



Using the Table Saw

The table saw is one of the most used tools in the shop, and can be configured for a variety of different cuts.

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Step 1 — Setting Up



- Eye protection is always required.
- No loose/baggy clothes, and no long sleeves, as they can get caught in the saw.
- Hearing protection is recommended.

Step 2 — Anatomy of the Saw Stop



- The Saw Stop is a solution to the cutting danger of the table saw.
- This cartridge sends a small current through the blade, which when interrupted, either by metal or skin, triggers a compressed spring which launches the piece of aluminum and catches the blade.
- The Saw Stop, while a great piece of safety, does not mean you treat the table saw with any less respect. Parts fail, and if you aren't careful with the table saw you could seriously hurt yourself.

Step 3 — Parts of the Table Saw



- Fence
 - Use to keep your workpiece stable during cut and to cut at exact measurement
- Riving Knife
 - Keeps workpiece from pinching the blade to prevent kickback
- Push Sticks
 - Let you handle the workpiece without endangering yourself, should always be used on a close cut
- Height Adjustment
 - Changes the height of the blade

Step 4 — Preparing to Cut



- Ensure the right blade is installed.
- Adjust the height so the bottom of the tooth sits just on top of the workpiece.
- Turn on the filter.

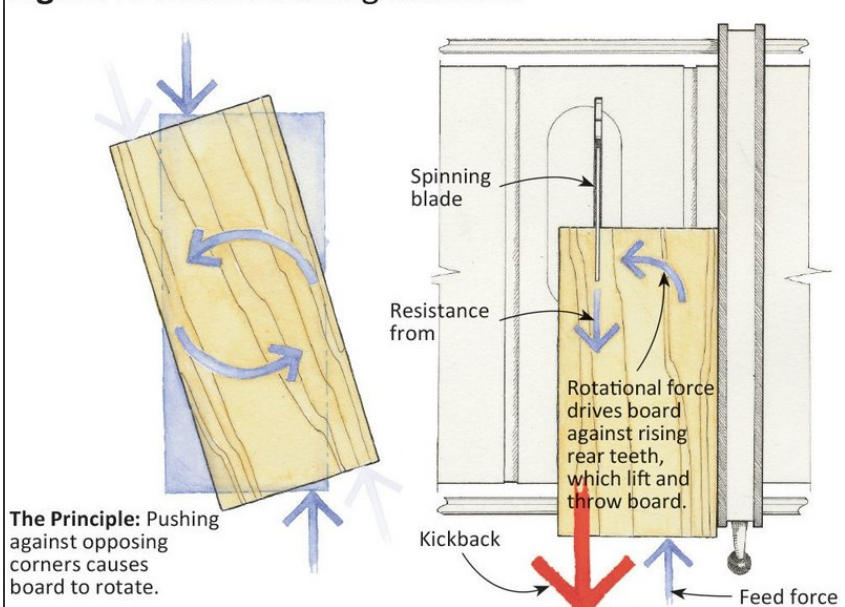
Step 5 — Making a Cut



- Run the workpiece at an even speed through the saw.
- Move hands and work holders in a safe manner to keep firm and even pressure along table and along fence.

Step 6 — Kickback

Figure 1: Understanding Kickback



- With the SawStop, the risk of cutting yourself has diminished, but you can still significantly hurt yourself through kickback.
- Kickback happens when the wood pinches the saw blade. The blade holds onto the wood and sends it shooting back (towards you).
- Pinching happens when too much rotational force or lateral force is applied to the workpiece. You should apply only enough lateral force to keep the workpiece against the fence.

Step 7 — Avoiding Kickback



- Thankfully, we can usually pretty easily avoid having a piece of wood shot at us.
 - Firstly, don't stand directly behind the piece. Stand off to the side as much as possible, which allows you to get out of the way or at least only take a glancing hit.
 - Secondly, the riving knife keeps the wood separated as it passes the blade, preventing pinching.
 - On a crosscut, where you don't use the fence, kickback is far more likely. Use a sled.