

Rip Fence Alignment

When a cut binds on a table saw, the problem can usually be traced to a misaligned rip fence.

To prevent binding, I like to adjust the fence so it's very slightly canted from the miter gauge slot. To make this easier, I use a simple alignment jig that rides in the miter gauge slot.

The jig is made from two pieces of scrap screwed together in a T-shape, with a small brass screw in one end (Fig. 1).

To align the fence, simply slide the jig to the front of the saw, move the fence in and lock it down (Fig. 1).

Now slide the jig to the far end and use a paper spacer to allow for a small gap (Fig. 2). This still allows for straight cuts, while reducing the chance of the workpiece binding between the blade and the fence.

