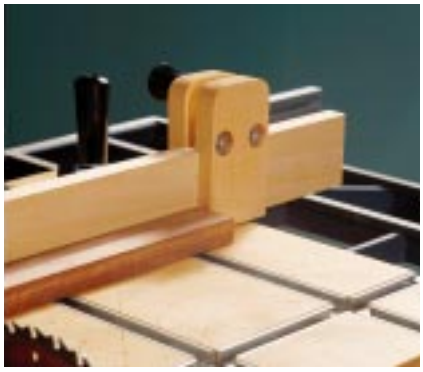
Tablesaw Seven Pack

Precision Miter Stop



Tablesaw Hold-Down System

Zero-Clearance Crosscut Sled

Rip-Fence Saddle

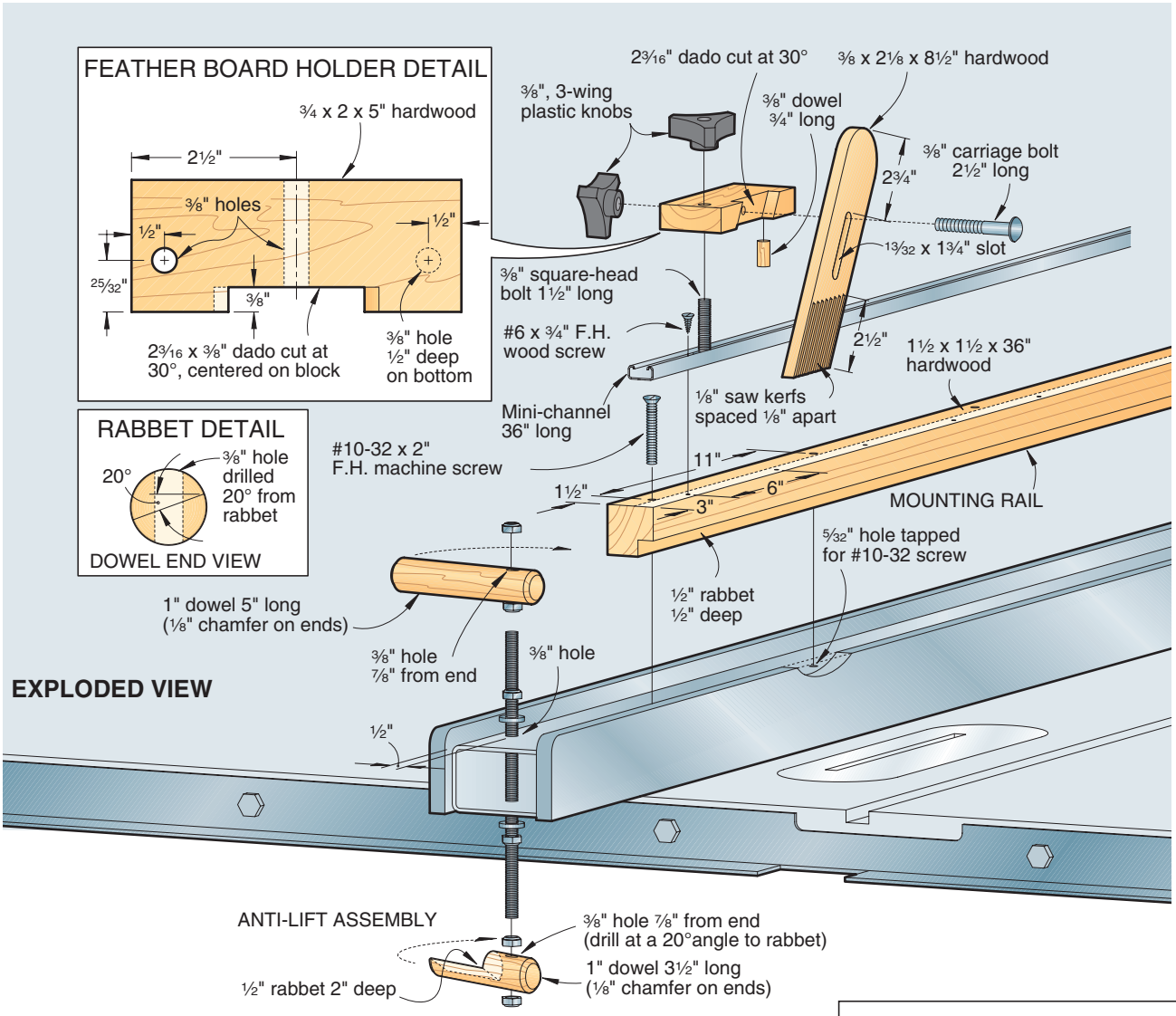
Make Terrific Tablesaw Inserts

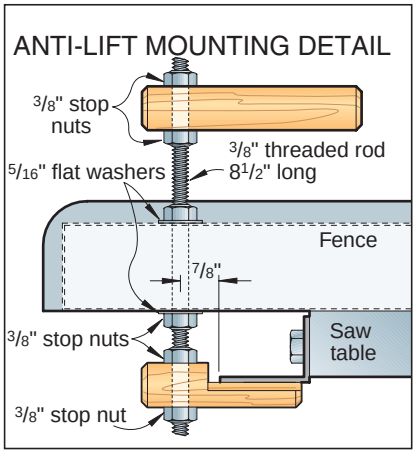
Stand-Tall Tablesaw Fence

Seal Up Your Tablesaw

Tablesaw Hold-Down System

Birds of feather work wonders together. In this case, we're talking about a feather board system, including a fence anti-lift mechanism that gives you additional stock control and safety.





When working with your tablesaw, you'll appreciate the additional stock control and safety provided by this simple feather board system.

Build a pair of feather board assemblies using the drawing, *above*, as a guide, and attach the mini-channel to the mounting rail (which you may need to modify slightly to suit your fence).

Align the mounting rail flush with your fence's face. Then, drill pilot holes in the rail where shown, and mark their locations on the top of the fence. Drill and tap a hole to accept a #10-32 machine screw at each mark, then attach the rail assembly to the fence.

If your fence locks down at the back of the table, you won't need to add the anti-lift assembly shown in the drawings. However, a fence that locks only at the front will raise at the rear without this mechanism. To cut the 20° rabbet, rip the dowel 2" down its center. Lay the dowel on your drill-press table, oriented as shown in the Rabbet detail drawing, and bore the ⅜" hole to accept the threaded rod.

Buying Guide

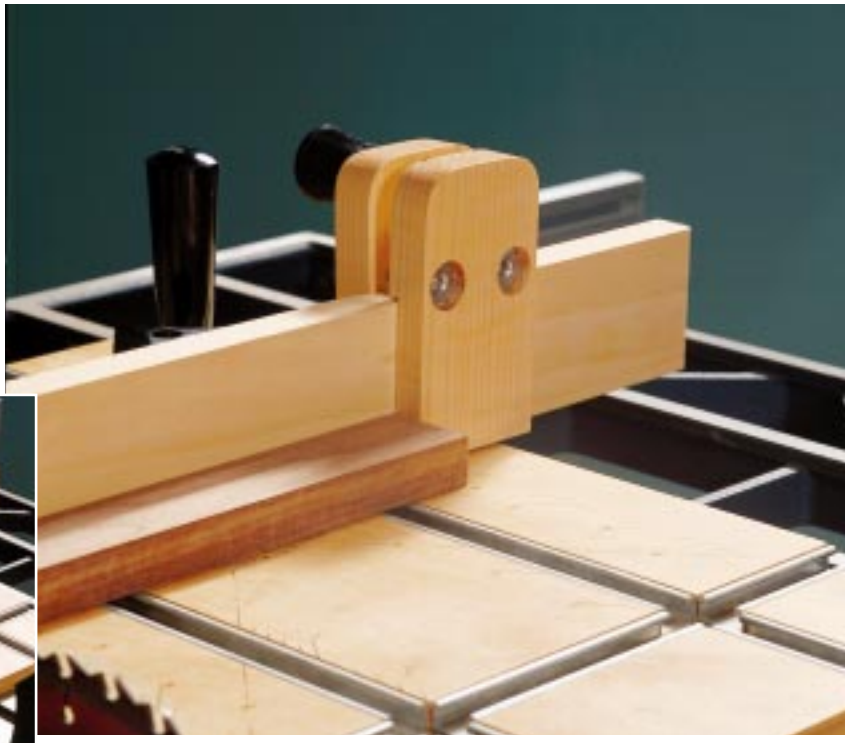
Hardware. Knobs, square-head channel-bolts, and mini-channel for a pair of feather boards. Kit no. TS-FB, $16.95 ppd. in U.S. Schlabaugh and Sons Woodworking, 720 14th St., Kalona, IA 52247. Call 800/346-9663 to order.

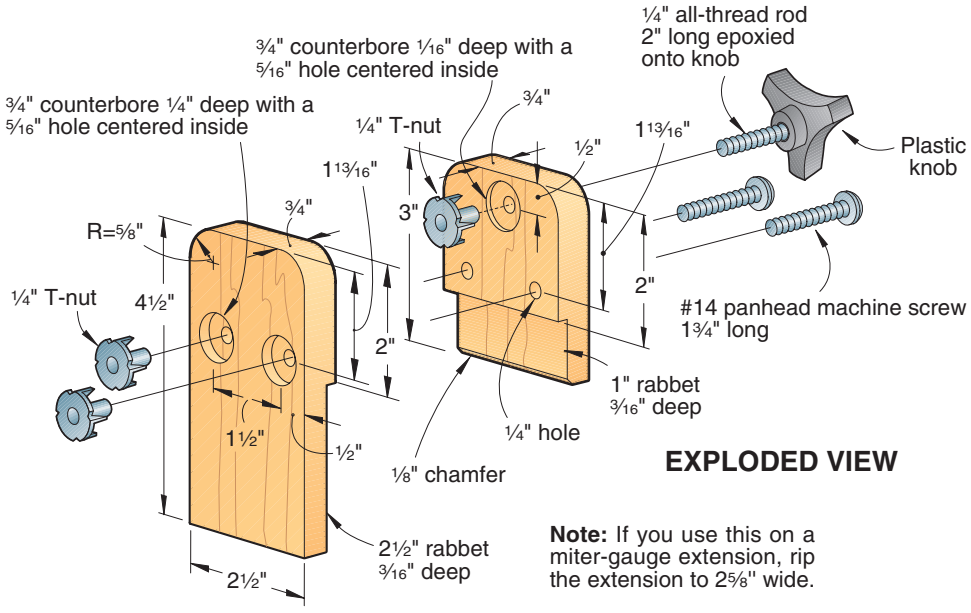
Precision Miter Stop

Make it in minutes, use it as a lifetime addition to your shop.

Use this handy stop on your own 2⅝"-wide miter-gauge extension, or add it to your radial-arm saw fence. It fits on the fence, and allows you to cut piece after piece to the same length.

Project Design: **James R. Downing**
Photographs: **Hetherington Photography**
Illustration: **Roxanne LeMoine**





EXPLODED VIEW

Note: If you use this on a miter-gauge extension, rip the extension to 2⅝" wide.

Make Terrific Tablesaw Inserts

Table inserts are a snap to make with a trimming bit.

No matter how finely sharpened a sawblade, dado set, or molding knives may be, grain tearout can occur when the workpiece is not completely supported by the table insert. To alleviate that problem, we followed the advice of WOOD® magazine reader Michael Cosgrove, of Goose Creek, South Carolina, and created zero-clearance inserts for all our different blades using a router and plywood scraps.

To make inserts, use double-faced tape to adhere your metal tablesaw insert to a plywood blank the same exact thickness as the metal insert. Then, cut the plywood blank slightly over-sized with a bandsaw, being extremely careful not to cut into the metal insert. Next, fit your router with a laminate flush-trimming bit. Adjust the setting so the bit's bearing rides along the edge of the metal insert and the cutter contacts only the wood. Rout the plywood to the exact shape as the metal insert. Keep several blanks on hand for a variety of tasks and blades.

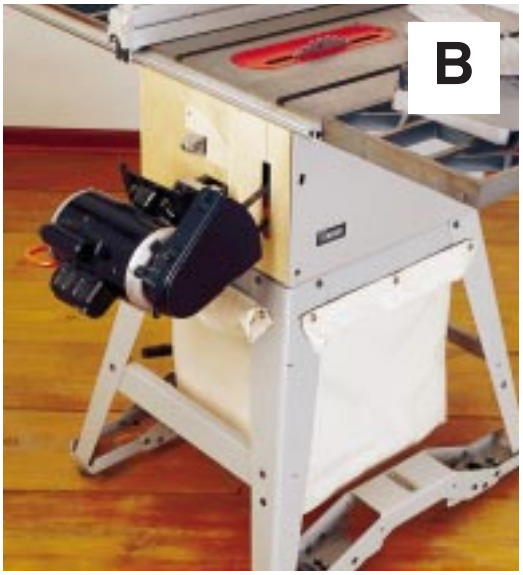
Note: *If you can't make a blank that is the same thickness as the tablesaw's original insert, make one that is slightly too thin. Then apply dabs of hot-melt glue to the tablesaw's insert-support surfaces before putting the blank in place and setting it flush with the tabletop.*

Photo shows the insert blank after being bandsawn to rough shape, but prior to being routed to exact shape.

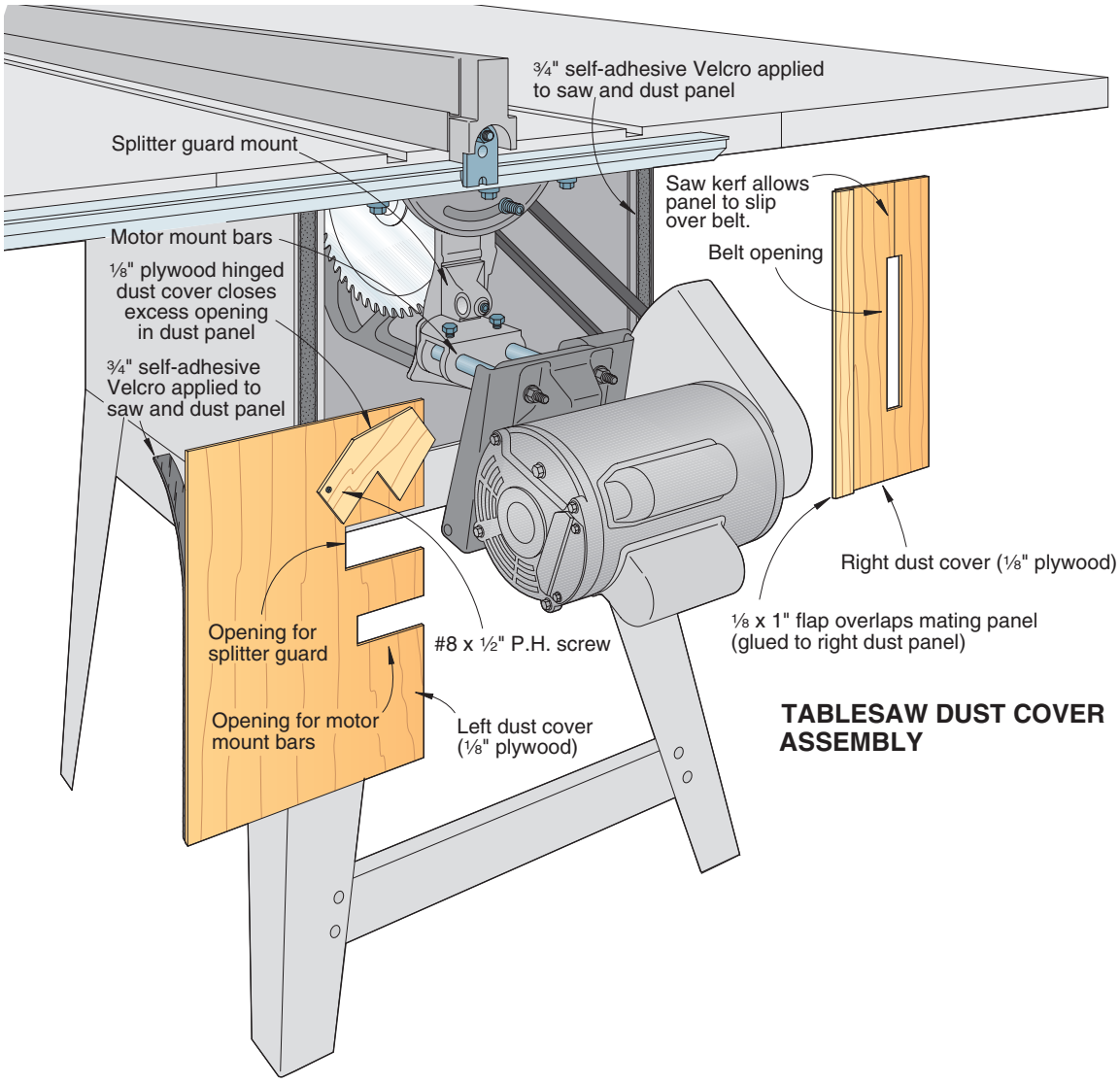
Seal Up Your Tablesaw

Contractor's saws cost less than the cabinet style, but they spew all of the sawdust right into your workshop. Here's a simple way to set up a line of defense.

All you need is a straightedge and a utility knife to make cardboard mock-ups for shop fixtures. Assemble the pieces with masking tape for a trial fitting.



Shape the cover to fit tightly around the parts of your tablesaw. You'll still kick up sawdust above the saw, but a lot of the dust will fall right in the bag.



TABLESAW DUST COVER ASSEMBLY

Most contractor models are enclosed on three sides, but open on the back, where the motor hangs, and underneath. We used ⅛" Baltic birch plywood to make a two-piece cover for the back.

Measure the outside dimensions of the opening, then measure to find where you need to leave gaps for the belt and the motor mount. Again, use cardboard to arrive at the right shapes. Cut rectangular pieces to cover the various areas, as shown in **Photo A**, *previous page*, then tape those pieces together until you have the final shape. Use that as a pattern to cut the actual cover from plywood.

As shown in **Photo B**, *previous page*, one piece fits around the drive belt and another slides over to meet it. The kerf above the belt opening allows you to flex the thin plywood for installation. The lip glued onto the mating piece covers any gap.

Self-adhesive Velcro strips, available at most fabric stores, serve to hold the dust cover to the saw. Cut them to size, and apply them where shown.

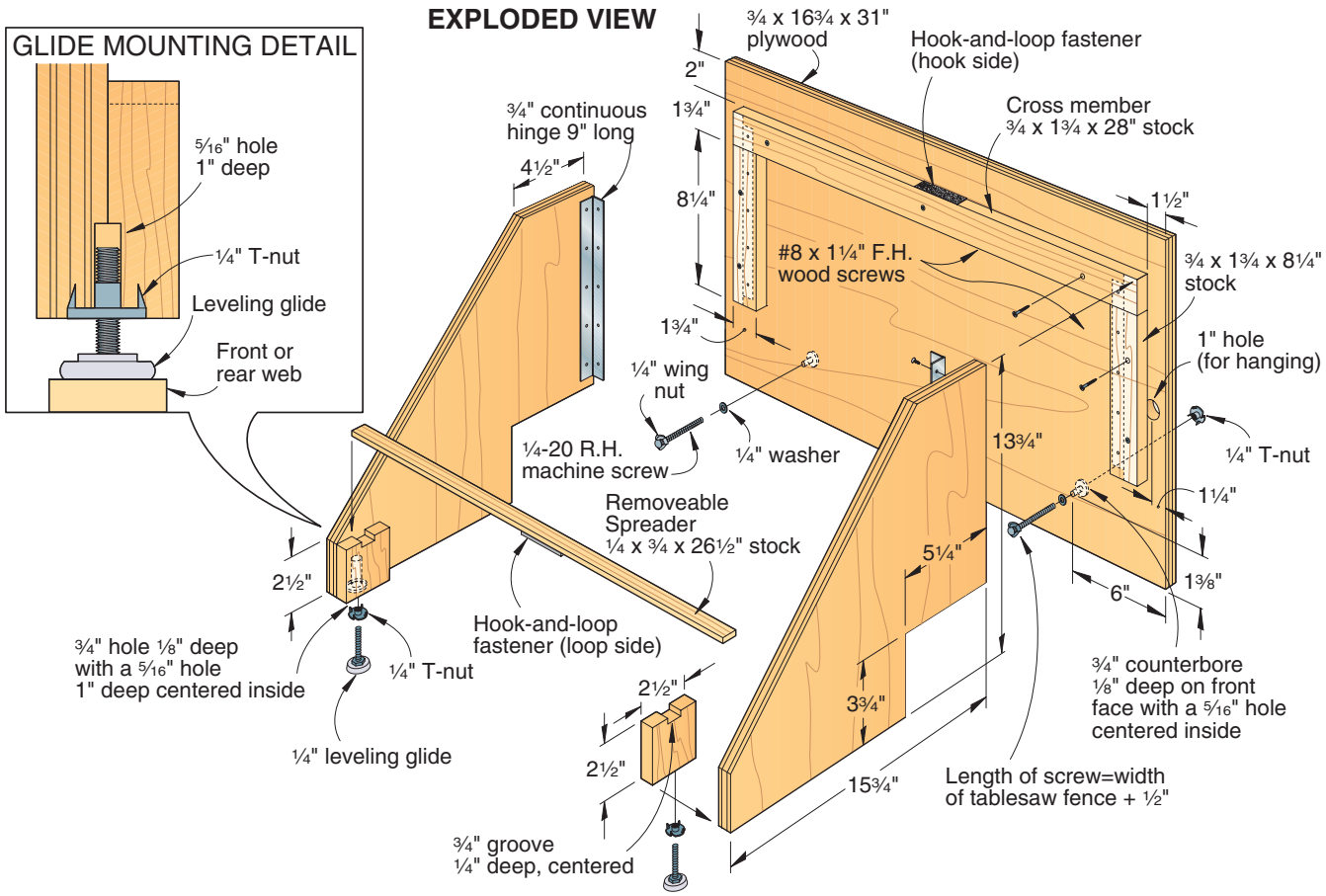
You'll have to remove the cover to swing the saw blade to any angle other than 90°. The alternative would be to cut a pathway for the motor mount to follow, which would open up an escape route for the sawdust.

With all four sides sealed, you're ready to put a bag on the bottom. Check plan DP-00055 for a contractor's saw base cabinet, complete with a trash bag holder. Or, you can buy a bag that snaps onto most contractor's saws, as shown in **Photo B**, after you've drilled the necessary holes. Order part number 140298, by calling Woodcraft at 800/225-1153 or log on to www.woodcraft.com.

Written by **Jim Pollock with James R. Downing**
Photographs: **Marty Baldwin**
Illustrations: **Kim Downing; Lorna Johnson**

Stand-Tall Tablesaw Fence

Here's a simple fixture that makes workpieces stand upright and ready for cutting.



Now you can stand workpieces, such as raised panels, upright and cut their edges on your tablesaw. Just use this auxiliary tablesaw fence designed by WOOD® magazine reader Joe Xaver of Auburn, Illinois. The jig bolts temporarily to your saw's existing fence to let you make these cuts safely and accurately, and folding supports make for flat storage.

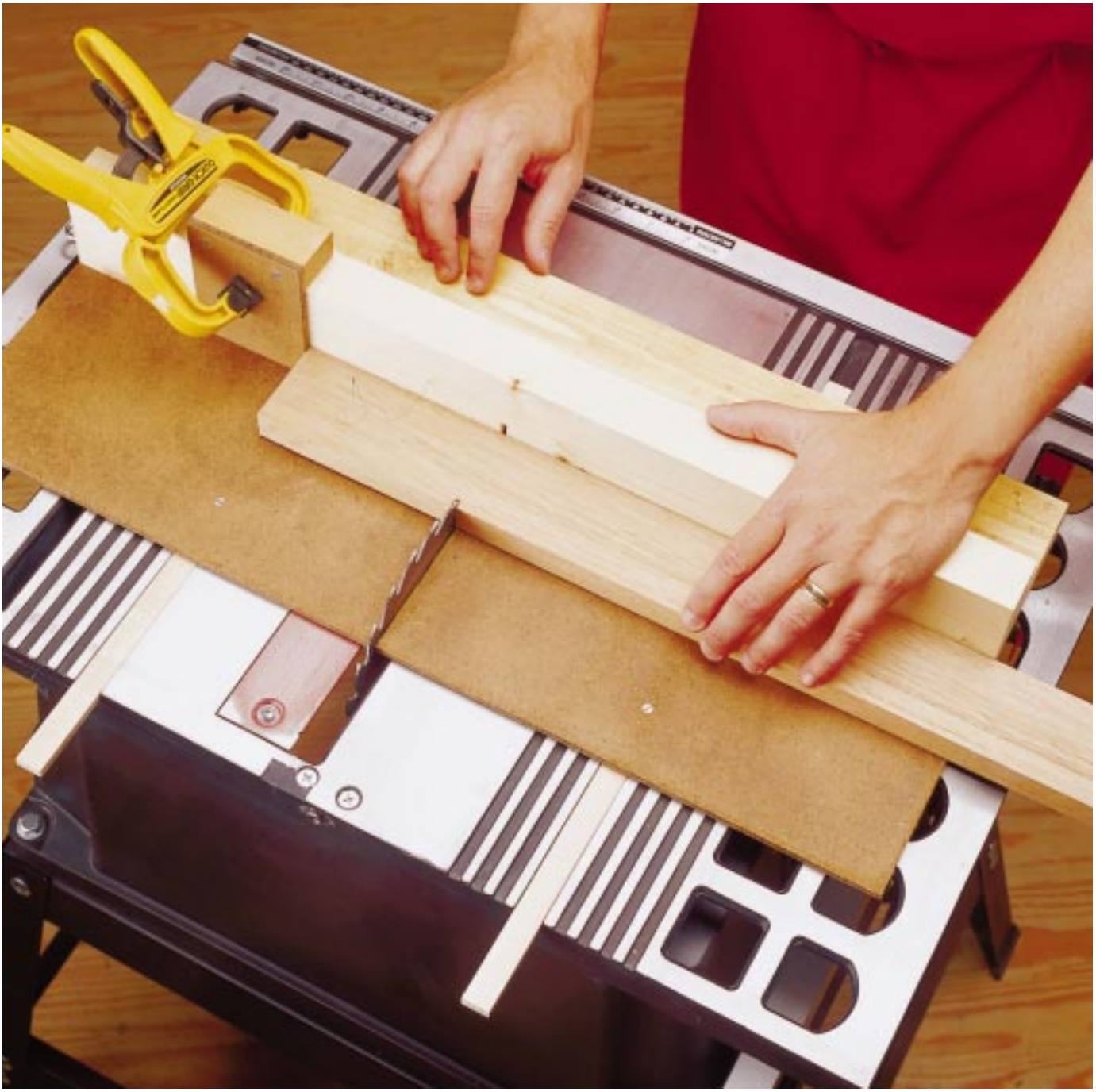
Before you begin, take a few measurements from your saw to ensure proper fit. First, examine your saw's existing fence to see if drilling it for the machine screws, where shown in the drawing *above* will interfere with the fence's operation, and adjust the locations if necessary. For webbed extension wings, measure between the centers of the webs at the front and rear of the extensions. Make the removable spreader this length, and add 1½" to find the length of the crossmember. (The dimensions shown are for a table that is 26½" between the centers of the front and rear webs.) For saws with solid extension wings, shorten the dimensions shown for those pieces by 4".

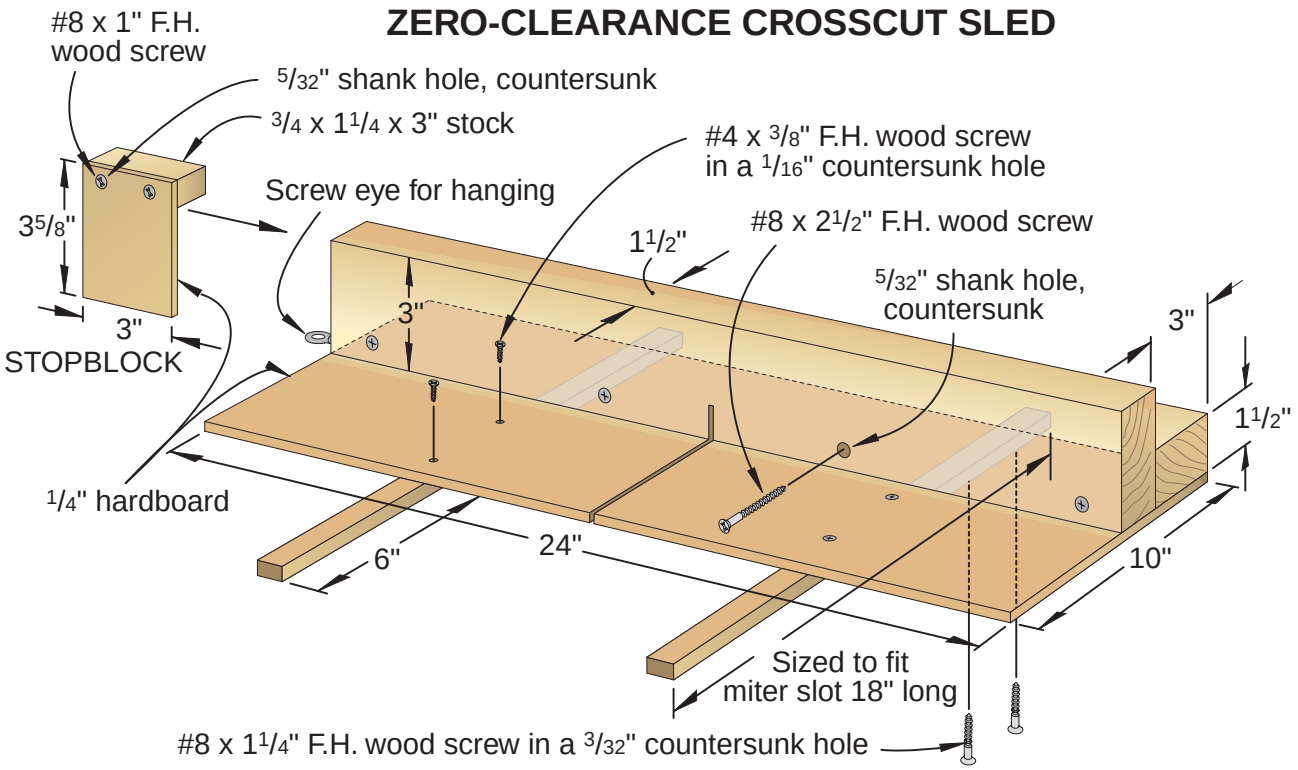
Armed with that information, build the auxiliary fence as shown in the drawing. Drill 5/16" holes in your fence to match the location of the t-nuts, and bolt the tall fence to your saw's fence as shown in the photo, *previous page*.

Before using the jig for the first time, adjust the nylon glides so the tall fence is perpendicular to your saw's table top. When you're done, unbolt the unit from your fence, pop out the removable spreader (attach it to the top edge of the crossmember for storage), fold up the legs, and hang the unit on a wall.

Zero-Clearance Crosscut Sled

Ditch the miter gauge to increase the accuracy of your benchtop tablesaw.





If you have zero tolerance for tear-out and inaccurate cuts, you'll enjoy the results you get with this zero-clearance crosscut sled designed by WOOD® magazine reader Dan Pacht. He uses the sled to increase the precision of his benchtop tablesaw. It replaces the wobbly miter gauge, and reduces tear-out by closing the gap in the saw's wide-open throat plate. You also could modify the sled for use with a stationary tablesaw.

Start by cutting a ¼" hardboard base to size. Now square the edges of a pine 2×4, ripping it to 3" wide. From it, cut two 24"-long pieces, and glue and screw them together to form an L-shaped fence assembly. Then glue it to the hardboard base. Next, make a pair of hardwood runners to fit your miter-gauge slots. The runners should fit snugly but still be able to slide.

Place the runners into their slots and run a small bead of glue along each one where the sled's base will cover them. Center the base/fence assembly side-to-side on your saw's table. Square the sled's fence to the saw blade by placing a framing square against the fence face and along the face of the blade. Allow the glue to dry.

Drill countersunk pilot holes in the base, and drive screws through it into the runners. Turn the sled over, and screw each runner into the base/fence assembly. Add a screw eye at one end of the fence so the sled can hang when not in use.

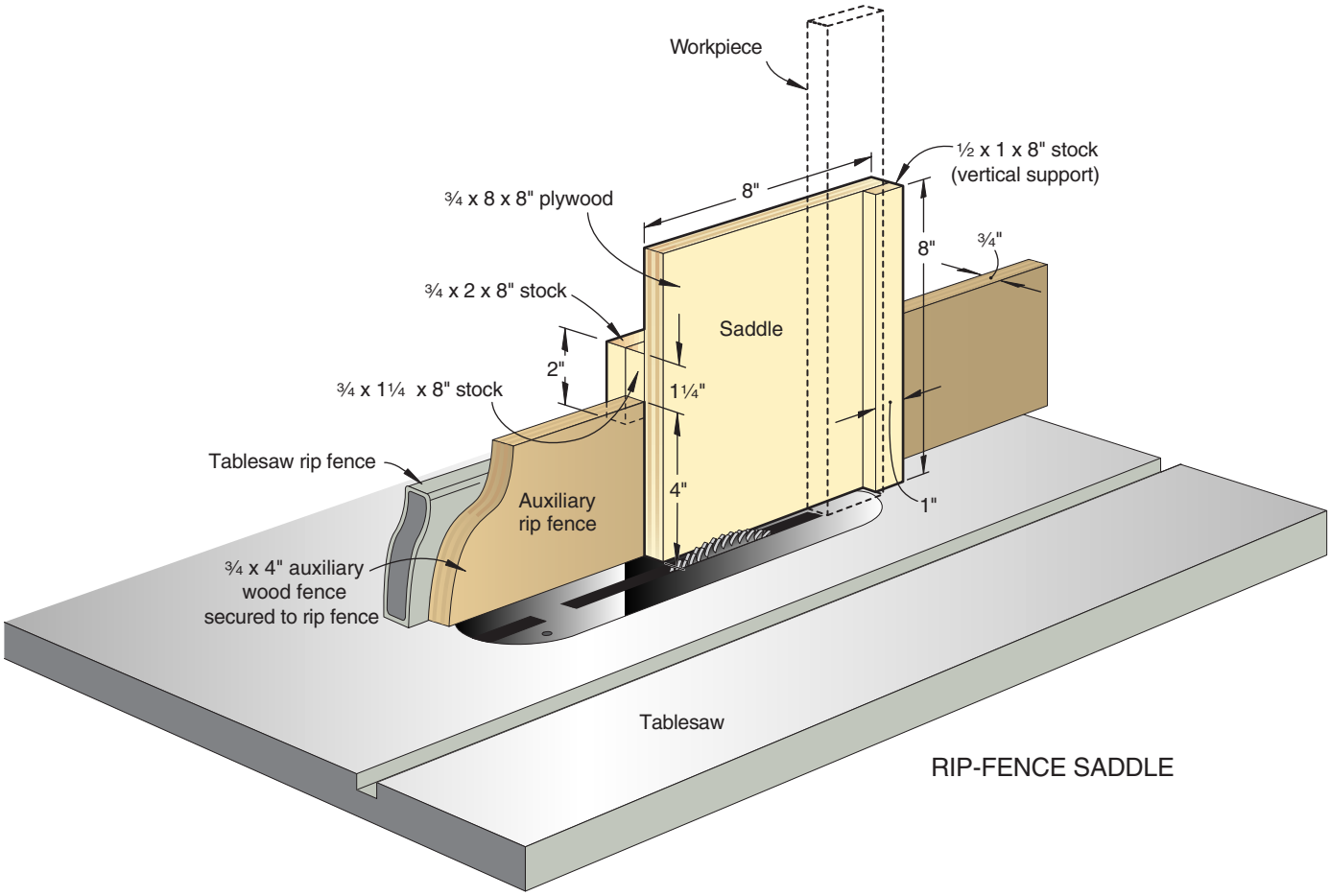
Note: *This sled is designed for ¾"-thick stock. To safely cut thicker stock, add a 1½×3×4" block behind the fence, aligned with the saw kerf, to encase the blade.*

Finally, make the optional stopblock if you wish, and you're ready to go. Simply place the runners into the slots, and raise your blade 1¼" above the saw table. Glide the sled forward until the top of the blade cuts into the fence, then back out of the cut. Now crosscut your workpiece.

Rip-fence Saddle

An inexpensive, shop-built jig for top-notch machining and joinery

Positioned to center the workpiece over the dado blade, the jig is the perfect setup for machining bridle joints or open mortises and the mating tenons.



RIP-FENCE SADDLE

Build this auxiliary wood fence and mating saddle to bevel-cut the post caps for the pergola *on page 61,* of the April 2002 issue of WOOD magazine, or build it for supporting stiles and other workpieces as shown in the photo on the *previous page*. Use one hand to push the saddle and workpiece across the blade, and your other hand to keep the saddle riding firmly on the auxiliary fence. Wax the mating pieces if necessary for easy sliding.

Note: *Our auxiliary fence is screwed securely to our metal tablesaw rip fence, with the top edge of the fence sitting 1" above the top edge of the metal fence. The auxiliary fence must be 90° to the saw table. Size your wood fence so the saddle rides smoothly, without free play, along the top edge of the auxiliary fence.*