

Tips for Your Shop

Pull-Out Storage Case

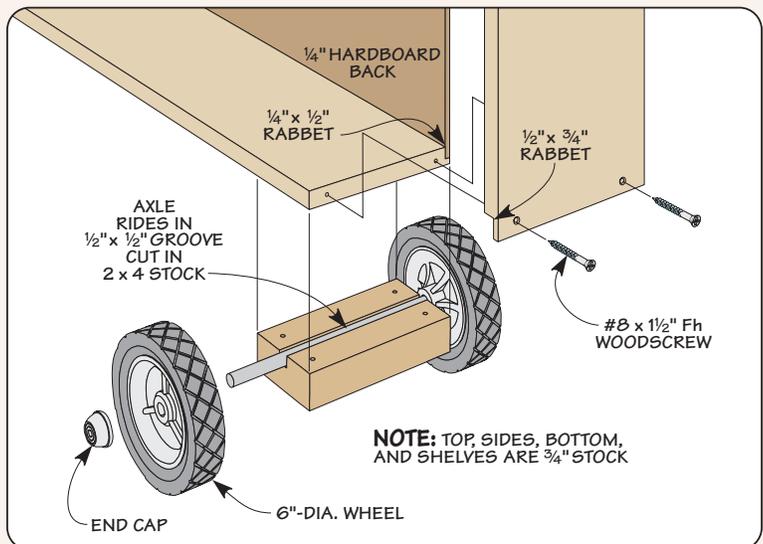
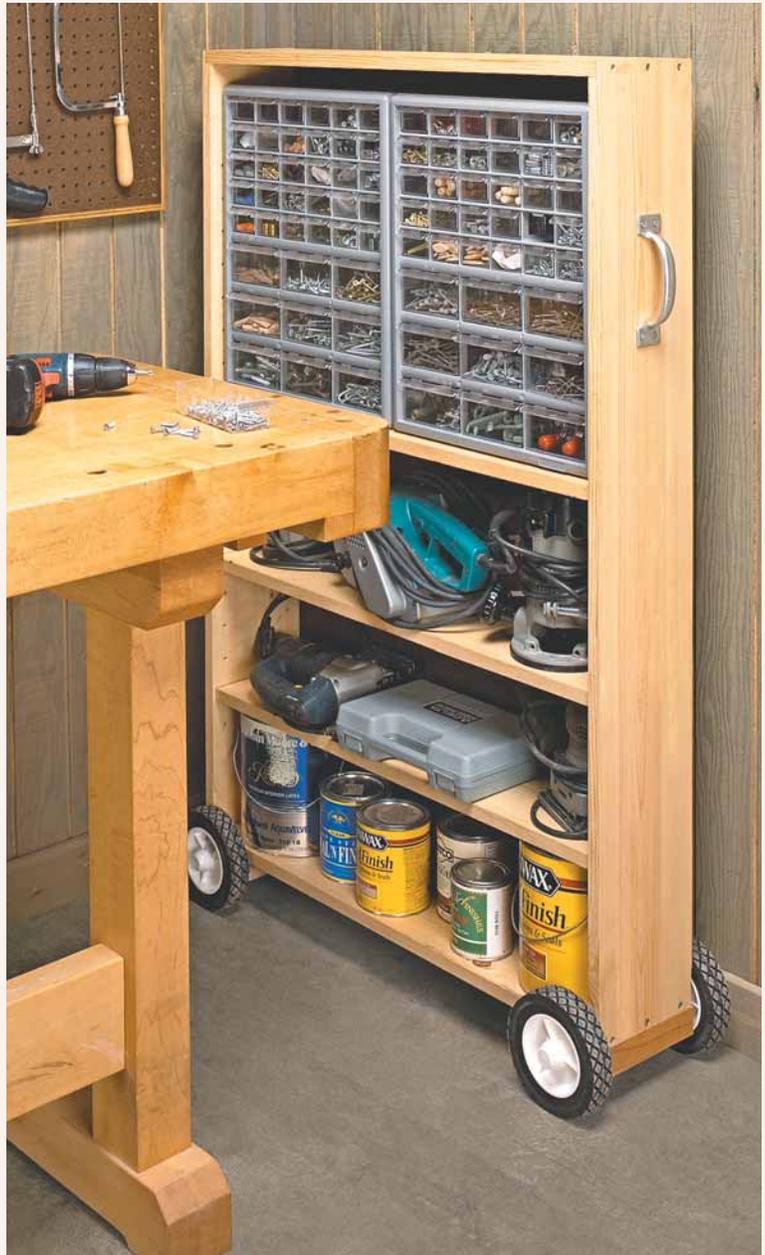
I never seem to have enough storage space in my shop. This is especially the case when it comes to screws, fasteners, and other odds and ends. Things I need close at hand but don't use every day.

So, to store these and other small items, I built a pull-out storage case, like you see in the photo at right. The case is large enough to hold a couple of small plastic storage cabinets with lots of drawers (the kind you find at hardware stores and home centers). I also added a few shelves to store larger supplies.

Since I wanted to be able to move the case, I placed it on wheels (see inset at right). A handle attached to the side lets me simply pull the storage case out to quickly get what I need and then push it back out of the way again.

The case fits nicely against the wall next to my workbench. It worked so well that I built a couple more cases and positioned them next to one another. Now I have lots of storage in a space that would have gone to waste.

*Arnold Johnsen
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ShopNotes®

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ShopNotes® (ISSN 1062-9696) is published bimonthly (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.) by August Home Publishing, 2200 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312.

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Subscriptions: Single copy: \$4.95. One year subscription (6 issues): \$27.95.

Canada/International add \$10 per year, U.S. funds.

Canadian Subscriptions: Canada Post Agreement Number 40038201.

Send change of address information and blocks of undeliverable copies to

P.O. Box 881, Station Main, Markham, ON L3P 8M6.

Canada BN 84597 5473 RT

Postmaster: Send change of address to ShopNotes, P.O. Box 37103, Boone, IA 50037-2103.

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AUGUST HOME
PUBLISHING COMPANY

Printed in U.S.A.

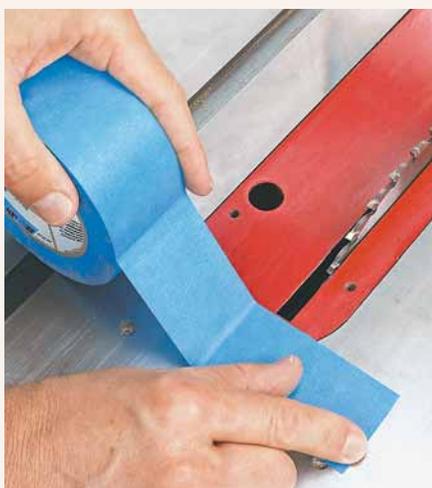
Miter Gauge Alignment Mark

Whenever I need to cut a number of pieces using the miter gauge on my table saw, I find that I often spend quite a bit of time between cuts aligning the blade with my cut marks. So to speed up the process and still make accurate cuts, I applied a mark to my saw table to help me quickly line up these cuts.

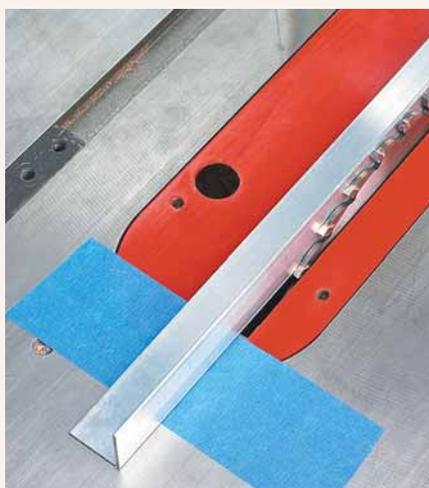
I didn't want a permanent mark on the table of my saw, so I used a piece of blue painter's tape as my marker. The tape is easy to see and can be quickly removed without leaving any sticky residue on the saw table.

First, I laid an extra-long strip of tape about 2" in front of the blade (left photo below). I wanted the edge of the tape aligned with the teeth of the blade, so I used a long piece of aluminum angle to butt up against several of the teeth (right photo). Next, cut along the straightedge and remove the left side of the tape (lower left photo). Then just align the mark on the workpiece with the left edge of the tape and make the cut, like you see in the lower right photo.

*Len Urban
Rancho Mirage, California*



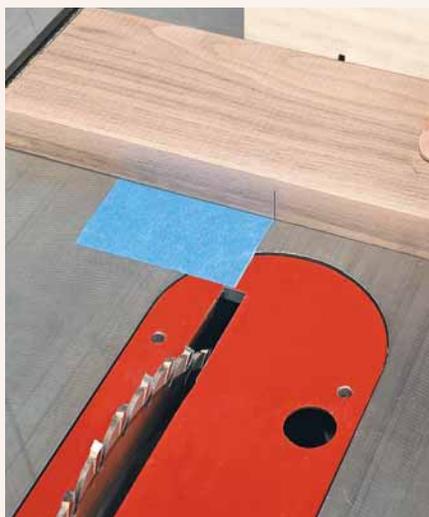
▲ **Apply the Tape.** First, apply a piece of painter's tape across the top of the saw table a couple inches in front of the blade of the saw.



▲ **Choose A Straightedge.** The straightedge should have enough height and length to butt up against several teeth on the saw blade.



▲ **Trim Along the Straightedge.** With the straightedge lined up against the blade, cut a line through the tape, and remove the piece on the left.



▲ **Line Up the Cut.** Then, all you need to do to make a quick and accurate cut is simply align the layout line on the workpiece with the left edge of the tape.