

# OUTFEED SUPPORT



# TABLE SAW OUTFEED SUPPORT

*This addition to your table saw takes the hassle out of cutting long boards and sheet goods. And it stores away easily when you're done.*



**A**dding an outfeed support to your table saw is like gaining an extra pair of hands in the shop. It provides sturdy support for your workpiece whether you're ripping a long board or cutting plywood down to size.

The outfeed support shown in the photo provides this plus a few

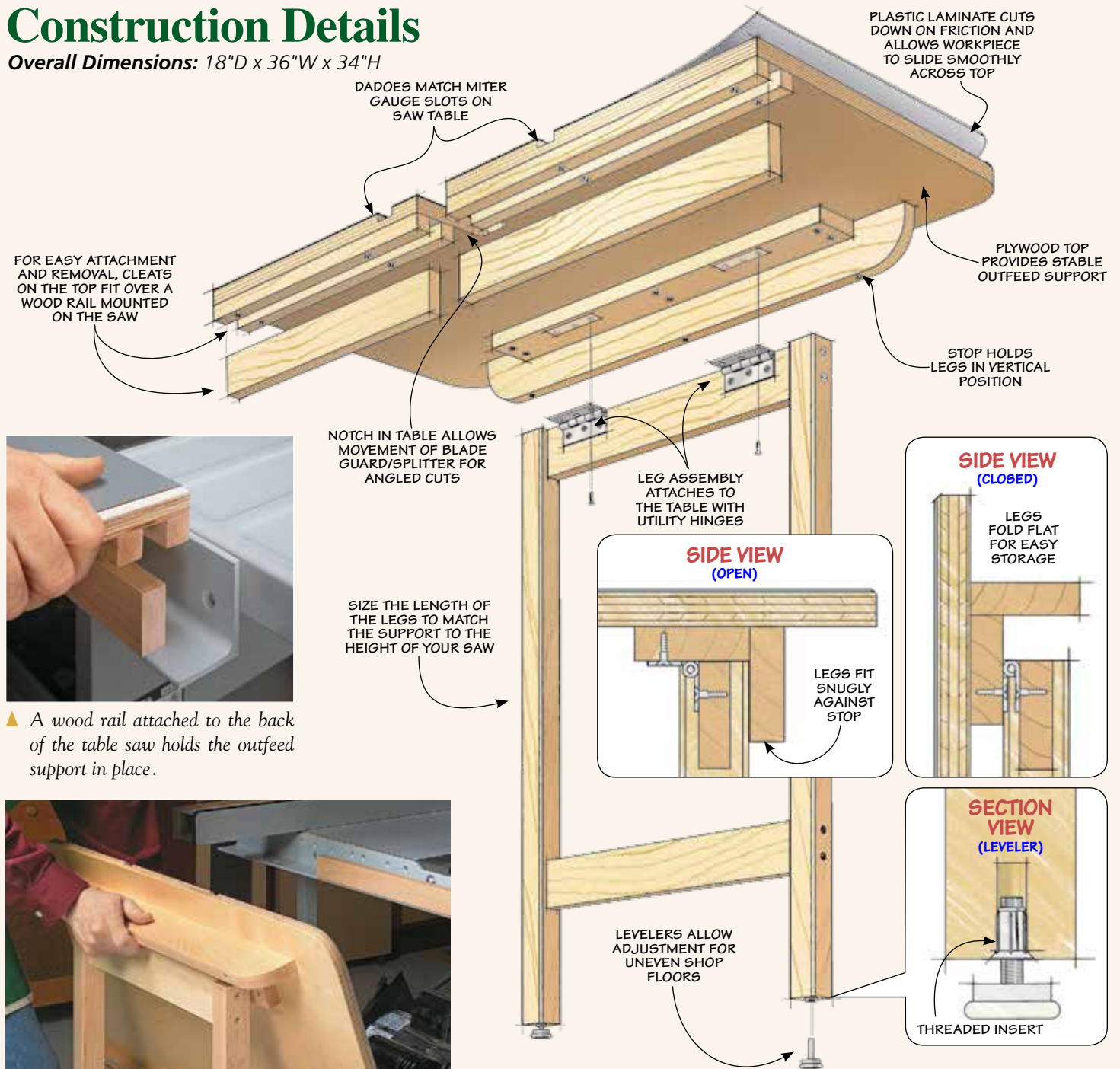
key features. For instance, slots in the top allow you to use your miter gauge without removing it.

A leveler at the end of each leg lets you make fine height adjustments. This means you can align the top to your saw table to compensate for any unevenness in the floor of your shop.

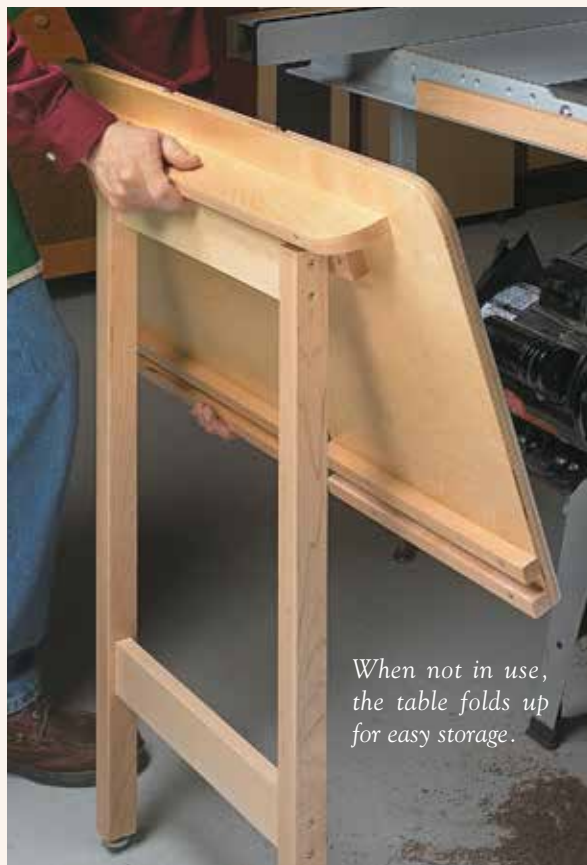
To connect the outfeed support to your table saw, cleats hook over a wood rail on the back rail of the saw. (I've included mounting options for the two most common types of fence arrangements.) And since the legs fold up, the support table can be quickly removed and hung on the wall for storage.

# Construction Details

Overall Dimensions: 18"D x 36"W x 34"H



▲ A wood rail attached to the back of the table saw holds the outfeed support in place.



### MATERIALS

A	Top (1)	18 x 36 - 3/4 Ply.
B	Hinge Plate (1)	3/4 x 2 1/2 - 22
C	Leg Stop (1)	3/4 x 2 1/2 - 28
D	Front Cleats (4)	3/4 x 3/4 - 17
E	Legs (2)	1 1/2 x 1 1/2 - 36 (Rough)
F	Stretchers (2)	3/4 x 2 1/2 - 16 1/2
G	Saw Rail (2)	3/4 x 2 - 18

- (1) 18" x 36" Plastic Laminate
- (2) 3" Utility Hinges with Screws
- (2) Leveling Feet
- (2) 5/16" Threaded Inserts
- (11) #8 x 3" Fh Woodscrews
- (14) #8 x 1 1/4" Fh Woodscrews

## Building the Support

An outfeed support should be stable enough and large enough to catch a workpiece as it slides off the saw. And this design fills the bill on both counts. The folding leg assembly and solid connection to the table saw provide a strong base. And with the 18" by 36" top, you'll have plenty of worksurface.

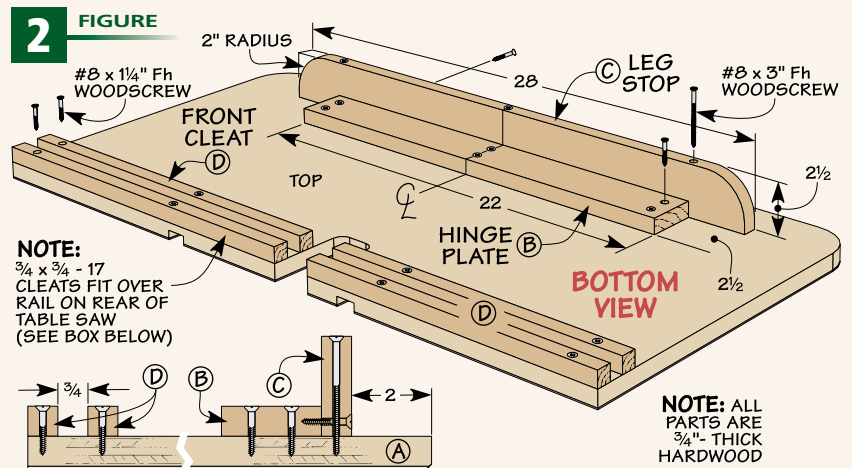
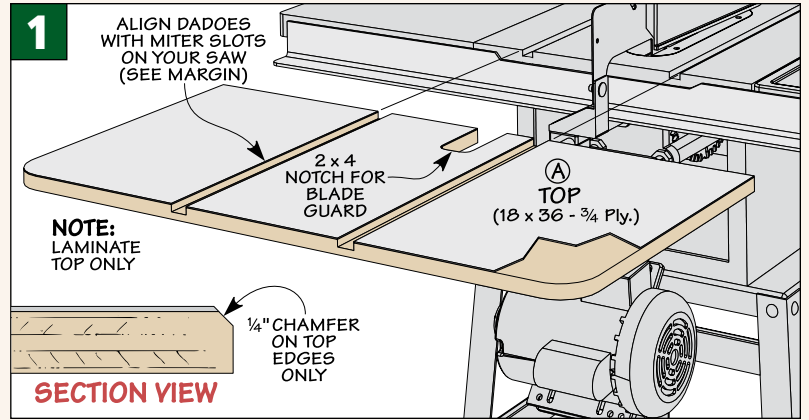
**TABLE TOP.** I used  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood for the top because it's flat, inexpensive, and resists warping. And by adding laminate, you get the extra benefit of a low-friction surface.

You can start by cutting the top to size and rounding off the back corners. I also cut a notch on the front edge of the table for the blade guard (see the box below).

Next, I glued on an oversized piece of laminate and trimmed the edges with a router and a flush trim bit. The laminate creates a durable surface for the table.

**TOP DADOES.** To complete the table top, you'll need to cut a couple of dadoes. Align these slightly oversized dadoes to match the miter slots on your table saw so the miter gauge has clearance as you make a cut, as shown in the left margin photo.

**LEG STOP.** Now turn the top over and add hardwood support pieces to



hold the legs. I started by attaching a leg stop to help stabilize the legs and keep them properly positioned while the table is being used. This stop is just a piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick hardwood that's screwed to the top.

**HINGE PLATE.** The next step is to add a mounting plate for the leg assembly. Simply center the hinge plate along the inside edge of the leg stop and attach it with screws, as you see in Figure 2.

▲ A dado slightly wider than the miter slot provides clearance for the miter gauge bar.

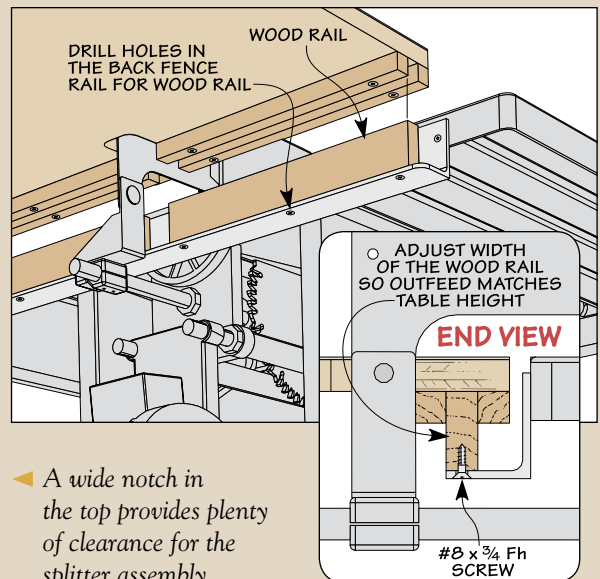
## NOTCH & ATTACHMENT

There are a couple things that can make adding an outfeed support a little tricky. First, you'll need to provide clearance for the blade guard/splitter assembly. As you can see in the photo, I cut a 2"-wide slot 4" deep to accommodate the splitter angled to 45°.

The second challenge is mounting the outfeed support to your saw. On many saws, there's a steel fence rail running along the back edge. In this case, it's just a matter of drilling a few holes in the rail and attaching a wood rail with screws.

The drawings at right show how the cleats on the outfeed

support fit over the rail to hold the support in place. You can simply adjust the width of the rail until the top is level. If your saw has tube-style fence rails, take a look at the next page for an alternate mounting method.



## LEG ASSEMBLY

A simple leg assembly holds the back of the outfeed support. The legs are connected by a pair of stretchers. And the top stretcher attaches the legs to the hinge plate.

**LEGS.** The legs are cut from 1½"-thick stock. You'll need to size the length of the legs to fit your saw. To do this, just measure from the floor to the top of your saw. Then subtract 2½" to determine the length of the legs. (The 2½" accounts for the thickness of the top, the hinge plate, and the leg levelers.)

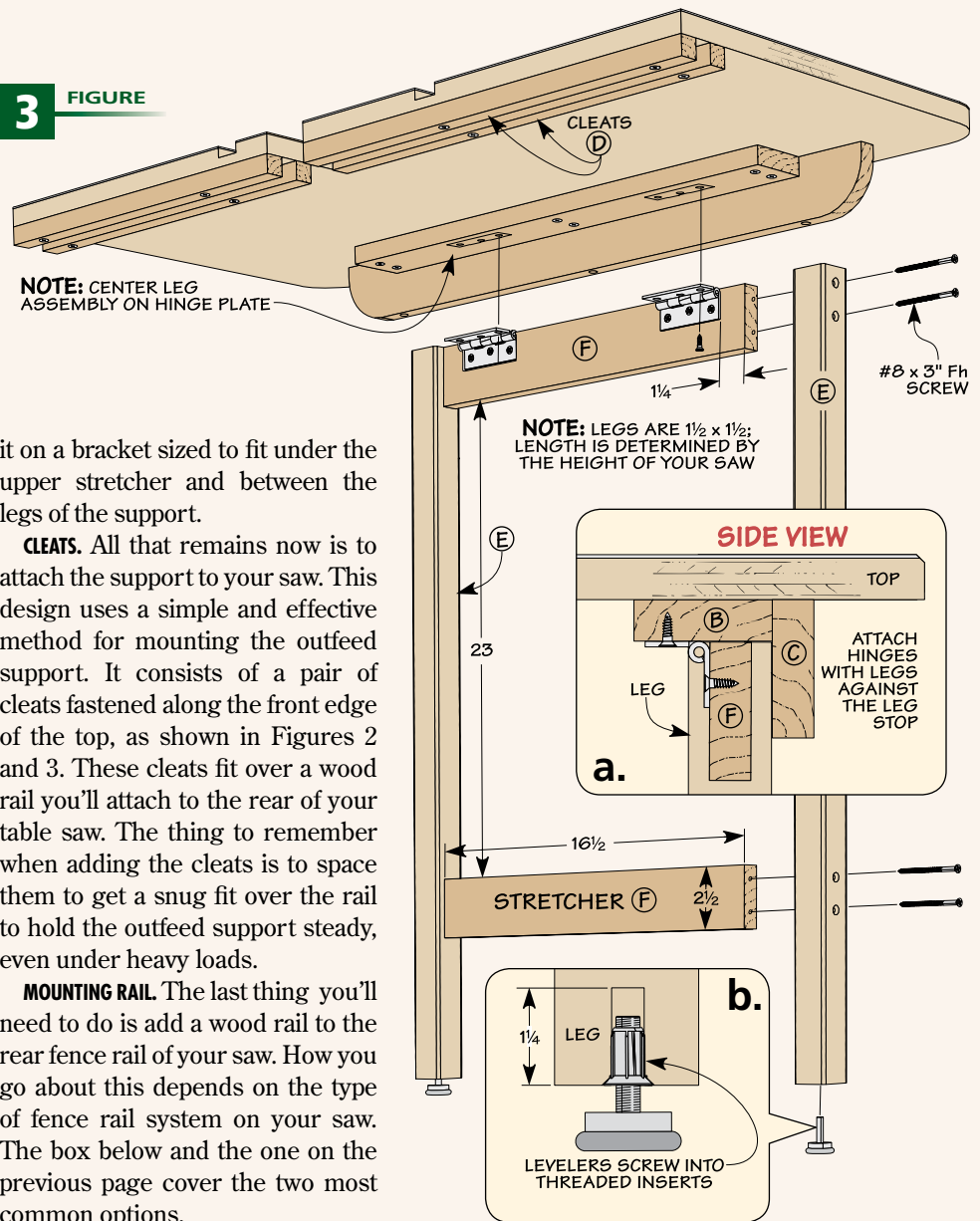
After cutting each leg to length, I drilled a hole for the threaded insert that holds the leveler in the bottom of the leg. Then, you can soften the edges at the router table with a ⅛" roundover bit.

**STRETCHERS.** To add strength to the assembly and prevent racking, I connected the legs with a pair of stretchers. After cutting the stretchers to size, you can attach them with long screws, as shown in Figure 3.

The next step is to fasten the legs to the top. To do this, first screw the hinges to the top stretcher, then to the hinge plate on the table. This is shown in detail 'a.'

Now the legs can be folded up for storage. You can easily hang the outfeed support on a wall. Just hook

## 3 FIGURE



it on a bracket sized to fit under the upper stretcher and between the legs of the support.

**CLEATS.** All that remains now is to attach the support to your saw. This design uses a simple and effective method for mounting the outfeed support. It consists of a pair of cleats fastened along the front edge of the top, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. These cleats fit over a wood rail you'll attach to the rear of your table saw. The thing to remember when adding the cleats is to space them to get a snug fit over the rail to hold the outfeed support steady, even under heavy loads.

**MOUNTING RAIL.** The last thing you'll need to do is add a wood rail to the rear fence rail of your saw. How you go about this depends on the type of fence rail system on your saw. The box below and the one on the previous page cover the two most common options.

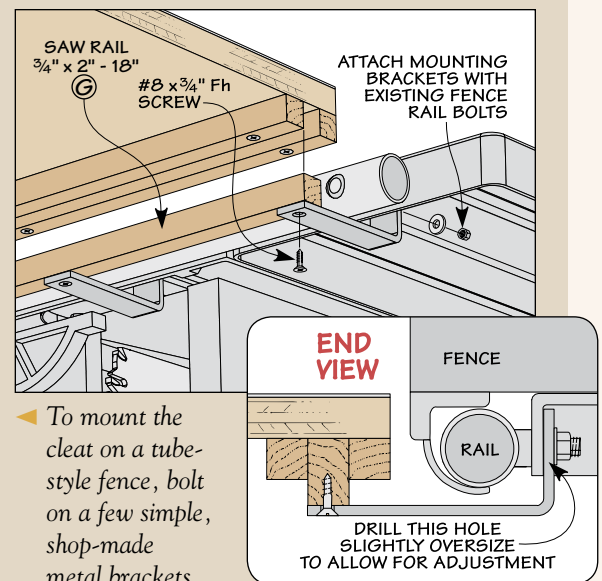
## TUBE-STYLE ATTACHMENT

Attaching the outfeed support to a saw with tube-style rails presents a real challenge. You can't fasten anything to the tube without interfering with the movement of the fence. So, the first step is to add metal brackets to the saw. They'll hold the saw rail that attaches to the outfeed support. You should add a bracket to each bolt that holds the tube to the saw.

To make the metal brackets, I used 1"-wide strips of ⅜"-thick steel. I started by cutting the steel strips to length (about 6½") and drilling holes for the mounting bolts. Then, I made the 90° bend in the steel by

securing the piece upright in a vise and pounding it over flat.

Now it's just a matter of drilling holes and attaching the saw rails using screws (drawings at right).



▶ To mount the cleat on a tube-style fence, bolt on a few simple, shop-made metal brackets.

**MAIL  
ORDER  
SOURCES**

Woodsmith Store  
800-444-7527

McMaster-Carr  
630-833-0300  
mcmaster.com

Wilsonart  
800-433-3222  
wilsonart.com

## Project Sources

The table saw outfeed support is a handy project for any workshop. And the nice thing is it doesn't take long to build and won't set you back much for the required materials and hardware.

I was able to pick up the hinges, woodscrews, and plastic laminate (*Wilsonart* D90-60) at a local home center. You should be able to pick up the steel flat stock for making brackets for a tube-style fence there as well. Finally, I ordered the leveling feet (62805K33) and threaded inserts (90016A030) from *McMaster-Carr*.