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Barry Humphus, Editor, Brent Evans
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Dick Trough was our host in his wonderful shop for our semi-annual Jigs, Tips and Tricks meeting. Most shops are external to a woodworkers home but Dick's is just a few steps from his kitchen and fully part of his house. Dick choose to build into his shop those features that would make it a safe and comfortable place to work, but also to keep the noise and dust out of the rest of the home.

The dust collection system is from Oneida Air Systems. This company also will design the piping system if you send them detailed shop specifications (as long as you purchase the material from them), including where your tools that need collection are located and buy the material from them. Oneida will then design an air system exactly for your needs and to fit the capacity of the blower unit.

Besides the dust collection system, Dick has a home-built dust filtering system consisting of a commercial HACV squirrel cage blower mounted in a plywood box with multiple layers of HEPA filter medium. It is similar to the one Barry Humphus designed and showed in the January 2001 issue of the Newsletter. Dick has a better method, however, as the dust collector and dust filter are both remotely controlled.

This great shop features lots of stationary power tools including a 12 inch drum sander, surface planer, router table station, commercial table saw with a huge table extension, drill press, joiner and a beautiful Nova 3000 lathe with a 48" bed. The Nova is most impressive with lots of accessories and of course, the 48" length makes it very nice. Dick also has a "micro" lathe for turning pens and other small objects.

Chuck Middleton started things off by showing his "Mini" router table. This unit was featured in an issue of Wood Magazine (and the August 2000 issue of the LC WW Newsletter). Like the one I built after his design, he has replaced the solid wood top with a plexiglass one. You don't have to build yours with a plastic top, but you can look at what you are doing when you make adjustments to the cutter height without bending over.

Arron Andrepont brought a tapering jig for a table saw that he likes to use. These are typically extruded aluminum and cost \$18-20 from most woodworking catalogs. He also had part of an old one he converted into a clamp to be used as a straightedge for cutting panels and other wide stock on the table saw. **Barry Humphus** said his jig caught one of the carbide teeth on his table saw with the saw running. The result was that the taper jig just exploded into pieces. He subsequently made a safer one out of wood using the handle and other hardware from the original. Arron also showed a modification of the 3-D holding jigs used by Roger Richard of Hegler. These are used to hold work while scrolling a three dimensional object. Arron's modification includes light springs between the clamps to make pre-mounting the work piece a lot easier.

If your drill press has a miter slot like **John Fontenot's** his jig makes boring holes in round stock a breeze. We've seen this sort of jig before that clamp to the drill press table, but the slotted one makes sense. Some drill presses have such slots including John's ShopSmith. John also showed his jig for making perfect circles in wood with your disk sander. This is a modification of one he saw on Norm Abrams' New Yankee Workshop.

Speaking of The New Yankee Workshop, it has a web site. Besides advice from Norm on various issues of woodworking, you can post a photo of your Norm-inspired project there. There are several Louisiana woodworkers with photos of their work on the site, including Barry Humphus' home-built pool table. The site is at www.newyankee.com.

Dick Trough asked about folding bandsaw blades for storage. Barry Humphus demonstrated the technique (occasionally published in the Newsletter — a one-hand twist with your foot holding down the blade), but **Rick Haught** demonstrated the two-hand approach (we'll have to practice this one a few times to get it right, *Ed.*), that works like a charm.

Eltee Thibodeau talked about the merits of various scroll saw blades, favoring the spiral type. While there is heated discussion among the scrollers in our Club about straight versus spiral blades, Eltee showed some more of his incredibly delicate work done with a spiral to demonstrate his point.

Rod Nunley pointed out that very cheap push blocks can be made by simply gluing the top of an old mouse pad cut to fit the bottom of a piece of scrap and a handle. The dense foam on the bottom of these pads are great for this purpose and save them from just being thrown in the trash. Rod also suggested a good modification to Barry's belt sander jig that allows it to be used as a verticle sander (I tried it and it works perfectly — Thanks Rod). Barry also showed off a couple of his home-made lathe tool rests, an "S" curved one and an 18" long straight rest.

IT'S TIME FOR SOME DUES

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club Treasurer Dick Hopes reminds members that 2002 dues are coming due starting this month. Please send your \$20.00 renewal to Dick Hopes, Teasurer, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611. Not only do you get our Newsletter, but discounts at area tool, paint and home building suppliers. Plus there's our monthly meetings where you can learn something and teach us a thing or two.

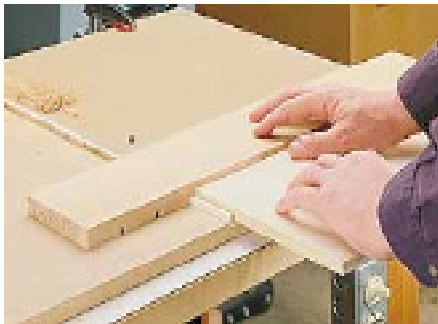
COMING UP.....

Saturday, October 13 — 9:00 a.m. Shop of Burl Vincent. Subject not set at press time.

ROUTER TABLE INDEXING JIG

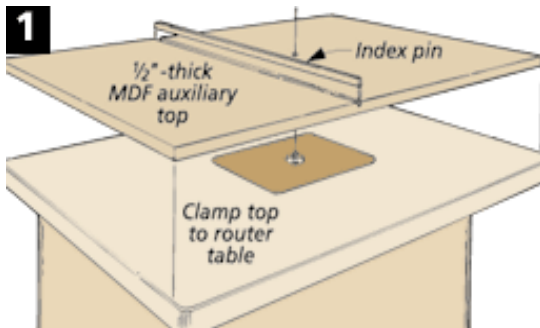
If you have to cut a series of evenly spaced dados across the sides of some small display shelves, this jig is just what you need. If you want to make the dados on your router table, you need a way to space them evenly. That's when we came up with the idea for an auxiliary table fitted with an index pin as shown in the drawing below.

To make the auxiliary table, start by cutting a piece of 1/2" MDF (medium-density fiberboard) that fit on top of my router table. Then drill a hole in the center of the MDF for a router bit.



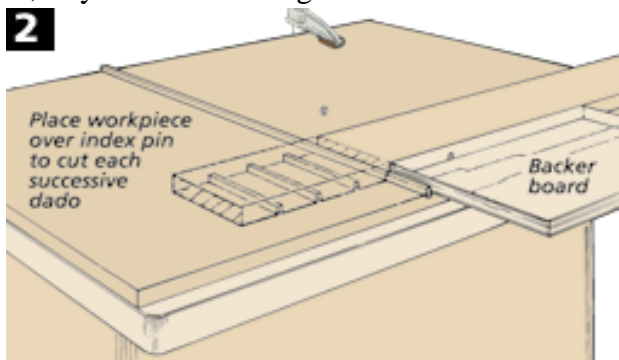
Next inset a strip of wood into the top to serve as an index pin for spacing the dados, see Figure 1. Make sure that the distance between the router bit and the index pin equaled the

spacing you need for my dados, then clamp the top to my router table.



Now cutting evenly spaced dados is easy. Simply butt one of the workpieces against the index pin and

push it forward with a backer block to cut the first dado. Then just shift the workpiece so the dado you just cut fits over the index pin and cut a second dado. Repeat this process until all the dados have been cut, as you can see in Figure 2. From *Woodsmith*

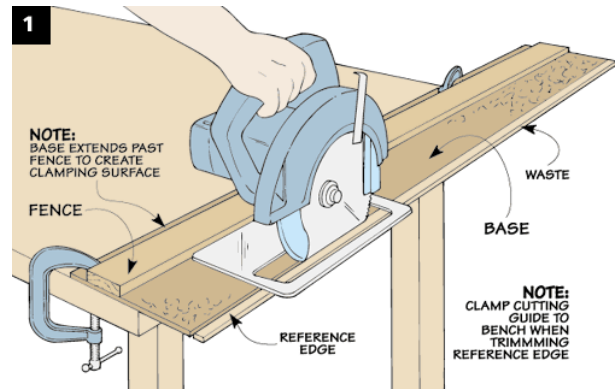


CUTTING PLYWOOD

Cutting a full sheet of plywood (or MDF) down to size on a table saw can be a challenge. The sheets are heavy and awkward to move around. Even after you wrestle it into position, the surface veneer has a frustrating tendency to chip out as you make the cut. Fortunately, there are several things you can do to simplify the job — starting with the initial rough cuts.

Rough Cuts – The first step is to lay out the pieces on the plywood. As a rule, allow 1/4" "extra" all the way around. This provides enough material to make a final clean-up pass later. But just because the pieces are cut to rough size doesn't mean you want a rough cut. The goal is to end up with clean, straight edges that can ride against the rip fence on the table saw (or be placed against the miter gauge).

Cutting Guide – To accomplish this, use a circular saw and a cutting guide that clamps to the plywood, as you can see in Figure 1. The guide consists of two parts: a hardboard base that serves as a platform for the saw and a wood fence that guides the saw.

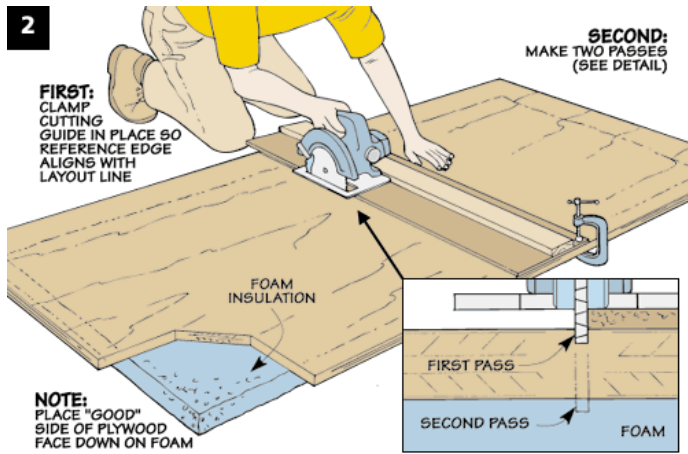


The nice thing about this cutting guide is it has a reference edge that aligns the saw blade with the layout line. By aligning this edge with the layout line, the blade makes a perfectly straight cut exactly where you want it.

To make the cutting guide, start by gluing the fence to an extra-wide base. The reference edge is formed by running the base of the saw against the fence and trimming off the waste.

Foam Support – You'll also need a way to support the plywood during the cut. The best way to do this is to lay the plywood on a sheet of foam insu-

lation, like the one shown in Figure 2. (It's available at most home centers.) Besides providing support, the foam lets you crawl onto the sheet of plywood.



Which is handy when you need just a bit more “reach” to complete a cut.

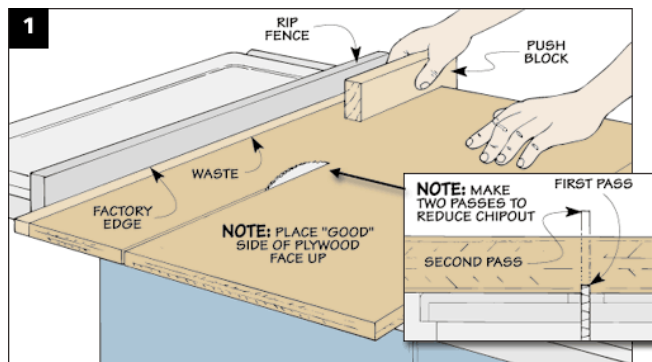
“Good” Side Down – One thing to be aware of is that the blade on a circular saw cuts on the upstroke. This means the surface of the plywood that the saw rides on is likely to splinter. So in order to reduce chipout on the “good” side of the plywood, you’ll want to place it face down on the foam.

Reducing Chipout – But many times, you don’t want either side to splinter. One way to reduce chipout is to use a blade that’s specially designed for cutting plywood, as shown in the photo at right.

Another way to produce a clean cut is to make two passes. A shallow, first pass severs the fibers of the surface veneer, as illustrated in the detail in Figure 2. This means the fibers won’t splinter when making the second, full-depth pass.

After making the preliminary rough cuts, the next step is to trim each piece to final size. This usually calls for a series of cuts — not just one.

Factory Edge – One reason is the “factory



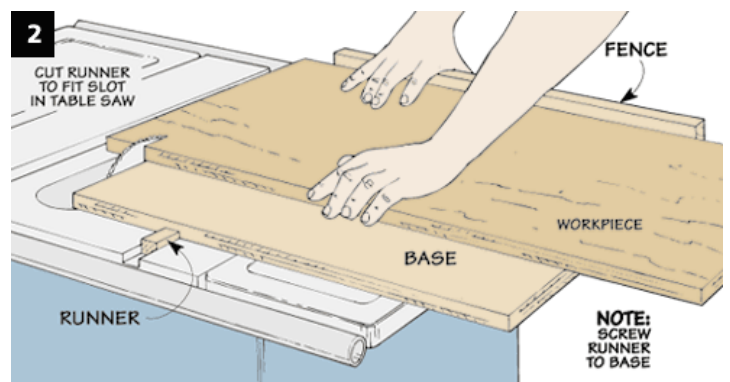
edge” of the plywood. You can usually count on this edge to be straight and true. But it often gets dented or nicked. So trim just a bit of the edge off.

To do this, adjust the rip fence on the table saw to make an extra-wide cut, as you can see in Figure 1. Then, after readjusting the fence, run the “just-cut” edge against it to rip the piece to final width.

One thing that’s different here is the blade on the table saw cuts on the downstroke. So the “good” side of the plywood faces up. Even so, it’s still a good idea to make a shallow pass first, then follow it up with a full-depth cut, (detail in Figure 1).

Wide Pieces – There’s another situation that often comes up when cutting pieces to final size — crosscutting a wide piece. The problem is that a wide piece extends too far out in front of the table saw at the beginning of a cut. This means that the bar of the miter gauge isn’t fully supported in the slot in the saw table. As a result, you can’t get an accurate cut.

Sliding Platform –The solution is a large sliding platform that provides extra support for the workpiece (Figure 2). The platform consists of three parts. A plywood base carries the workpiece through the blade. The base is guided by a hardwood runner that slides in the miter slot of the table saw. As you make a cut, a fence keeps the workpiece square to the blade.



Flush Trim – But sometimes a workpiece is too wide even for the sliding platform. That’s when a hand-held router and a flush trim bit come in handy. The idea here is to first clamp a straightedge to the workpiece so it aligns with the layout line. When you run the bearing of the flush trim bit against the straightedge, the bit cuts a clean, crisp edge. From *ShopNotes*