

ITEM #900 – ORIGINAL AKEDA DOVETAIL JIG PROTOTYPE PACKAGE - OFFERS TO \$5000

Not an auction. A portion of proceeds donated to charity. We pay all shipping, handling & insurance costs within North America.

ITEM #900**ORIGINAL AKEDA PROOF-OF-CONCEPT PROTOTYPE PACKAGE**

- THE PACKAGE:** This package is unique and will appeal to the tool collector. It includes AKEDA's original prototype, built in 1999 - the only one in existence (see images). But wait... there's more...
- EXTRAS:** This package also includes some additional items that may be of interest:
- Photographs of the jig body prototype, during and after fabrication;
 - Promotional items, including an early brochure, postcards, instructional video, advertising concepts etc.;
 - A complete set of production drawings; (removed)
 - A binder of the inventor's notes and sketches - 73 pages of geometry that led to the simple AKEDA system;
 - Concept sketches of various clamping systems that were a key part of AKEDA's simple adjustment-free system. Most of these sketches are dated in the 1990s;
 - The original patents (not copies) include the USA patent, USA continuation in part, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan if you can read it, South Africa and Mexico. You will see that the patents are based on the prototype, not on the production model. Note – the patents were filed in 1999 and of course they always were public knowledge. They are expired, cannot be extended, and thus have no commercial value;
 - Autographed glossy 8x10 of the eccentric and obviously quite naïve inventor in his handsome younger days. Wow!
- INSIGHT:** One of the most fascinating – even to me - items in this package is the 73-page binder showing the development of the guide finger and cutter geometry in the form of notes and sketches. This geometry lies at the heart of the AKEDA jig – the rest of the jig was certainly innovative, but in a way incidental. The overarching design objective was simplicity and ease of use - the definition of elegance. The value of these pages is the insight they provide into the years of painstaking work that lead up to the defining “eureka” moment - the breakthrough – common to many inventions.
- PROTOTYPE:** This proof-of-concept jig body was machined from a solid billet of aluminum. All 24 aluminum guide fingers were hand machined without the aid of a CNC. The brand name AKEDA did not exist at the time, so the glass window bears the TEO logo (Woodcraft). At the time the product was intended to be their private label jig.
- This prototype is not so much a working prototype, more a demonstration “proof-of-concept prototype”. It will form good joints, but it's not really designed for repeated use. Don't expect the precision of the production model.
- INCLUDED:** Includes (1) Laminated glass window, (2) different clamp knobs, (6) 7° pin guides, (6) 11° pin guides, (6) tail guides (6) HBD pin guides. See images. Since these guide fingers are unique to the prototype AKEDA production guide fingers are not interchangeable.
- CONDITION:** The jig body is epoxy powder coated so it has stood up well. The internal components were spray painted, so there is some paint wear. The guide finger positioning system was dictated by what could be easily machined, so it is not perfect. There are minor mechanical and cosmetic blemishes, but no damage. The successful bidder has the option to make a minor repair to the rear clamping system. The clamping systems are chain driven - one of the chains and one of the four sprockets are missing. Not a big challenge.
- J-KIT:** None of the AKEDA accessories were designed to fit this prototype, so a J-Kit is not applicable. I am almost 100% certain the prototype works with the standard AKEDA router bits, but I can't guarantee it.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** In the mysterious and often daunting world of the dovetail jig, the AKEDA jig was truly a breakthrough in simplicity. It achieved many firsts – unparalleled router safety, automatic one-hand parallel clamping and work-piece positioning, integral dust collection, repeatable variable joint spacing even between jigs, full 360° router support, heavy construction, minimal adjustment, and an integrated range of dovetail pin angles.
- INSIDE AKEDA:** We were most decidedly a team! The inventor, patent holder and conceptual designer of the AKEDA system was myself, Kevan Lear, but I could never have created AKEDA without the help of many people. Here are a few...
- The credit for building this prototype goes to a talented designer and machinist by the name of **Gary Knutsen**. He worked tirelessly for countless hours to create this prototype, parts of which were quite tricky to machine. A working prototype was essential for raising AKEDA's start-up capital from the Truly Evil Ones, which **Ray Jefferd** succeeded in doing on AKEDA's behalf. The high quality patent drawings were produced by a highly skilled technical illustrator and private pilot, **Gordon Hindle**, and the worldwide patents were drafted by **Brian Long**.

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I cannot heap enough praise on the mechanical designer and toolmaker **Ian Harling** who designed the production model. Without his skills AKEDA would not have succeeded. Some of the related illustration work was done by another great talent, industrial designer and illustrator **Ron Keister**.

Then there was **Heidi Babbel** and **Alan Wiebe**, two creative young people who developed and designed much of the material used in AKEDA's marketing and promotional campaigns. Last of all, but far from least, was the perfectly eccentric and wildly unpredictable character known only as **Linny** who did her best to hold our creative team together.

And we had fun. For instance, there was **Tom Lloyd**, who managed the manufacturing, but who is best remembered for operating with a reciprocating motion the dysfunctional windshield wipers on his "beater" by running a length of string from the wipers through both open windows to the driver's seat, all while driving around Vancouver in the incessant rain of Canada's "Wet Coast". There were many more... **Chris, Kenny, Ken, Monica...**

Special mention goes to two of the finest, most dedicated professional consultants I have ever met. They were two very special people – legal counsel **Leslie J. Ames**, and accountant **George Hatton**. They tolerated me and taught me so much.

But the real credit has to go to Kevan's wife, **Mackenzie**. She worked tirelessly at a steady day job for years – with unquestioning faith and without complaint - while Kevan risked their financial security to bring the invention from a pencil-on-paper restaurant placemat concept, through manufacturing, to market.

WANT MORE? There are many, many more stories to tell, but we're saving those for the best-seller-to-be AKEDA memoirs...!

