

miter saw

Fence Risers



These simple platforms will work with any benchtop and provide side support and raise the fences even with your miter saw's table.

■ The miter saw fence system shown in *ShopNotes* No. 98 is a great way to add accuracy and extend the capabilities of your miter saw. It was designed for a worksurface with the miter saw mounted to an adjacent recessed shelf. However, you can still take advantage of the fence system even if you don't have this same setup.

The solution is to attach each fence section to a small riser, as you can see

in the photo above. Besides bringing the fence up to the level of the saw's table, the large platforms act as side supports when working with long stock. The risers mount in a line of dog holes and let you configure the system any way you wish.

Saw Platform. The key to making this setup work is having the saw and fence sections mount quickly and easily to the benchtop. To do this, I attached my miter saw

to a plywood platform, as shown in the drawing on the next page. Two expanding posts in the platform allow you to lock it into the row of dog holes in your worksurface.

The important thing to note when making the saw platform is locating the expanding posts. The riser platforms are designed to fit in dog holes that are drilled 8" on center. You can see this in the drawing on the next page. So you need

to make sure the posts in the platform will match this spacing, as well.

Drilling the Holes. You'll notice the posts in the platforms are 16" on center. And as I just mentioned, the holes in the worksurface are on 8" centers. This arrangement gives you greater flexibility when positioning the fences. The instructions found on page 35 of the magazine will step you through the process for drilling the holes in the benchtop.

Sizing the Risers. With the saw attached to the platform, the next step is

to build the risers for the fence sections. Details 'a' and 'b' give you a good idea of how everything is assembled.

There is one thing I want to point out about the risers. You'll need to size the width (height) of the legs so the top of the platform is flush with the saw table.

Adding the Fences. The fence sections are identical to the plans found in the magazine — with one exception. The fence base is simply screwed to the platform, as in detail 'b.' So you don't need to drill the post holes in the base

and back. The posts are located in the riser feet, as you can see in detail 'a.'

Once the fences are installed, you can check the alignment with the miter saw fence. Here again, the process shown in the magazine will guide you through the steps. 

