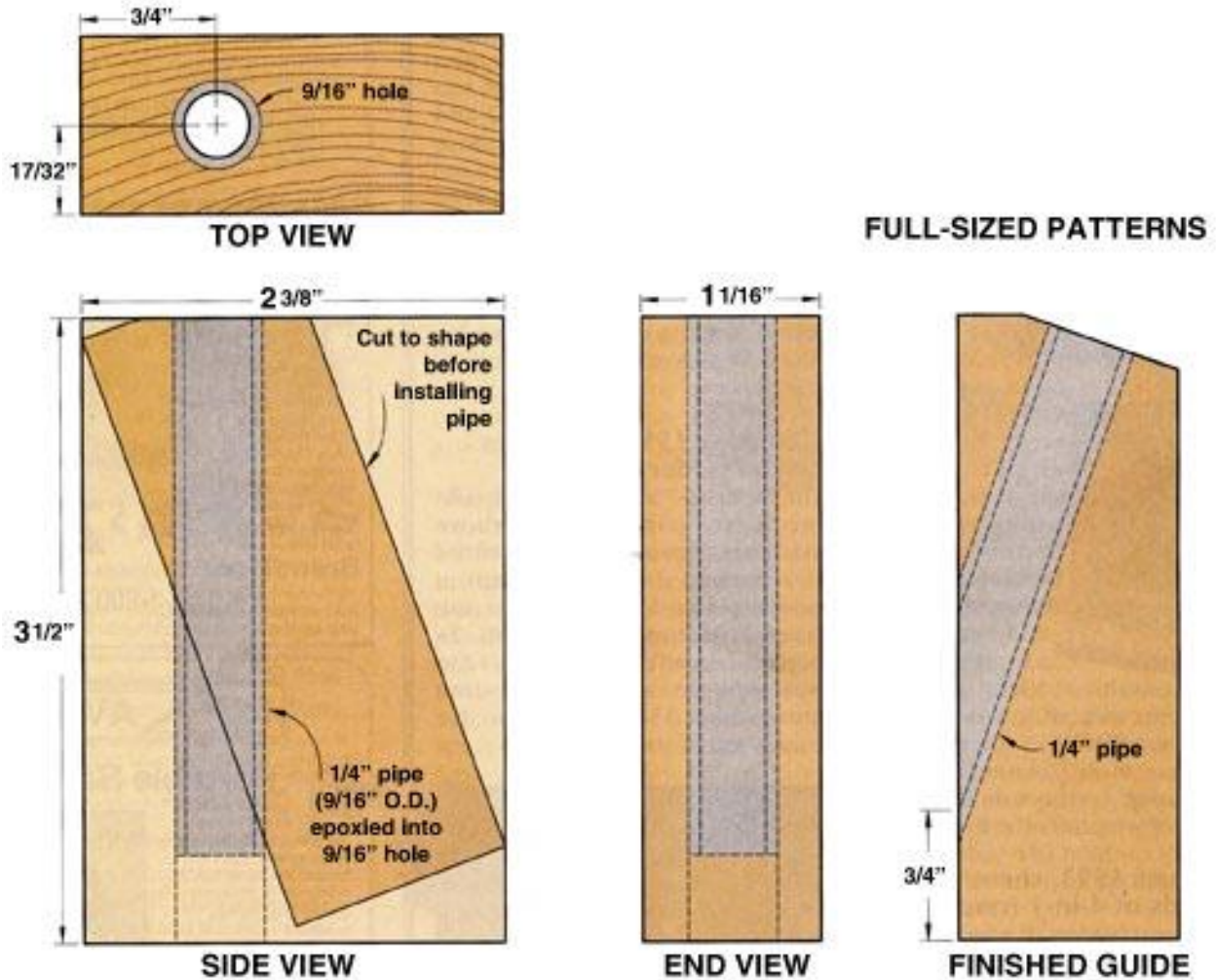


Figure 1. Wood Magazine Pocket-Hole Drilling Guide. Note that this drawing may not be to scale. Copy and resize the page so that the full size pattern matches the dimensions.

This is a lot of work for a personalized Pocket-Hole Jig (PHJ). You may want to purchase a Kreg Mini. However, if you enjoy DIY, go for it. Build a PHJ using the following steps.

1. The original Wood Magazine tip called for purchasing and reaming 1/4" pipe. I found it easier to purchase 1/2" OD x 3/8" ID steel pipe. A 3/8" diameter drill fits perfectly into this size pipe. Each jig requires about 3" of pipe.

2. Cut a wood blank to your PHJ full size plan outside dimensions. Then apply your full size patterns. I used a scrap piece of 2x4 fir for my blanks.



Figure 2. Pattern on wood PHJ blank

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3. Drill a 1/2" hole through the blank. **NOT 9/16" as noted on the Wood Magazine full size pattern!!** The purchased 1/2" pipe is smaller. Verify the drilled hole lines up with the pattern and that the pipe fits in the hole.



Figure 4. Verify jig with 3/4" h stock wood.

4. Cut the wood blank to shape prior to epoxying pipe to wood blank. Now check your blank. Insert a length of 1/2" pipe and your step drill into the blank. Align everything with a piece of stock 3/4" wood as shown in figure 4. The step drill should point near center on the 3/4" stock.



Figure 3. 1/2" Hole drilled.

5. Cut the pipe to the length inside the blank hole. The pipe length should be ~ 3". Epoxy the pipe flush with the top of the blank as shown in Fig. 5.



Figure 6. Cut pipe to wood as close as possible.

6. After the epoxy has dried, hack saw the excess the pipe off as close to the wood as possible. I used a hack saw as shown in Fig. 6.

7. Trim the pipe back to the wood using a power sander. **Warning** - Stop often to clear hot metal from pipe. Keep the metal pipe as cool as possible or the wood will burn and the pipe may break free from the epoxy,



Figure 5. Pipe epoxyed in wood blank.

8. Check your finished PHJ by making pocket holes and inserting pocket-hole screws into 3/4" stock wood. The final angle and distance to the end of the jig can vary based on how accurately the blank was drilled and cut. A set up guide in Fig. 8 is for a Kreg Mini jig. You may wish to make a similar setup chart for your PHJ.

I hope you enjoy your DIY PHJ. It should come in handy for odd jobs around the house and general woodworking projects where pocket holes are used.



Figure 7. Trim pipe to wood.

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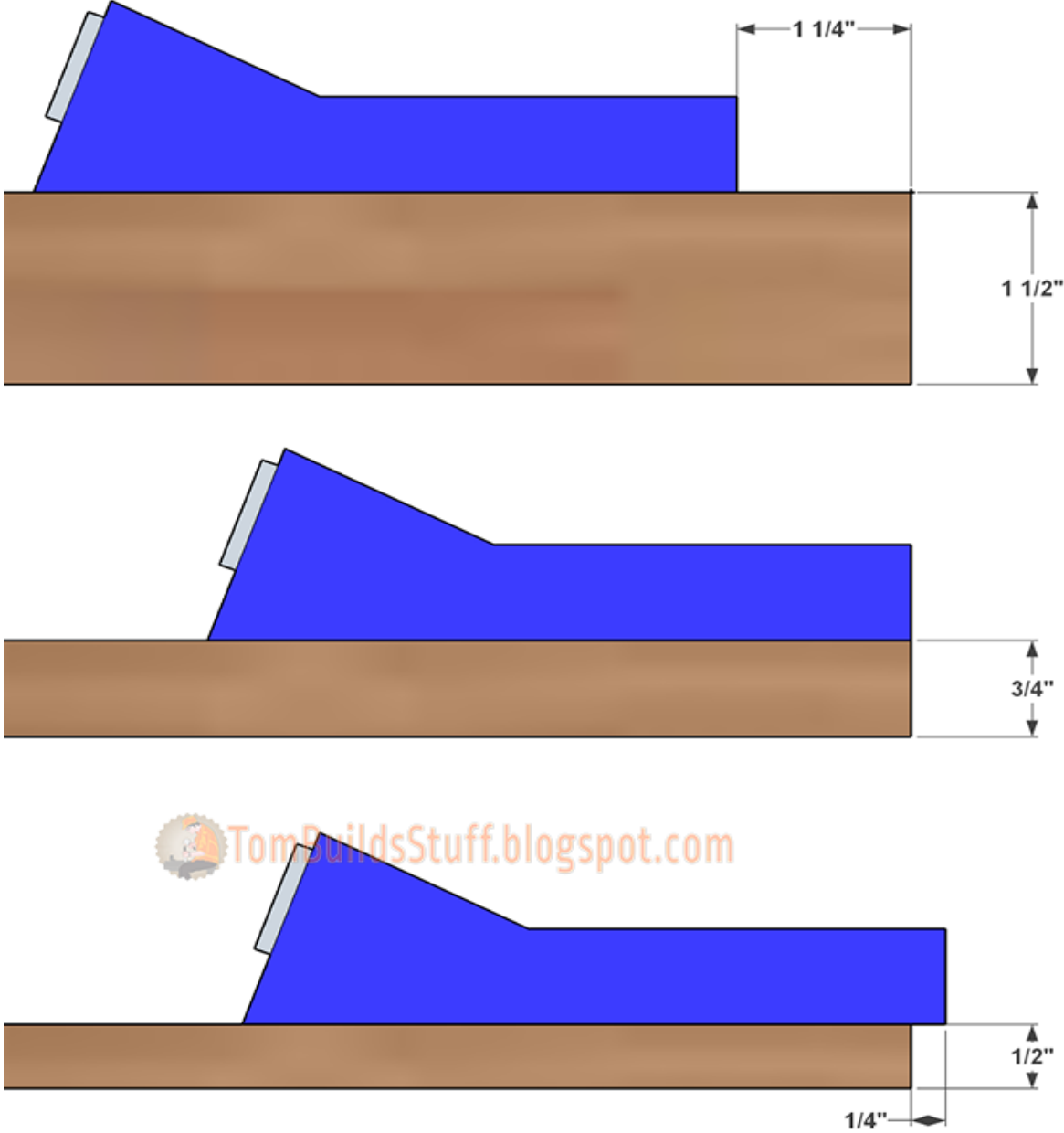


Figure 8. Kreg Mini Set up Chart based on pocket hole material thickness from TomBuildsStuff.blogspot.com.