Screw-Slot Bits

Countersink
Counterbore

16J11.60 / 18J11.60
16J11.70 / 18J11.70

Suitable for stock from 1/4″ to 3/4″ thick.

Note: *For most applications, cutting a screw slot is done by plunging, then milling across. This can be done in a router table or with a freehand router. Either way, the router must be used with a fence.*

Any large panel or table top should be secured in a way that allows it to expand or contract without splitting. These screw-slot bits let you rout the slot/ledge and smaller through hole for the screw in one pass so that panels can be held in place but are able to slide back and forth without splitting the wood or breaking the screw securing them. Both bits are sized for #8 screws, one for countersunk screws (e.g., flat- or oval-head screws) and one for counterbored screws (e.g., pan- or round-head screws).

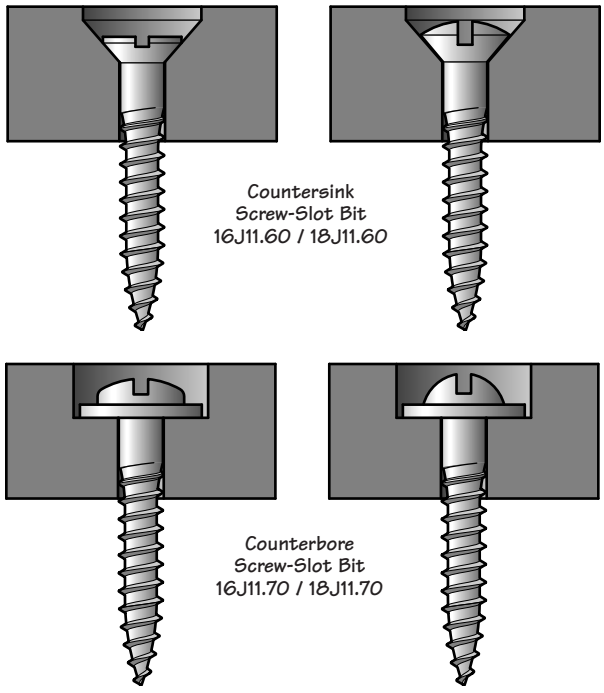

Figure 1: Slots cut by each bit.

Screw slots would typically be routed in stretchers or cleats that span the width of a panel or table top. The slots are routed across the grain (of the panel) in order to allow for seasonal wood movement.

Screw slots can also be used when making a board-and-batten door, such as the example shown in **Figure 3**. For this construction, slots would be milled in the battens such that they run across the grain of the boards.

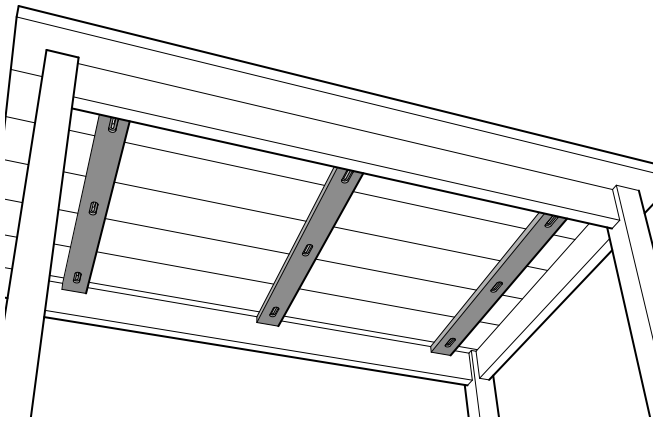

Figure 2: Typical screw-slot locations.

When installing pan- or round-head screws in a screw slot formed by the counterbore bit, always use a suitably sized washer to distribute the load from the screw head, as shown in **Figure 1**.

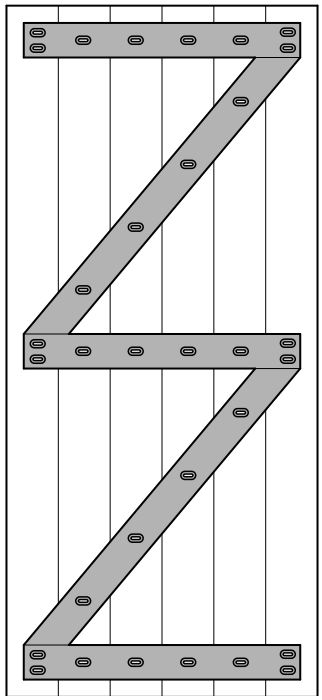

Figure 3: Using screw slots in board-and-batten door.

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