Jointing On a Table Saw

You don't need a jointer to get a straight, square edge on a board. An L-shaped auxiliary fence makes it easy to "joint" a board on a table saw (see Photo at right). The fence works on the same principle as a jointer. On a jointer, the workpiece is fed along an infeed table set slightly lower than the knives. As material is removed, the outfeed table, which is set flush with the knives, provides support for the workpiece.

Infeed & Outfeed Sides
To adapt this idea to the table saw, this fence also has an infeed and an outfeed side. The infeed side has a long, shallow recess cut in one edge. In use, this recessed edge is used to guide the workpiece into the saw blade (Photo 1). The outfeed edge of the fence (the full-width part) provides support for the workpiece after the cut is made (Photo 2).

A Quick Build
The auxiliary fence consists of two pieces of ¾ MDF that are screwed together (Assembly View). The vertical "leg" of the fence is used to clamp the assembly to the saw's rip fence. For jointing long pieces, I also made a support block for the infeed end of the table. Note: Attach it after you cut the infeed recess.

Cutting the Recess
To cut the infeed recess, you'll need to move the rip fence to the left side of the blade. Set the fence to make a cut that matches the exact thickness of a saw kerf. Then, making a single pass, cut the recess as shown in the Recess Detail on page 2. After the recess is cut, simply flip the assembly end-for-end to use it to joint the edge of a board.

Setup
To set up the fence, align the outfeed support of the fence with the outermost teeth on the saw blade (see Setup Detail). A framing square makes it easy.
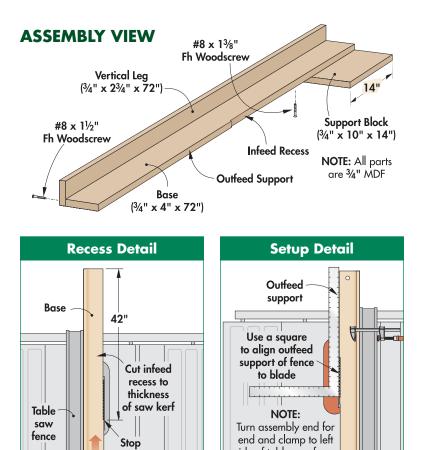

1

▲ The recessed infeed edge of the fence guides the workpiece into the blade.

2

▲ The full-width, outfeed portion of the fence supports the jointed edge.

Jointing On a Table Saw (cont.)

ASSEMBLY VIEW

#8 x 1⅜"
Fh Woodscrew

Vertical Leg
(¾" x 2¾" x 72")

#8 x 1½"
Fh Woodscrew

14"

Support Block
(¾" x 10" x 14")

Infeed Recess

NOTE: All parts
are ¾" MDF

Outfeed Support

Base
(¾" x 4" x 72")

Recess Detail

Base

42"

Cut infeed
recess to
thickness
of saw kerf

Table
saw
fence

Stop
cut here

Operator's end
of table saw

Setup Detail

Outfeed
support

Use a square
to align outfeed
support of fence
to blade

NOTE:
Turn assembly end for
end and clamp to left
side of table saw fence

Attach support
block