Infinity Tools Thick-kerf, Flat-top Table Saw Blades

When we think table saw blades, our experience limits our thinking to rip, crosscut or combination, and 1/8" kerf or thin kerf. Then there's the number of teeth and type of grind: flat top, alternate-tooth bevel (ATB) or triple-chip. Each of these has its purpose and, if sharp, performs a dedicated task well.

Now, Infinity Cutting Tools offers a new table saw blade that cuts joints cleanly with just one setup.

These 8" blades come with 24 teeth in kerf widths of 3/32" and 1/4". They feature a flat-top tooth grind and a side grind to optimize tooth geometry for side clearance. This tooth configuration and grind makes clean, flat-bottomed cuts either with or across the grain in hardwoods, plywood, laminates and veneered panels. No more "bat ears" left by ATB blades or dado sets.

These blades are also perfect for cutting box joints, rabbets, dados and grooves at the table saw – no need to clean up the bottoms after. And if you are partial to using your table saw to cut tenons, these blades are ideal for cutting a joint with a shoulder equal to or more narrow than the blade kerf. All that's required for each shoulder is a single pass with the stock on end, supported with a jig riding the saw fence.

In addition to single blades, Infinity offers sets of blades and shims to space two blades apart for making various-width cuts or even make two box-joint cuts in one pass.

Thick-kerf, Flat-top Blades
Infinity Tools • infinitytools.com or 877-872-2487
Street price • $79.90
*VIDEO* See an easy way to cut tenons using the table saw at popularwoodworking.com/jun12.
Price correct at time of publication.

Lee Valley Knife Hinges

The first time I installed knife hinges I did so with an inexpensive pair, thinking it would be a good way to learn the process without wasting a lot of money on what is a notoriously finicky piece of hardware. Instead, I learned why quality knife hinges are worth every cent.

Any play or wiggle in the hinge will show up in the swing of the door, and making adjustments after installation is difficult if not impossible. Knife hinges made of thin, stamped steel, with irregularities in the thickness of the leaves or imperfections in the action of the pivot, simply won't function as they should. You can't pay me enough to use cheap ones again.

With that first set of knife hinges in mind, I was hesitant to try the new ones from Lee Valley. Once I got them in my hands, however, I was more hopeful. They have the weight and smooth action of quality hardware, and the brass versions are hard to distinguish from Brusso's (long the standard by which knife hinges are measured).

Likewise, as far as installation goes, I recently installed a few pairs of Brusso hinges and wouldn't walk across the street for the difference. Like the Brusso line, the Lee Valley hinges are available in straight and offset orientations and in a wide range of sizes. You have your choice of either brass or stainless steel. And they're priced notably less than comparable hinges from Brusso, which means Lee Valley will likely become my first stop for knife hinges.

If I have one complaint, it's that the Lee Valley hinges don't come with screws. It's not a huge problem with the brass hinges, but the stainless finish is akin in appearance to brushed nickel, so matching the screws is a challenge.

While I love the look of the stainless versions, I wish Lee Valley provided matching screws.

— Matthew Teague