

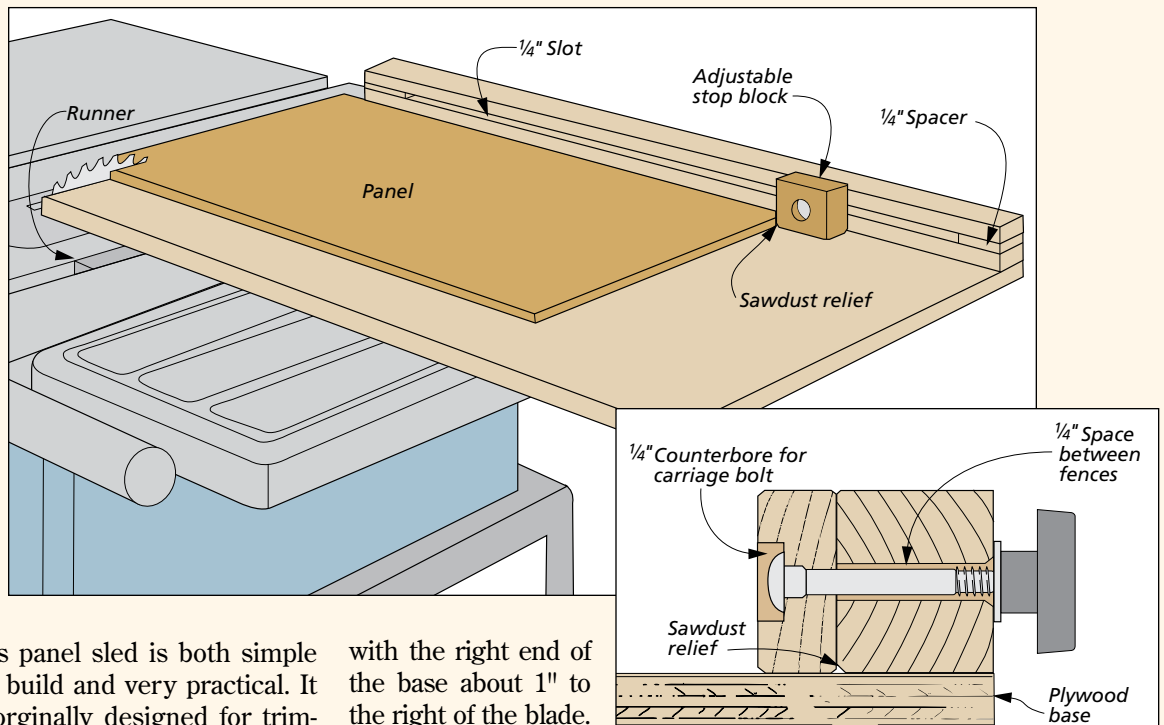


Woodsmith. **PLANS**

Table Saw Panel Sled



TABLE SAW PANEL SLED



This panel sled is both simple to build and very practical. It was originally designed for trimming the ends of large glued-up panels. But I found that by adding a stop block, it could also be used as a cut-off jig for cutting several pieces to equal length.

BASE. To make the sled's base, cut a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood 16" wide and long enough to extend 12" past the wing of your table saw.

RUNNER. The base is guided by a 19"-long runner that fits in the left hand miter gauge slot on the table saw. I made the runner from maple, but you could use plastic or metal, or a store-bought runner. The important thing is that the runner fits the slot without any play, but still slides smoothly.

After the runner is cut to fit the slot, drill four countersunk screw holes in it from the bottom.

Now, put a couple of pennies as spacers in the slot, set the runner on top of them, and apply double-sided carpet tape to the top of the runner. Then, place the plywood base on top of the runner

with the right end of the base about 1" to the right of the blade. (Tip: To keep the base square with the blade, I placed my rip fence 1" to the right of the blade as a stop.) The extra 1" will be trimmed off later.

After pressing down firmly so the carpet tape sticks to the bottom of the plywood base, lift up the assembly, flip it over, and screw the runner in place.

REFERENCE EDGE. Next, place the sled back into the miter gauge slot and trim off the extra 1". This end of the sled now will act as a reference edge. As long as you use the same saw blade, you can be assured that the cut will align with this edge.

FENCE. The next step is to add a fence to the trailing edge of the base. The fence is made from two strips of $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock separated by a couple of small square spacers made from $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood. The spacers allow a slot for a carriage bolt that holds a wooden stop block to the fence.

Once the fence is glued together, use a framing square to position the fence square with the reference edge (and the saw blade). Then screw it in place from the bottom. (Note: Don't glue it so you can come back later and adjust it if necessary.)

STOP BLOCK. The stop block is made from a small piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick hardwood, a $\frac{1}{4}$ " carriage bolt, a washer, and a knob (or wing nut), see inset drawing.

USING THE SLED. When cutting multiple pieces to the same length, I use a three-cut procedure. First, cut all of the pieces to rough length. Then cut a clean end on one end of each piece.

Next, tighten down the stop block so the distance from the block to the reference edge equals the desired length. Finally, position the clean end of each piece against the stop block and cut it to final length.