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Dave Campbell

Editorial Content Chief, WOOD magazine



Adobe Acrobat Reader Troubleshooting Guide

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realign your splines

A slight tilt of a saw blade gives your corner splines a whole new look.

t doesn't take
much work to
put a new spin
on traditional splined
miter joints. Just install
the splines at an angle,
as we did above on a
maple-and-walnut letter tray, and
you get eye-catching results.

First, make a simple splinecutting jig for your tablesaw, as shown at *right*. Then, mark three evenly spaced spline locations on a piece of scrap the same width as the tray side.

Install a blade in your tablesaw that produces the flattest possible kerf bottom. (We used an outside blade from our dado set.) Tilt the blade to 15°, and raise it so that it extends about halfway into the mitered corner. Set your jig against the tablesaw rip fence, place your marked scrap in the jig, and adjust the fence to cut a test slot. Now make the other slots, readjusting the fence between cuts.

When you're satisfied with the design, place clear packing tape around the workpiece corners to reduce chip-out. Hold the workpiece firmly in the jig, and cut as shown in **Photo A**. Cut the top slot in each corner, adjust the fence, cut all four middle slots, adjust again, and do the bottom slots. Remove the tape.

Rip spline stock from the edge of a board of contrasting stock, as shown in **Photo B**. Match its thickness to the kerf—usually ½". Then, cut individual splines from the strips, making them

slightly longer than the slots. Spread yellow glue on the splines, slip them into place, and let the glue dry. Trim them off at the surface with a flush-cutting saw, or use a dovetail saw followed by a chisel. Sand flush.

on back face

5⁄32" shank hole, countersunk



Double-check the orientation of your workpiece before cutting. Here we're holding the bottom of the tray to the left, so the slots will point downward.

By varying the number and placement of the splines, you can come up with other designs. You might try different saw blade angles, too.

45° bevels

Photographs: Hetherington Photography Illustration: Roxanne LeMoine

SPLINE-CUTTING JIG



If one pass won't produce enough spline stock, clamp a stop to the table before ripping. Slide the fence between cuts to set the board against the stop.

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