MARKING OUT AND CUTTING:

DOVETAIL JOINTS

TAIL

PINS

NOT TO BE PLACED ON POWERPOINTS OR ANY OTHER MEDIA. NOT TO BE EDITED IN ANY WAY.
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MARKING OUT AND CUTTING A DOVETAIL JOINT

MARKING AND CUTTING THE TAIL

1. A pencil is used to mark the thickness of the material.

2. A marking knife and a try square are used to mark all the way round the material. It is possible to use only a pencil but a marking knife is more precise and it has the advantage of cutting the wood fibres. This means when a saw is used to cut the joint the surface of the wood is less likely to split.

3. A dovetail template is used to mark out the dovetail. The waste wood should be shaded with a pencil. This will help you avoid cutting away the wrong part of the joint.
The wood is placed in a vice, so that the tenon saw cuts down in a straight/vertical line. When cutting, it is important to cut on the waste wood side of the line. It should be possible to see the marking out lines after the saw has been used.

The wood is then turned sideways in a vice and the waste material is finally removed using a dovetail or tenon saw.

If the joint is slightly inaccurate, a bevel edged chisel can be used to correct it. A G-cramp is used to hold the wood firmly. Scrap wood is placed underneath, to protect the surface of the bench from the chisel. The first side of the joint should now be complete.
MARKING AND CUTTING THE PINS

7
The first side is placed above the second side and the pins are marked out. Again a pencil is used, although the traditional tool would be a marking knife.

8
Marking out the joint when both pieces are together can be difficult, but a steel ruler or a try square can be used to straighten any lines. Again, the waste wood must be clearly identified.

9
A dovetail / tenon saw is used to cut down the lines marking the pins. The wood must be secured in the vice. Remember, the saw is used to cut straight down the joint, on the waste side of the pencil line.
A coping saw is used to remove the waste wood. Again, the wood is secured in the vice.

A chisel is used to finish the joint, if it is needed. The wood is placed in a woodworkers vice, so that it cannot slip. The joint should fit together if care has been taken when marking out and cutting the two sides.