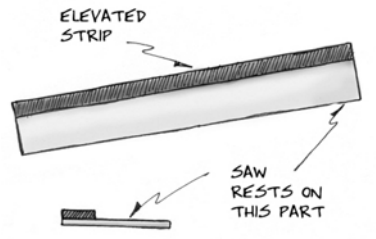
How Do You Make …

Circular Saw Guide

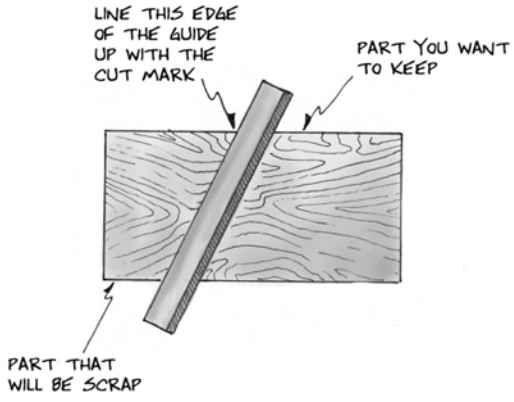
Most of the time you can free-hand with a circular saw, but on occasion it is nice to be able to work with more precision. In that case, you can use this shop-made *circular saw guide* to ensure a straight cut. Make exact cuts by lining up the edge of the guide with the line you would like to cut. A guide such as this is mentioned several times in the book.



USE TWO STRIPS OF PLYWOOD TO MAKE A CIRCULAR SAW GUIDE

The jig is very simple to make from a couple of strips of plywood. After assembly, run the saw down the channel and trim off the edge of the guide so that it is exactly the width of the saw table.

The kerf will fall to the outside of the guide, so it is generally best to line the jig up so that it is on top of the piece you will be keeping.



The guide must be firmly secured to the work. You can do this by clamping it down or by using drywall screws. The clamps are sometimes problematic when the saw motor doesn't have enough clearance to move over the tops of the clamps but the screws leave holes.

Make sure that the left side of the saw table stays securely against the thick part of the guide in order to make a straight cut. With a little practice, you can *plunge* the blade into the work in the middle of the plywood rather than starting from the edge. This will allow you to cut square holes in the center of a sheet of plywood or other shapes that do not continue all the way to the side of the sheet.

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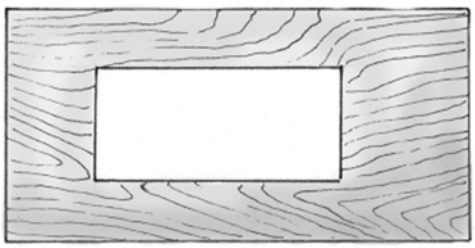

USE THE SAW GUIDE TO CUT
INSIDE CORNERS BY "PLUNGING"
THE SAW BLADE INTO THE WORK

You will need to have a different guide for each saw if the distance from the blade to the side of the table is not the same. Rotating the saw to an angle will make the guide just a bit smaller when you go to use it on a 90-degree cut. You can make similar guides to use with a router that will allow you to make really straight dado cuts with a straight-edged trimming bit.