

Dimar Professional Dado Blade Set (WP824DCL)

It's hard to conceive of a more common or useful set of joints than the dado, the rabbet or the groove; these are used in furniture construction whether you use sheet stock or solid wood. Dimar Canada has introduced the new Woodpecker Professional Dado Set to provide woodworkers who use solid stock high a quality dado set at a price the casual user can easily afford.

Not all dado blades are compatible with all table saws. The Woodpecker Dado set requires a saw that has a minimum of 1 1/2 horsepower. Some saws, like the Delta Unisaw we tested this set on, do not have enough length on the arbor shaft to accommodate a 1" thick dado set. If your shaft is a little short, you can still use the dado set by eliminating the outer washer and using the nut only, but when doing this, be sure that there is at least one complete thread exposed beyond the nut. Do not use a dado set on an underpowered saw or on a saw with insufficient arbor length.

The dado set arrives, much like all other Dimar products in a nice light aluminum travel and storage case. The case is fitted out with die cut foam rubber and everything is held securely inside keeping the cutting edges protected. Inside you'll find a set of outer blades, five chippers (1 @ 1/16", 1 @ 3/32", 2 @ 1/8", 1 @ 1/4") and, and a fourteen piece shim set. This set is designed to cut dados ranging from 1/4" to 1" widths with the various sizes of chippers and shims. The teeth on the outer blades feature five teeth that have been ground at an angle to provide a clean crisp corner as well as a splinter free edge and are followed by a flat ground tooth that will clean up the bottom of the cut.

This set is designed to cut dados in solid wood and each of the outer blades has 24 carbide teeth. Compared to the teeth on a comparably priced dado set from Canadian Tire, the C4 carbide teeth on the Dimar set are simply huge. Each tooth features a positive hook angle and is followed by an anti-kickback feature. The raised fingers limit the speed with which an operator can feed the piece into the saw, which in turn reduces the chance of the teeth taking too deep a bite and throwing the work piece back at you. The blades and the chippers are also coated with a finish to reduce resin adhesion and friction while in use; the coating also makes it easier to keep the blades clean.

The set comes with a page of instructions that cover the its use and set up. Read and understand these instructions before use and be familiar with the operating instructions that came with your saw.



[Dimar Canada](http://www.dimar.com)



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The blade has 24 large C4 carbide teeth



Five chippers

In the end, the final test for a dado set is the quality of the edges that the blades will produce. We set this up on a Delta Unisaw and made numerous cuts in maple, oak and pine in various widths; along the grain, across the grain, against the grain and at an angle to the grain. The result was very impressive for a dado set in this price range. The sides of the cut were clean and in most species there was no fuzz left at the edge of the cut. I did notice some very minor fuzz on some western maple that I was using, but this is simply the nature of the species and is almost impossible to avoid on some boards. The bottom of the cut was flat enough off the saw to go straight to the glue up without any additional work needed.

The weight of the set means that it will take a second or two longer to get it up to speed and the weight of the set creates a flywheel effect that extends the spin down time after you turn the saw off. When spinning, the set emits a powerful sounding hum, but the tooth design and anti kickback fingers make feeding the stock into the blade with confidence a breeze; the steady feed rate that results gives you a clean cut. Keep in mind that the blade will take longer to spin down than your normal blade when you shut the saw down after a cut.

Despite the weight, this set was perfectly balanced and did not cause any noticeable vibration in the saw both when idling and during the cut. This held true no matter which combination of chippers was used to set the width.

To test the tear out produced by the set, the original dado throat insert plate that came with the saw was used. The opening this insert is wider than the dado set and as a result offered little if any practical support to the material. With the exception of the western maple, no tear out or fuzziness was noted on the edges. In order to achieve the best results when using your saw, always use a zero clearance insert to completely support the material at the point of the cut.

There were two minor issues that came up during our use of this set. The first is that the teeth on the outer blades were raked to the outside but the flat tooth left two very small spurs at the corners. The other is that there was a very slight variation in the bottom of the dado when using one of the chippers. Unlike another brand we have looked at which is so tight on the arbor it is a chore just to install, this one went on much easier. It is possible that the slightly more generous opening for the arbor hole in this set is at the root of this.

Overall, we can recommend this as a quality mid-price dado set that would be an asset in most shops. It earns our 5 star rating for the excellent cuts it makes, the large C4 carbide teeth, and the decent price.

Reviewed by Michael Kampen



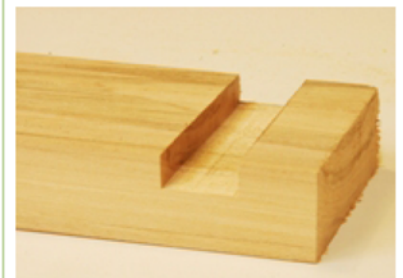
Fourteen piece shim set



A 1" dado with washer leaves no room for the arbor nut; to install eliminate the washer and install the nut



Use a zero clearance insert



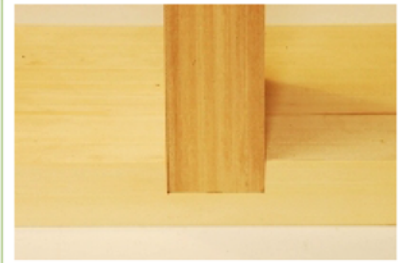
Dado cut in western maple

Product: Dimar Professional Blade Dado Set (WP824DCL)

Manufacturer: [Dimar Canada](#)

Source: Contact Dimar Canada at 905-738-7919 for the name of a dealer near you.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Completed dado joint