

Cutting Raised-Panel Doors

I was making a project that called for raised panel doors. Instead of a flat bevel around the raised field, I wanted to make a coved edge. Since I don't own a shaper, I came up with another method.

The technique I use is to nibble away the waste around the raised field by taking shallow cuts. To do this, I feed the panel into the blade at a 90° angle, similar to the method used for cutting covers on a table saw, as shown in the drawing. A simple fence clamped to the top of the table saw is used to guide the workpiece. Half of the blade is "buried" in the fence, leaving the other half exposed to create the raised panel.

Making the L-shaped fence is just a matter of gluing two pieces of hardwood together at right angles, as shown in detail 'a.' An 8'-long hard-

wood backing plate is glued over the top of the base at the center. Finally, a dado is cut down the center of the fence to create a clearance slot for the blade.

To use the fence, lower the saw blade fully and clamp the fence to the table at a right angle to the blade. (You can use the miter gauge for this.) The front edge of the fence should be positioned over arbor of the table saw.

Raise the blade 1/8" for the first pass. Hold the panel tight against the fence and flat on the saw table while feeding it into the blade. After cutting all four edges, raise the blade another 1/8" and repeat the process. By taking only shallow passes, you can safely create a raised panel with a smooth, coved edge.

