



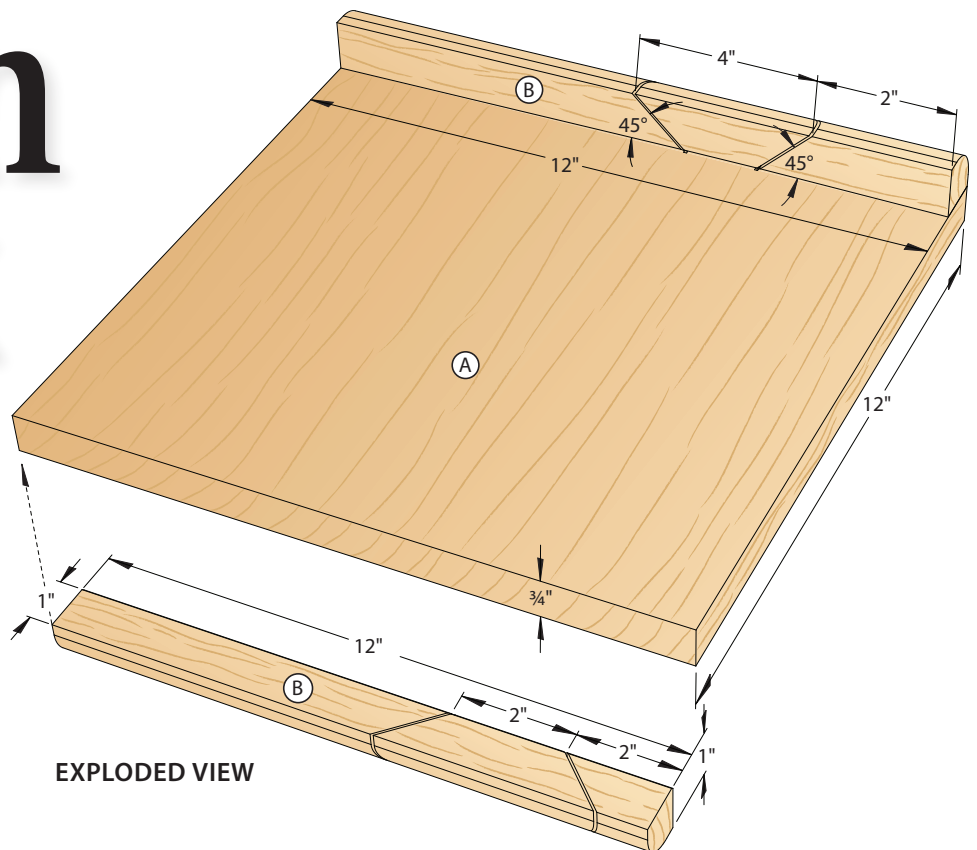
Small Parts Miter-Maker

Bench Hook

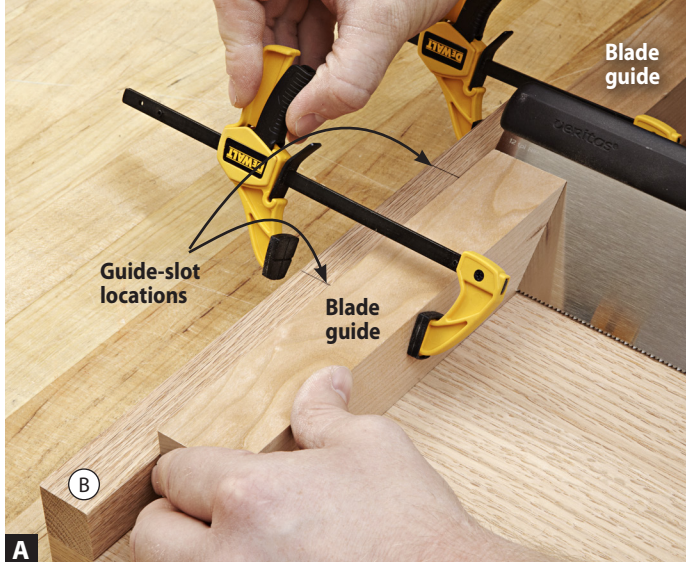
Cutting perfect miters in small project parts using a tablesaw or miter saw can be dicey. But with a handsaw and this bench-hook miter box, you'll cut those angles with ease.

As its name implies, this jig hooks over the edge of your workbench. You apply forward pressure with your non-cutting hand during the cut to keep it locked in place.

1 Edge-glue a $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick hardwood blank to 12" wide. Cut it to length for the bench hook's body (A) [Exploded View]. Cut two 12"-long 1x1" strips for the fences (B). Glue them to opposite ends and opposite faces of the body.

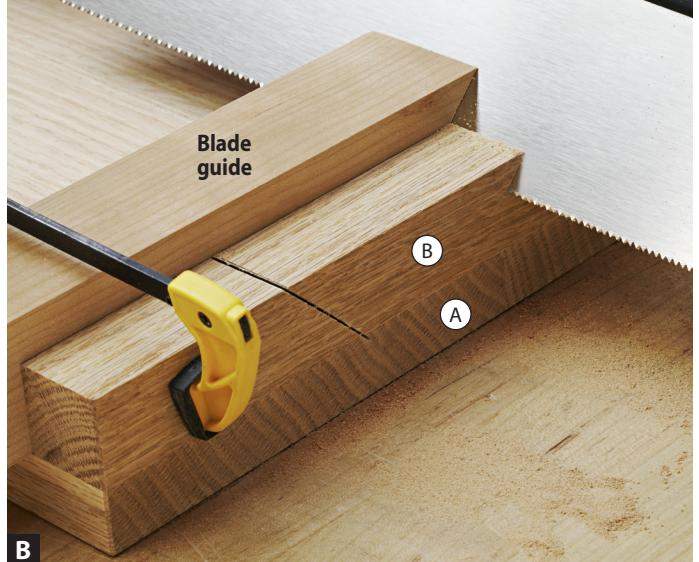


SANDWICH THE BLADE; THEN CUT THE FIRST GUIDE SLOT



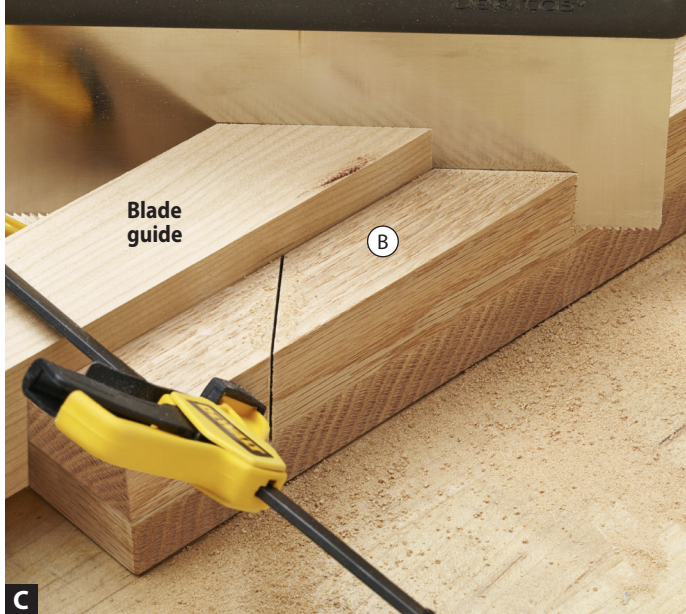
A Clamp one blade guide in line with a guide-slot location, then the other: surrounding, but not pinching, your saw's blade. Cut through the fence.

CUT THROUGH THE FENCE AGAIN



B Reposition the blade guides to the next marked guide slot and repeat, stopping before cutting into the body (A). Check to make sure the cut stays in line.

FLIP THE BASE; CUT THE OTHER FENCE



C Flip the bench hook over, turn the blade guide on its side, and clamp it to the uncut fence (B)—capturing the saw blade as before and making the cuts.

ROUND OVER FOR A RACIER LOOK



D Attach a piece of 1"-thick square scrap to the body (A) with double-faced tape to keep the bench hook parallel to the router table fence.

2 To cut precise guide slots (which capture your saw blade for accurate cuts) in the fences (B), first make a set of blade guides. To do this, use your table-saw or miter saw to make a 45° miter cut in the center of a 1½×1½×10" piece of scrap. Keep both pieces.

3 Mark the guide-slot locations on the fences (B). If you're right-handed, make the marks toward the right end of the fence; if you're left-handed, mark toward the left. This leaves room to grip the workpiece and fence during the cut.

4 You should make this bench hook to perfectly fit a specific saw, so first select a short backsaw (a handsaw with a stiff rib on the edge opposite the blade's teeth) with 14–22 teeth per inch. Follow the steps in **Photos A, B, and C** to cut the guide slots.

5 After cutting all four guide slots in the fences, install a ¾" round-over bit in your router table and rout the outside edges of the fences (B) using a scrap spacer [**Photo D**] to give the bench hook a polished

appearance. Be sure to note which saw the bench hook fits. 🌲

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More Resources

- ▶ For free help in learning the basics of choosing and using a handsaw, see woodmagazine.com/helpfulhandsaws.
- ▶ For free handsaw reviews, visit woodmagazine.com/handsawreview.