

How Important is Tablesaw Accuracy?

by Don Butler

What a temptation! Just go to the machine and assume checking for accuracy is unnecessary.

It may be right on, but it *can* drift. If you're just doing a cutoff, maybe it's OK, but if the task needs to be dead on, the accuracy check is required.

Let me show you what I mean.

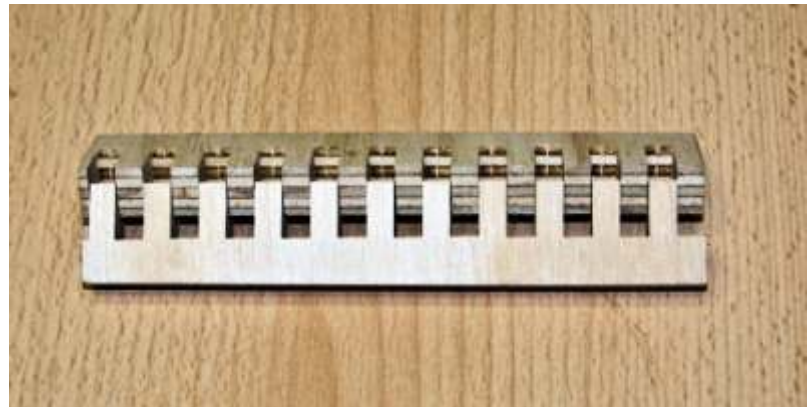


The finger joints in this photo are cut from one-half inch common construction plywood. Not sanded! Pretty clean cuts, right? So the first consideration in accuracy is the blade. It should be the right type for the work and it must be sharp.

The next thing is the relationship between the blade, the table and the tools used to guide the work through the saw. In this case a shop built finger joint jig was used. We won't belabor that point, it's been done. Very careful alignment should be done on the saw.

So how accurate are these workpieces in the photo? Do they fit? Do they line up?

Looks good so far, eh?
The fingers slip together not too tight and not too loose. But how good is the fit and alignment?



Yes! It fits and the partial fingers on the left are well aligned.

Getting cuts like this takes time and care, but, don't you agree? It's well worth the effort.

