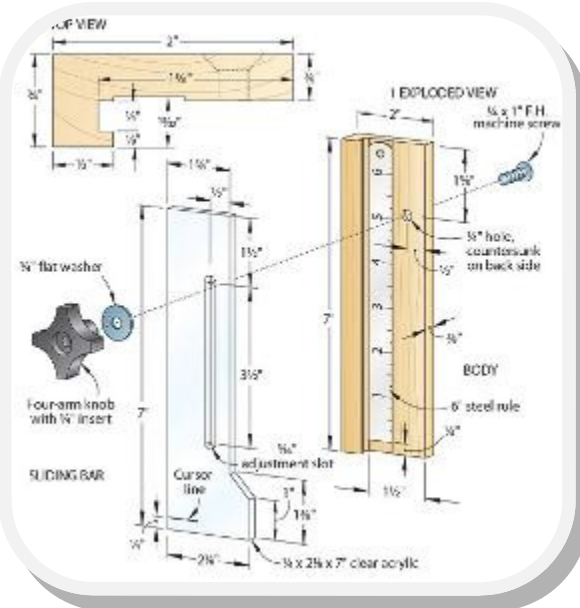


Woodworking Tips

Set the cutting depth of tablesaw blades easily, using this adjustable gauge. To ensure accuracy, we outfitted it with a steel rule. Start by cutting the body to size from 3/4" maple, as shown on **Drawing 1**. Plow a 13/32"-deep groove, sized to fit your rule, in one face of the body, where shown.

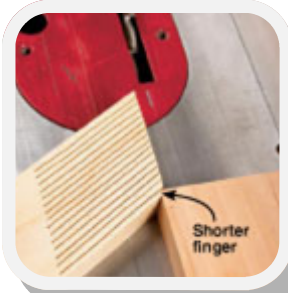
Next, set your dado blade to 1/4" and cut the combined rabbet and groove in the body for the sliding bar. To do this, place the gauge body on edge (un-grooved face against the fence). Cut the rabbet/groove in three passes, with the last one at 15/8", where shown on **Drawing 1a**. Drill and countersink the screw hole. Then, sand and finish the body.



Use a coping saw or scrollsaw to shape the 1/4" acrylic sliding bar to the dimensions shown. Create the adjustment slot by drilling a pair of 5/16" holes where shown and cutting out the material between them. Smooth the edges of the slot and the outer edges of the bar using a fine file. Buff the outer edges if you want to make them super smooth. Now, scribe a cursor line on the back face, where shown.

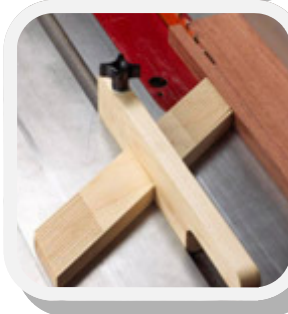
Attach the steel rule in the groove using double-faced tape. Place the bottom end of the rule 1/4" from the bottom of the body. Then, install the sliding bar.

To use the gauge, set the cursor line to the desired height. Hold the sliding bar in its groove while adjusting the gauge to keep the bar square with the base. Place the body on the tablesaw top beside the blade, as shown in the photo, then raise the blade to set the height.



Creating the feather board

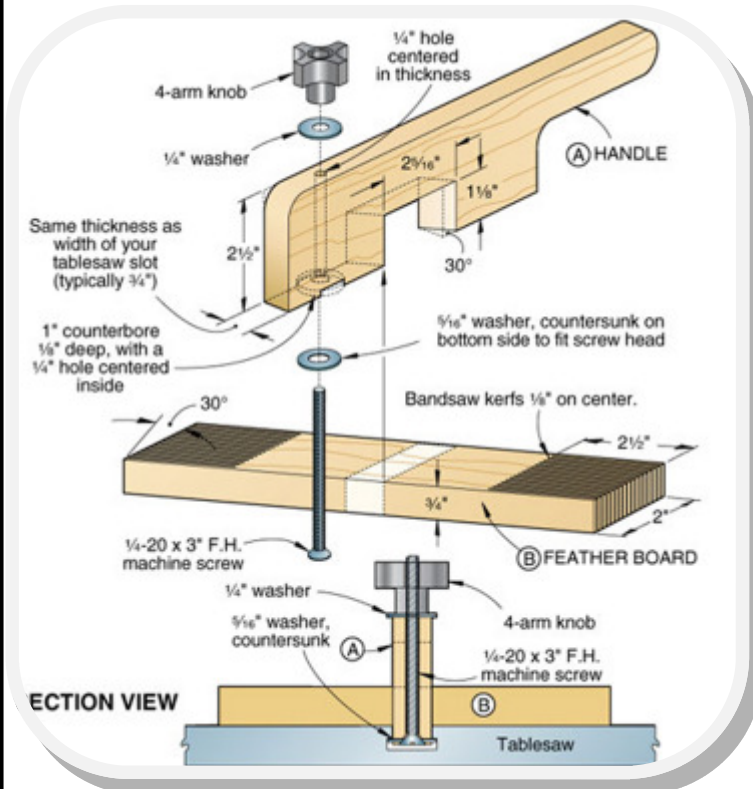
When ripping stock on your tablesaw, keep it firmly and safely against the fence with this handy adjustable locking feather board. Not only does it prevent wavy cuts, it guards against dangerous kickback. To build one, use the drawing at right and patterns on the next web page to cut handle (A) and feather board (B) to size and shape, noting the location of the angled notch and counter bored hole in the handle. Use a bandsaw to cut the 2 1/2"-long kerfs in the feather board and the curved portion of the handle, where located on the pattern. Cut the 30° angled notch in the handle's bottom edge using a dado blade in your tablesaw along with an auxiliary wood fence on your miter gauge for support.



To finalize the feather board, countersink and slide a 5/16" washer onto the head of the machine screw, slide the threaded end through the handle, and fit a washer and 4-arm knob onto the end. Fit part B into the angled notch, and slide the bottom edge of the handle and the washer into the miter gauge slot on your tablesaw where shown *bottom right*. If the washer is too wide for your miter-gauge slot, you may need to grind down the outside edges for a good fit.



Using the feather board



With the saw off, slide the workpiece between the feather board and fence. Position the trailing edge of the feather board about 1" in front of the leading edge of the saw blade, where shown in the photos *on the previous page*. Put too close to the blade, the feather board can pinch the kerf and cause the workpiece to bind on the blade.

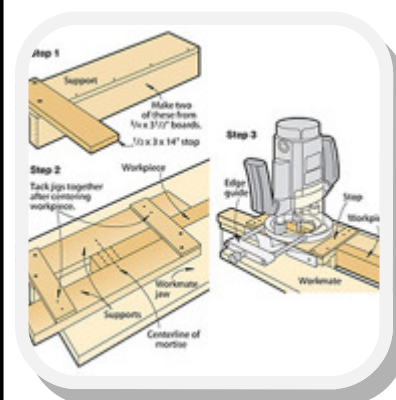
Position the shorter leading finger against the piece to be ripped. The piece should slide smoothly, yet be held firmly against the rip fence. If pushing the workpiece between the feather board and rip fence offers too much resistance, back part B off slightly. Once properly positioned, tighten the 4-arm knob to secure the assembly in place.

Project design: *Vernon Lee; Scott Spierling*



It often requires a second glance at a router bit to select the correct cutter for the desired shape. For a reference of the bit profile, rout an 8" length of scrap material with each bit. Crosscut the profile to a shorter length. With hook-and-loop material, hang the profile near the respective bit. Then hold the profile to the end of your workpiece before you make any cuts. Always return the profiles and bits to the correct storage spots.

-- from the *WOOD@* magazine shop

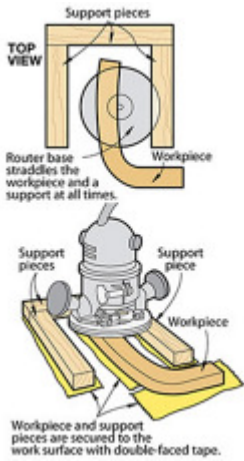


A speedy way to rout multiple mortises

If you cut a lot of mortises but you don't own a mortising attachment for your drill press, don't spend hours chopping the mortises by hand. Here's a solution: Use a plunge router with these simple jigs, and you can cut mortises as fast as you can rout them. Glue and nail together two jigs as shown in Step 1. Make them about 4" longer than your router base plus the length of the mortise.

Turn the jigs so the stops face in opposite directions and loosely position them in a bench vise or Workmate. Slide the board to be mortised between the jigs, with the centerline of the mortise as shown in Step 2. Align the two stops so that the distance from the mortise centerline to each stop measures half the length of the mortise plus half the width of your router base minus half the diameter of your bit.

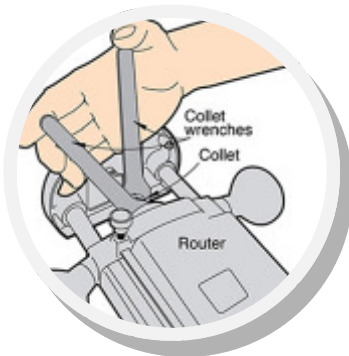
Tighten the vise or Workmate, extend the mortise centerline across the supports, and tack each stop to the opposite support. Attach an edge guide to your router, center the bit on the workpiece, then rout the mortise. The centerline markings on the supports enable you to quickly align the next workpiece.



Scrapwood shapes give router needed support

Edge-routing narrow, curved workpieces becomes a challenge without a router table. The router keeps tipping, digging the bit into your work and spoiling it. From Scrapwood the same thickness as your workpiece, cut straight or curved supporting pieces about 1" wide. Arrange them around your workpiece as shown, and then rout away. With the router riding on both the workpiece and the supports, you'll avoid nicked edges and chewed-up corners. Be sure to make the supports the same height as the workpiece. If you use double-faced tape to hold the workpiece in position, for instance, use it to hold your supports, too.

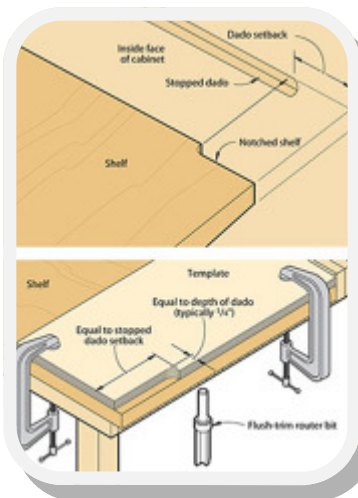
-- Alex Polakowski, Skokie, Ill.



One hand works best when tightening collets

A tight collet prevents your router bit from slipping up or down and ensures safer routing. But those tight collets don't loosen easily. When tightening or loosening router collets, you actually can gain more leverage with one hand than if you used two. Here's how.

First, position the two wrenches so they fit within your grip. Squeeze the wrench handles together to tighten or loosen the collet. Doing it this way, you won't bang your knuckles together.



Template and router speed up shelf notching

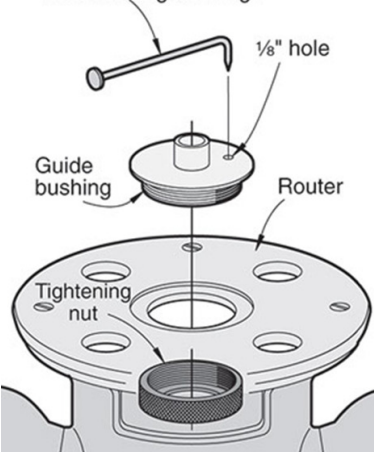
Notching a shelf to fit tightly into a stopped dado sure takes a lot of time. Isn't there a quicker way?

You can cut notches quickly and accurately with this simple template and a flush-trim router bit. Cut the template from 1/2" Baltic birch plywood or any other high-quality hardwood plywood without voids. Make it as long as the width of the shelf and wide enough so you can rout the notch without the router baseplate bumping into the clamp (usually about 4"). Next, cut the notch in the template. Size the width of the notch as deep as your stopped dado and size the length to match the dado setback.

Now, align the side and front edges of the template with the shelf edges and clamp the template where shown bottom right. Chuck a flush-trim bit into your router and rout your notch. Reposition the template on the other end of the shelf and rout again.

-- Ray Brown Jr., Boulder City, Nev.

Use a bent nail as a lever for loosening bushing.



Bent nail prevents damage to your router's guide bushing

Template guide bushings for your router can jam tightly after just a little use. If you can't unscrew yours with your fingers and you don't want to rough up the edge of the bushing with a pair of pliers, try this simple technique using a bent nail.

Drill a 1/8" hole on the edge of the bushing close enough to the center to clear the threads underneath. Then, the next time your bushing sticks, simply insert a bent finishing nail in the 1/8" hole and push the other end of the nail counterclockwise against the center shaft on the bushing. The leverage from the nail will loosen the bushing easily.

-- Henry Borger, Brooksville, Fla.