

Woodworking Tips

Clean Cutting With A Mitresaw

Power mitresaw' rank second only to tablesaws in woodshop popularity, and behind only circular saws at construction sites. So if you're among the many who regularly use a mitresaw, you'll find these tips will make your sawing safer and easier.

Always cut, don't chop

Hurried house framers are particularly guilty of this: physically pushing the blade down into the wood as fast as they can. Of course, a good mitresaw with a sharp blade will cut faster than you can push it down anyway, but don't! All you end up doing is making a lousy cut. And how can you be sure your other hand will always be out of harm's way? Just take your time and let the mitresaw do the work.

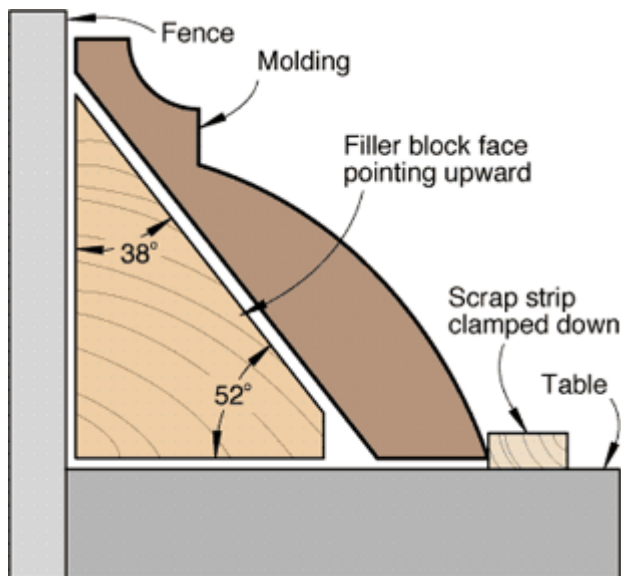
Make good contact

Starting your cut when the work isn't flush against the fence and solidly on the table is the surest way I know of to destroy a good piece of wood-and a mitresaw. It can result in broken fences, broken blades, broken or cut upper and lower guards, and if you're lucky, only a general bad attitude for the rest of the day. Before you make a cut on your mitresaw, always make sure you have the board completely on the table and flush against the fence.



Cut irregular shapes with control

Unfortunately, I've not seen a universal fixture for cutting irregularly shaped wood, such as a dowel. But I do know that the trick to doing it safely is to clamp the work firmly against the fence and on the table. As shown **above**, a handscrew will work, even for dowels.



Support compound cuts

Cutting accurate miter angles on crown moldings with a standard (not compound) mitresaw can be one of the hardest trim jobs imaginable. That's because you mount most crown molding at an angle of 38° to the wall. Therefore, you need to hold the molding at this angle when you make the cut-not easy to do. And because there's not solid contact with both the fence and the table, a slip could put you in danger as well as damage the workpiece.

Here's a good way to make those cuts. Simply make a filler block by ripping a 2X4 to a 38° bevel on your tablesaw. Then, attach the filler block to your mitresaw fence with the 38° angle up, as shown in the drawing **below**. When you place the crown molding upside down against the filler block, the cut will come out perfectly. For even more control, clamp a scrap-wood stop at the base of the molding to prevent any tipping during the cut.





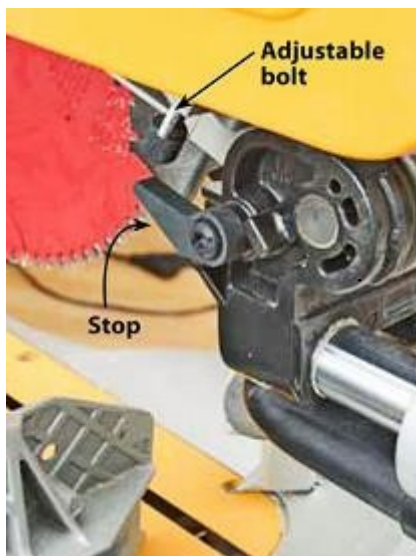
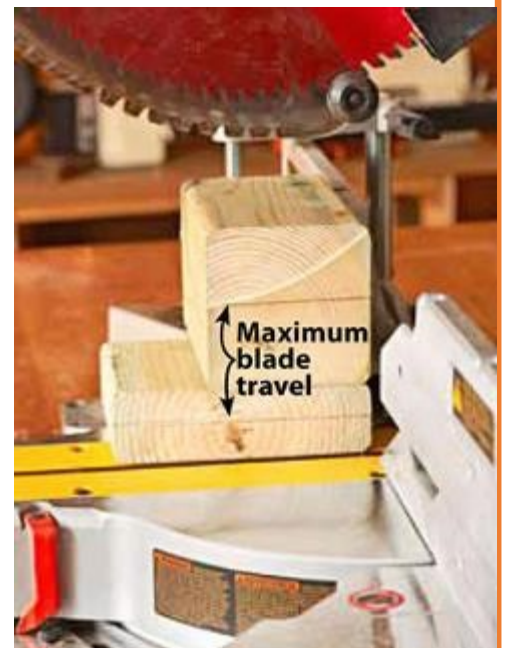
Beyond crosscuts, this tool does lots more.

Sliding mitresaw's have pretty much replaced radial-arm saws in woodworking shops and job sites thanks to their lower cost, improved accuracy, and portability. Few users realize, though, that these machines also can make partial-depth cuts, such as those in half-lap joints, dadoes, or rabbets. You'll find a slider especially handy when building large outdoor projects made of hard-to-handle, big--and often wet--lumber.

The techniques we'll share here work with either a 10" or 12" sliding compound mitresaw. Before making any cuts, be sure to calibrate

Find your saw's limits

For through cuts, all mitresaw's are designed to cut just below table level in front of the fence. But when you raise the blade for partial-depth cuts, the curve of the blade no longer reaches the fence as shown in photo, also reducing crosscutting capacity



Setting the blade's depth of cut.

To find exactly where the blade will cut, begin by setting the depth of cut--



Locating and marking the end of the cut.

Lower the blade to cutting depth and mark the saw table directly below the centre of the blade arbour as shown in the photo.

[Buy a 6" Double Square \(like the one shown\)](#)





Second step to determining the maximum width of cut.

Now push the saw all the way back and mark its blade centre as shown in the photo. The distance between these marks equals your saw's width capacity for that depth of cut. (For our saw, that equals about 6".) Measure from the fence to the back-limit line and rip a scrapwood spacer about 1/16" wider than that dimension. Then use your saw's stock hold-down clamp (or double-faced tape) to secure the spacer against the fence.



Kerfs are the start to a notch.

Lay out the half-lap joint on your workpiece and hold it against the spacer. **Note:** Depending on the saw, pushing the workpiece out this far from the fence might leave it with little support from the saw table. Supplement with in-feed and outfeed support, if necessary. Cut a kerf at both ends to define the joint.

Eliminate the waste between the end kerfs by cutting repeated kerfs between them, as shown in the photo. Use a hammer to break off the fingers of waste wood between the end kerfs.



Remove the waste to the kerf bottoms.

Now flatten the bottom of the dado using your widest chisel, shown in photo, a block plane, or a shoulder or rabbet plane. (See the video on last slide, for additional details.)

Mitresaw created notches work well for carpentry joints.

Test the joint for a snug fit, as shown in the photo. For too-tight joints, saw the same amount of waste from both parts until they slide together with light taps from a rubber mallet.



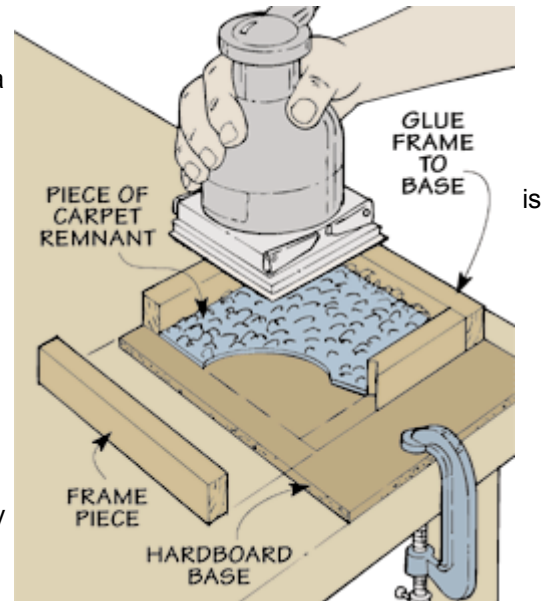
Sander Platform

Recently, I built a large bookcase that had a lot of shelves. While sanding, I quickly became annoyed at having to turn off the sander and wait for it to stop vibrating before I could set it down. I tried simply setting the sander down on its side without turning it off, but the vibrations caused it to fall off the bench and onto the floor. Finally, I came up with a better solution.

I created a small platform for my sander. It's just a piece of hardboard with a few scrap pieces glued to the top to create a "holding pen." A piece of carpet glued down to the hardboard, inside the "fenced" area, as shown in the drawing at right.

The platform just sits on top of my workbench (you can clamp it to the workbench if you want). When I want to set my sander down, I just place it in the carpeted area without turning it off.

The carpet absorbs the vibrations of the sander and keeps it from jumping off the bench. But there's another benefit as well. The fibres of the carpet actually help clean dust and debris off



Please support our Sponsors

TAURANGA SENIORNET CLUB INC

Ph. 577 1912 Website

www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

P.O. Box 152382 Tauranga Where Seniors learn Computing from other Seniors;

Our courses are, 2 hours, one day a week, and range from 4-5 weeks per course.

Our Learning Centre is at Unit 70, Historic Village, 17th Avenue, Tauranga. That's just uphill from the

PLEASE support our Sponsors whenever possible
now-closed Wickham School. We have our own drive-in entrance in the new road to the gateway and then park.



MOUNT MAUNGANUI

1/130 Newton Street, Mt. Maunganui 3116 Ph. (07)

574 9980 Fax (07) 5749985

Proudly providing the

Means for the Guild to

Create and clean up

Sawdust and wood chips

Since 2006.

Ross FM300 Dust

Extractor \$499.00

2HP Single Phase.



J-Max Sharpening Services Ltd

AKE particles

99 Maleme Street
Tauranga
Phone 07-541 1655
Fax 07-541 1652

Your supplier of
Sawblades
Bandsaws
Router Bits

STEEL TOOLZ LTD 021 1038844 katools.co.nz

TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TIPPED CHISELS	ROTARY TOOLS FOR ANGLE GRINDERS	CARBIDE BURRS
EASY WOOD TOOLS MADE IN AMERICA	SANDING BULBS	5- 30,000 RPM
HOLLOWERS, ROUGHERS, FINISHERS, DETAILERS, CHUCKS & FACEPLATES steelgi@hotmail.com	FLEXIBLE SHAFTS	1/8" & 1/4" SHAFTS
	MINIATURE CARVING SETS	SABURR TOOTH CARBIDE COATED ROTARY TOOLS

Carba-Tec TOOLS FOR WOOD nova™

NOW AVAILABLE AT CARBA-TEC® NZ

NOVA™ congratulates Carba-Tec® NZ Ltd on their NEW exclusive NOVA™ distributorship in New Zealand.

NOVA™ products are now available throughout New Zealand online and via catalogue, as well as through the Carba-Tec® extensive network of partner resellers.

New NOVA Products available soon!

Online and catalogue www.carbatec.co.nz

Or see their comprehensive showroom: 110 Harris Rd, East Tamaki, Auckland
8:30am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 12:00pm Saturday
Ph 0800 444 329 or 09 274 9454 Fax 09 274 9455

Watch Repairs by a Qualified Watchmaker 43yrs experience. Good service

Grant Parker

Watchmaker & Woodturner

Phone 07 544 9373
Mobile 027 408 1682
Email grantparkernz@gmail.com

- Watch & Clock Repairs;
- Watch Batteries;
- Car Remote Batteries Etc.;

Club/Guild Newsletters;

This Club/ Guild aims to assist members to improve their woodworking skills. Not all such activities occur in our Club premises, and some activities or events are promoted through this Newsletter and others directly to members in some other ways, but they are still Club/Guild activities, please support them. These activities may include personal and group tuition of members by other members (we all try to help one another for the benefit of the Club/Guild in this way) sessions in member's workshops, wood-gathering, events promoting our activities to members of the public, and other such activities and events.

For Sale

Liberon Oil 150 mm Bottles \$7.00

Phone Ian Dawkins 576 2511

Disclaimer

The contents of this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Guild or the Committee.

