

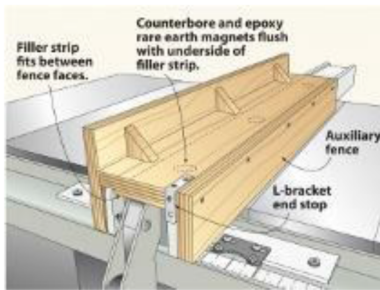
# Woodworking Tips



## Knockdown workstation rolls to stow low

In my small shop, any tool that doesn't fit on a shelf gets casters added to help me make the most of the space I do have. But in the case of my collapsible workstation, there wasn't a good place to mount casters without interfering with the bench's folding function. So I built this base from 2x4s and 1/4" plywood, mounting 3" locking casters under it. Now, after collapsing the bench, I simply roll it beneath other machines for storage.

—Cory Hoehn, Jeffersonville, Ind.



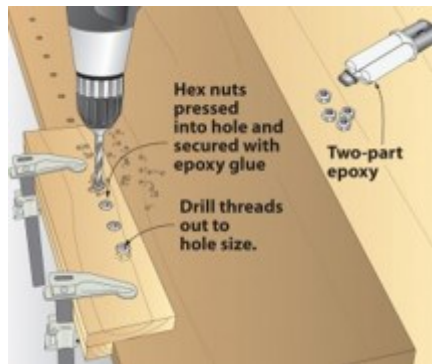
Because I don't care for the idea of drilling into my expensive Biesemeyer-style tablesaw fence to attach jigs, I mount them to the fence with rare earth magnets. To attach the magnets to the jig, cut a filler strip of wood to fit on top of the fence and between its polyethylene or laminated wood faces. Bore through holes in the filler strip for the magnets, glue and screw the strip to the jig, and epoxy the magnets in place. To prevent the jig from sliding down the fence as you feed, attach a steel L-bracket to the jig where shown.

The magnetic attachment grabs the steel body of the fence and offers several advantages. First, I don't have to work around clamps. Second, with no clamps or screws, installing and removing the jig takes only seconds. Finally, I was able



to easily retrofit several existing jigs to make them work with the new mounting system.

—Scott Spencer, Rochester, N.Y.



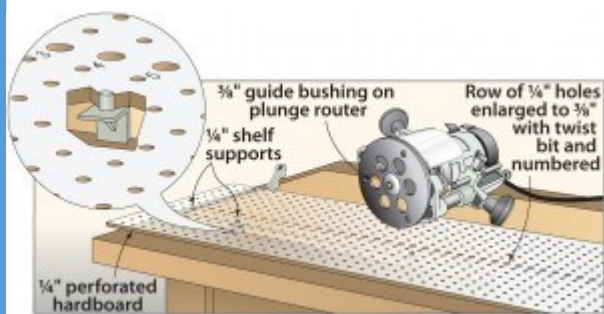
## Made-to-order shelf-pin jig

I've seen any number of shelf-pin drilling jigs in woodworking catalogues. Problem is, most are limited with respect to hole sizes and spacing. That's why I like to make my own from scrapwood, hex nuts with a raised thread diameter slightly smaller than my desired hole, and epoxy.

After making the base of the jig from scrapwood, as shown, counterbore a hole into the top of the jig deep enough for two stacked nuts, and then epoxy the nuts into the hole. Let the epoxy cure completely and drill through the nut threads, epoxy, and wood with the desired bit size. The jig will help you hand-drill hundreds of holes before the nuts

wear out, and when they do, you can cheaply replace them.

—Frank Penicka, Mount Pearl, Newfoundland



## Top-shelf template for boring multiple holes

Not long ago, I built some cabinets for my office with adjustable shelving. Faced with marking and drilling hundreds of holes, I created the boring template shown at right. With it, I use my plunge router with a guide bushing to consistently create cleaner holes than I could ever make with a drill bit. And a few carefully placed shelf supports quickly align and locate the template over the workpiece. I made mine from a piece of white 1/4" perforated hardboard about 15x60". Using a drill press, I enlarged the centre row of holes to fit my plunge router's 3/8" guide bushing. I then numbered the holes so I know where to stop boring.



To use the template, I first laid out the approximate line for the shelf-pin holes on my first case side. Next, I indexed the jig to the workpiece by placing the row of enlarged holes directly over that layout line. Then, I installed a pair of 1/4" shelf supports *underneath* the template in the two adjacent rows nearest the workpiece edge, as shown in the drawing. These supports locate the shelf-pin holes up to 1/2" off that first line, but that's okay, because the jig duplicates the location on every workpiece. After snugging the supports against the edge and end of the workpiece, I clamped the template and workpiece in place.

Finally, I inserted the guide bushing into the first desired hole, plunged a 1/4" straight bit to depth to bore the shelf-pin hole, and repeated for each hole in the row. After boring the entire row, I simply moved the shelf support from one edge to the other (but not moving the top support) and repeated the hole-boring process. The results are amazingly accurate because the template always registers off the top edge of the workpiece.

—Robert Brosbe, Lancaster, Pa.





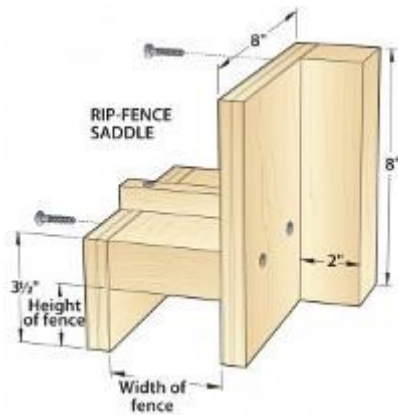
## Take your outfeed table on the road

A permanent outfeed table isn't practical in a small shop: You just can't dedicate that much real estate to it. The fold-down outfeed table, shown, extends 3' of support beyond the blade, yet adds only a few inches of depth to the back of the saw when stowed. And it's always ready, even on a mobile-base-equipped saw.



## Build your own base

There's no law that says you have to use the steel leg stand that came with your contractor-style saw. Replace it with a simple cabinet, such as the one shown, and not only will you add enclosed storage; but your saw also will run quieter. For a more elaborate and versatile take on this concept, visit [woodmagazine.com/tsbase](http://woodmagazine.com/tsbase).



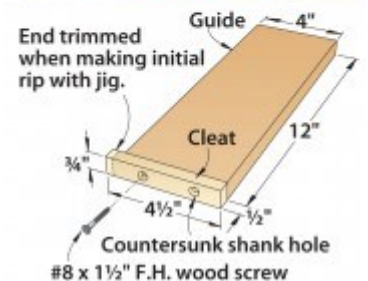
## Saddle your saw fence for cutting tenons

If cutting the ends of parts such as tenons on the tablesaw gives you the heebie-jeebies, this rip-fence saddle will put you at ease. Supporting tall stock from both the side and behind, all you have to do is clamp the workpiece to the saddle and cut. A coat of paste wax on the inside of the saddle where it contacts the fence makes it glide smoothly.

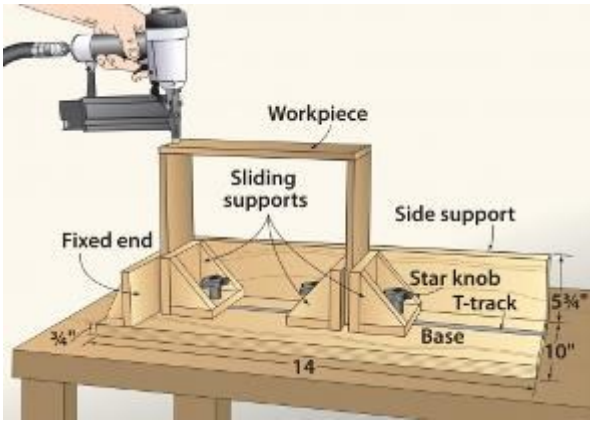
## A simple jig makes it safe and easy to rip thin strips

Ripping thin strips with your tablesaw fence positioned close to the blade is a no-no. At the end of the cut, the strip trapped between the spinning blade and fence can become a dangerous projectile. To safely rip the strips, build the simple jig shown from 3/4" scrap. (For the #8 screws used to attach the cleat, drill countersunk 5/32" shank holes with 3/32" pilot holes.) Do not glue the cleat to the guide—that way you can replace the cleat when needed. The cleat ensures that the strips clear the blade at the end of each cut.

To use the jig, mark the desired strip thickness on the end of the workpiece. Place the jig against your fence and the workpiece tight against the jig guide and cleat. Then position the fence, aligning the inside of the blade teeth with the mark on the workpiece. Now rip



the strips, as shown in the photo, repositioning the workpiece tightly against the jig for successive cuts. Note that you'll cut through the cleat with the first cut, creating a zero-clearance backer. To rip strips with a greater thickness, replace the cleat to ensure proper support.



After building the router-table fence featured in WOOD® magazine issue 159 (November 2004, p. 40) I added superfine-tuning for the cost of a micro-adjustable router edge guide—if your router did-

## Micro adjustment for your router-table fence

### A sure-footed partner for unsteady nailing

Nailing drawer boxes together used to frustrate me as I tried to steady the wobbly parts while keeping them aligned and trying to drive a nail. This clamping jig adds stability to this ungainly process.

You can make the jig to whatever size best suits your needs, but the dimensions shown will accommodate very large and fairly small boxes. Build the jig from any type of scrap stock; you'll find the star knobs and T-tracks at woodworking supply stores.

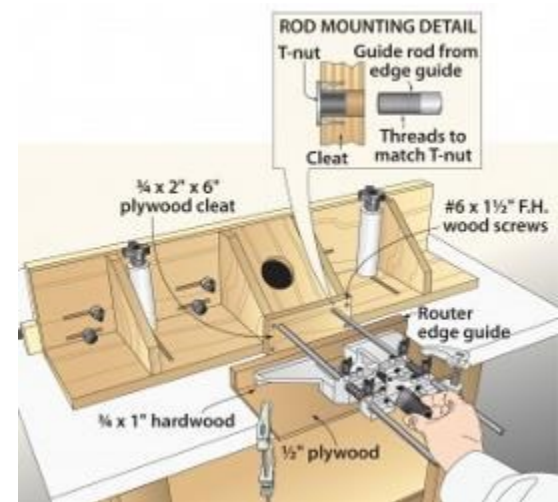
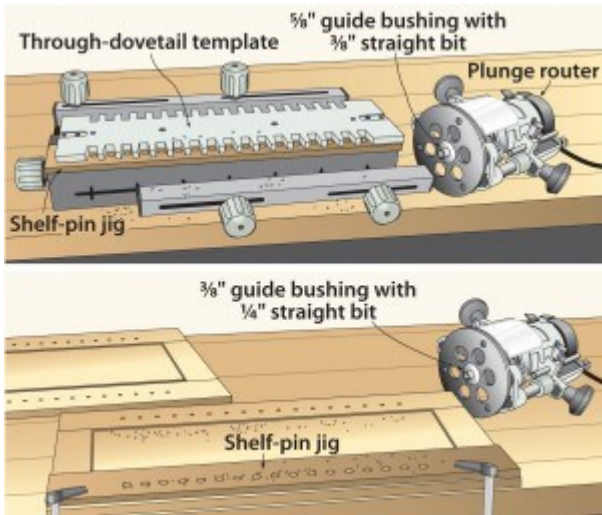
—Lynn Lawrenz, Algoma, Wis.

## Simple and superior shelf pin templates

Like most people, I've long used a simple perforated-hardboard template and a drill press to make shelf-pin holes. But the drill-press template was not completely accurate because the template holes tended to get bigger with each use. By abandoning the drill press in favor of a plunge router and the jig you see here, I am now able to use the same jig hundreds of times with no variation in the shelf-pin hole spacing.

The basic idea is to use one jig, specifically a dovetail jig, to make another, the shelf-pin jig. Use the bits and bushings described in the illustrations both to build the jig and then use it. The dovetail template eliminates measuring and ensures perfect hole-spacing. In fact, the jigs are so easy and inexpensive to build that I made them in several lengths to accommodate various cabinet sizes.

—Jerry Collins, Georgetown, Texas



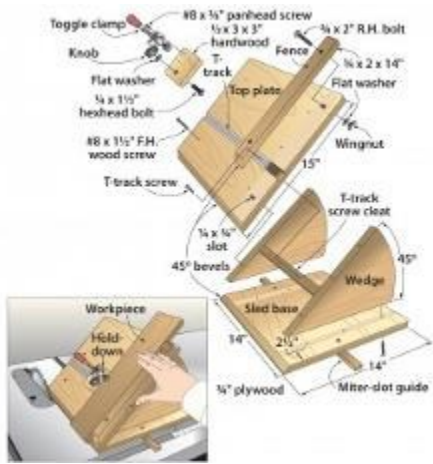
n't  
come  
with one.

Here's how you can do the same.

Make a base for the edge guide, as shown in the drawing, and mount the guide to it. Use a machinist's die (or a friend who has one) to thread the end



## Mitres at full-tilt speeds with no-tilt blade



When I found myself making a lot of memorial flag cases, I needed a method to cut 45° mitres quickly and accurately in wide stock. The sled I came up with lets me make miters in no time at all without even tilting my saw blade. And, it does it without causing tear-out on the workpiece.

After cutting the sled base slightly oversize, tilt your blade to 45° to cut the bevel on the sled base. Then, with the blade returned to the 90° position, insert the mitre-slot guide into your table saw's mitre slot, position the sled base against the blade body to ensure that it is square, then, fasten the base to the mitre-slot guide. Using the bevel of the sled base as a guide, mount the 45° wedges in place.

Cut a groove in the oversize top plate and mount the T-track and T-track screw cleat, as shown. The cleat provides holding power for the T-track screws. Attach the fence to the top plate, ensuring that it is square by using the slots in the top plate for adjustment.

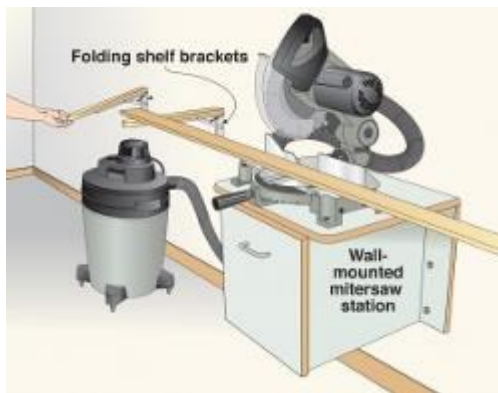
Then, attach the top plate to the wedges, sliding it down until the edge touches the table saw table. With the blade still set to 90°, cut off the excess.

Finally, assemble and attach the hold-down that will secure the workpiece against the fence and keep it from slipping toward the blade.

Besides extremely accurate mitre cuts, the sled has an added benefit. Simply turn the workpiece over and adjust the blade height, and the sled can be used to cut the slots for a splined mitre joint.

—Joy Wood, Winchester, Ill.

## Free up floor space with fold-down stock supports



When I revamped my shop, I wanted to put my mitersaw's where it wouldn't take up space on my bench but would still be handy. So I built the simple wall-mounted mitre-saw station shown. It freed my benchtop and makes it easier to sweep up my shop.

What I gained in benchtop space, though, I lost in workpiece support. My solution: folding 12" shelf brackets (item #128944 from Woodcraft, 800-225-1153 or woodcraft.com). It takes only seconds to lock them in place or fold them out of the way. I added a 1x4 board to the top of each bracket and then mounted them so they match the height of my mitersaw's table.

—Fred Hand, Payette, Idaho



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