



Woodsmith **PLANS**

ZERO- CLEARANCE TABLE SAW INSERT



ZERO-CLEARANCE INSERT

When I rip thin strips, I like to use a shop-made table saw insert that has a splitter. It helps to keep the wood from binding on the back of the blade. (Mine is a zero-clearance insert, shown at right.)

To make the new insert, you'll need a blank that matches the *thickness* of your old insert. (I used $\frac{1}{2}$ " MDF. It was a little thin, but later I shimmed it with tape until it was flush with the top of the saw.) Next, trace the outline of the original insert onto the blank and rough cut it to within $\frac{1}{16}$ " of the pencil line, see Fig. 1.

To trim the blank to the same size as the original insert, I first

carpet-taped them together. Then I mounted a flush trim bit in the router table and, with the bearing riding along the original insert, trimmed the new one to size, as you can see in Fig. 1a.

To rip the blade slot in the new insert, carefully align the fence with the edge of the original insert, see Fig. 2. Then rip the slot, turning off the saw when you're 3" from the end.

To make the splitter, rip a piece to the exact thickness of the kerf, 1" high and 3" long, like you see in Fig. 3. Sand the end closest to the blade to a point and glue the splitter into the kerf. **W**

