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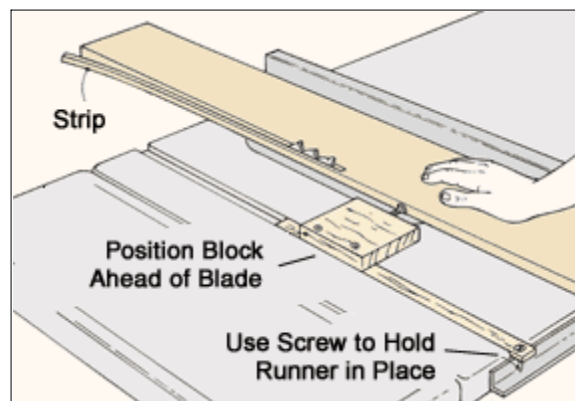
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A Quick Jig for Ripping Thin Strips

Plywood projects always look better with the edges covered by thin strips of solid wood banding. But what's the best way to cut thin strips consistent on the table saw?

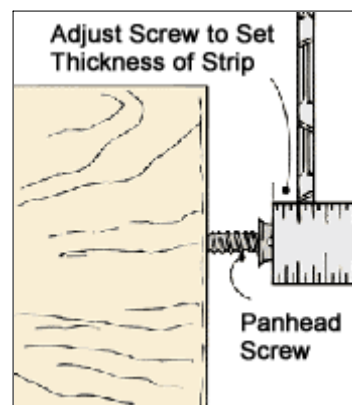
One method is to set the fence the desired distance from the blade. Then make multiple passes to cut enough strips. This works, but the strip can get caught between the blade and fence and kick back.

The other option is to cut the strip on the waste side of the blade. It gives better control of the workpiece, and the strip falls away clear after passing the blade. But moving the fence between passes can yield strips of different thicknesses.



One solution to this problem is the jig shown above right. It's just a block screwed to a runner that sits in the saw's miter gauge slot.

Setting the jig is easy. Position it alongside the blade and fine tune the jig by turning a panhead screw driven into one edge, see the drawing at right. Then pull the jig back so it sits ahead of the blade. Now butt your workpiece against the screw and lock the rip fence against the workpiece. Make a cutting pass, then repeat the process on each additional pass. All the strips will be the exact same thickness.



Have a nice weekend,

Joel Hess
Online Editor, Workbench

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