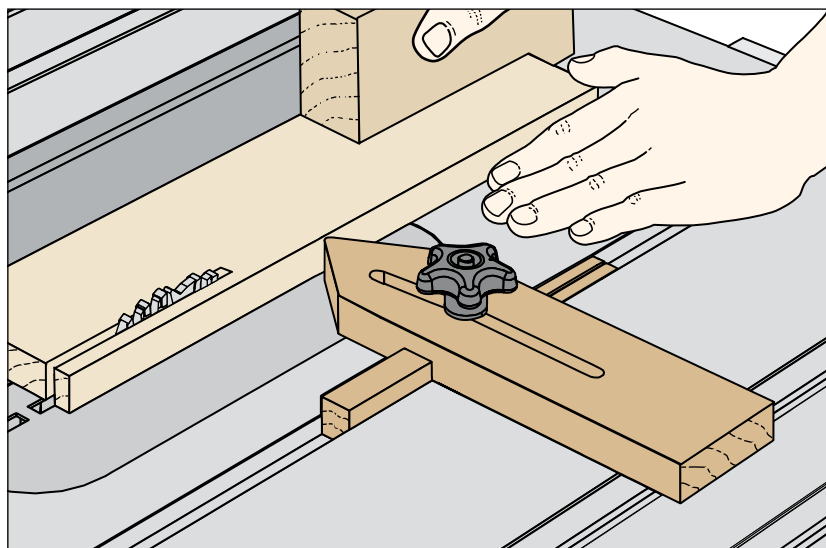


Thin Strip Ripping Jig



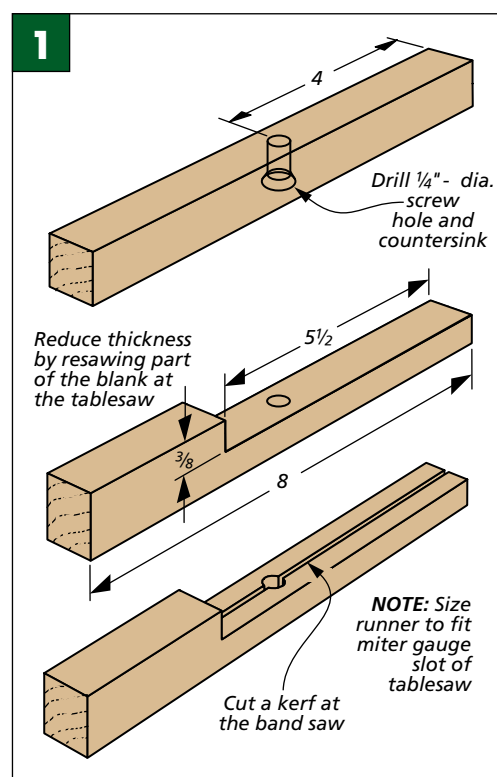
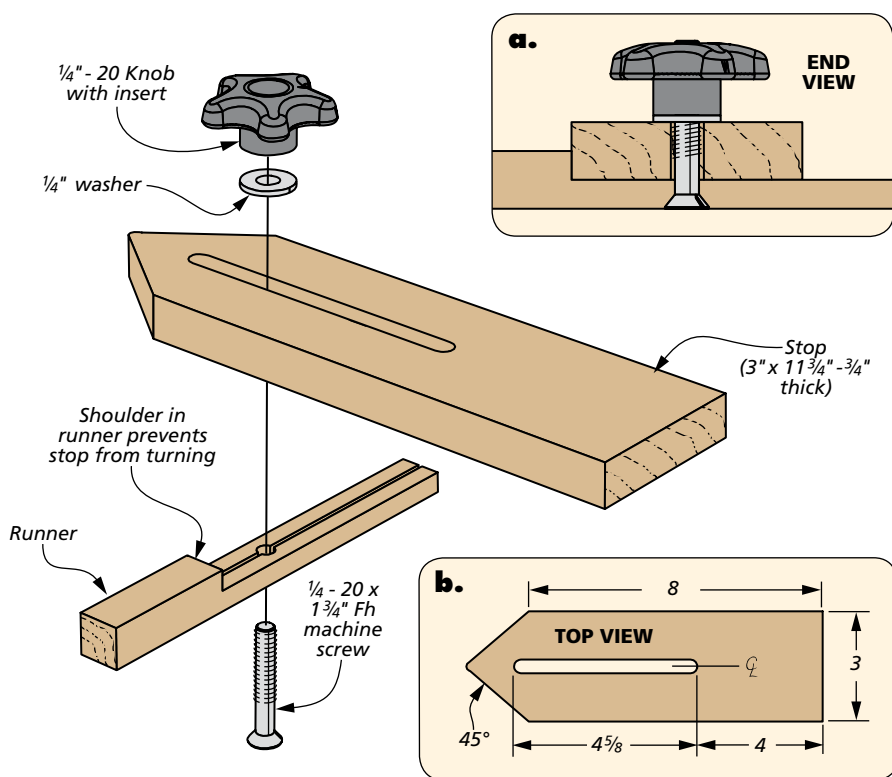
When it comes to cutting strips thinner than $\frac{1}{4}$ " , the conventional method of setting the rip fence for the width of the cut isn't always the safest method. Trapping the thin strip between the fence and the blade can result in the workpiece being kicked back at high speed. But moving the fence between cuts so the strip falls to the outside of the blade requires tedious measuring. It's also tough to maintain a consistent thickness of the strips. A safer

and more reliable way to cut the strips is to use the simple jig shown above.

THE JIG. The jig consists of an adjustable stop and a runner that fits in the miter gauge slot of your table saw. Measuring the distance from the outside of the blade to the end of the stop makes it easy to set the exact width of the cut. Tightening the knob locks the stop and the runner in the miter slot. With the jig in position in front of the blade, all you need to do is move

the fence until the workpiece touches the stop, then make the cut. This way, each strip will be the same thickness and the strips fall to the outside of the blade.

MAKING THE JIG. You can make the jig using hardwood scraps. Start by cutting the runner to length and width. Figure 1 shows the process for shaping the runner. It's stepped to hold the stop. This forms a shoulder that prevents the stop from swiveling when locked in place.



After drilling a countersunk hole on the underside for the machine screw, you can cut the runner to form the shoulder, you can. Finally, cut a kerf down the center. This allows the runner to expand when under pressure from the tapered head of the screw, locking it in position.

Now cut the stop to final length and width, as shown in detail 'b' on the opposite page. Then rout the groove in the stop for the screw. The step-by-step drawings

below walk you through this procedure. Notice that I routed the groove in two stages, first routing halfway through, then raising the bit and completing the groove. Finally, taper the front edge and sand the stop smooth.

You can now assemble the jig using the screw and knob. Then you're ready to move to the table saw and get started cutting thin strips.

