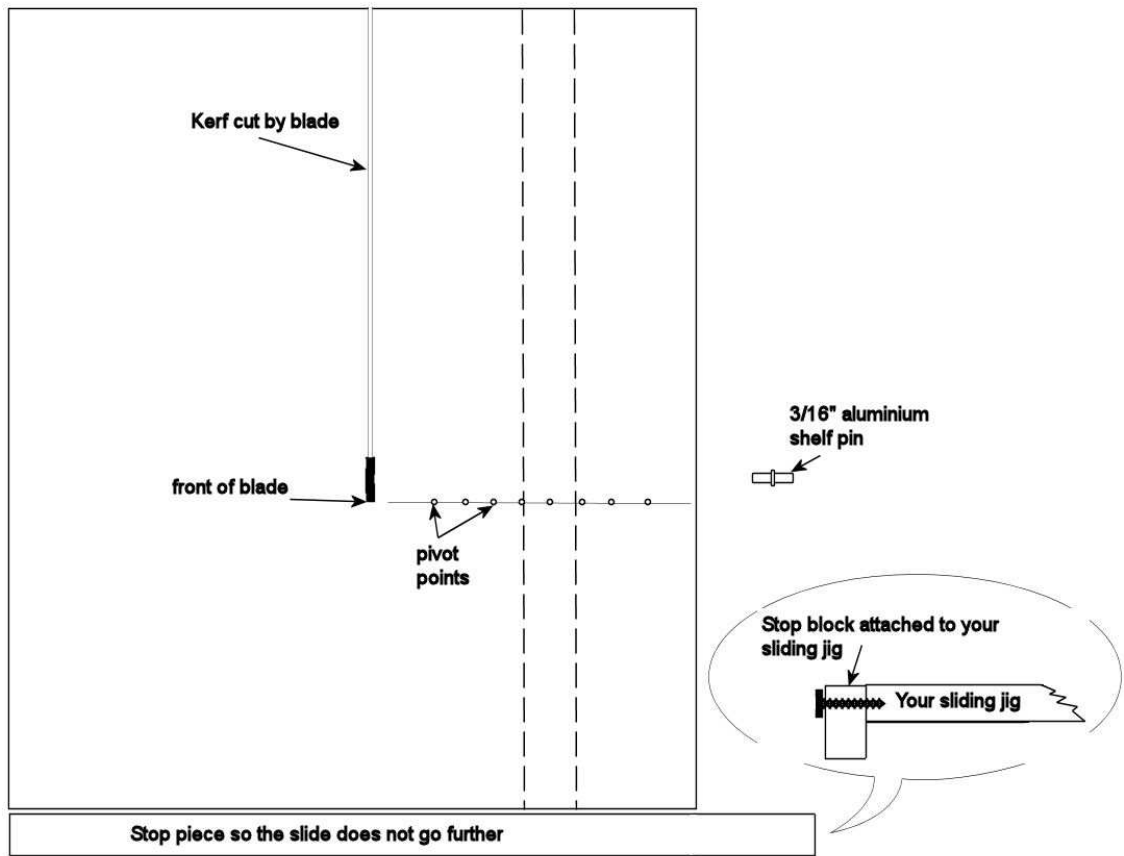
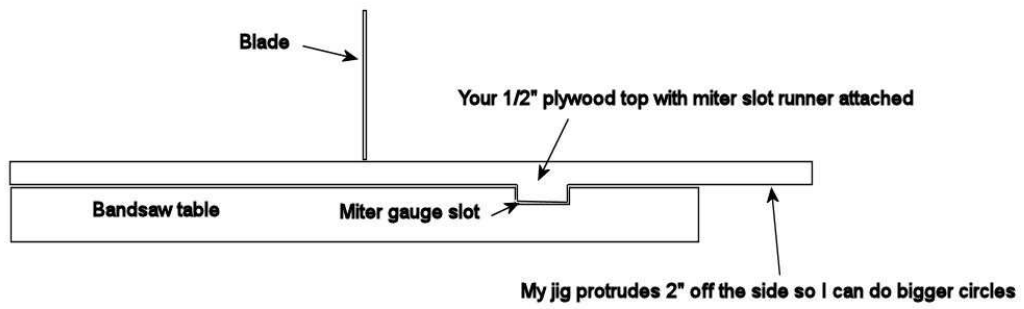


Band saw Circle Cutting Jig

- remove the blade from the band saw
-
- get a piece of 1/2" or so plywood that will sit on the table squarely. I cut mine so that it protrudes about 2" off the side of the table
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- cut a wood runner that will sit in the miter gauge slot of your table, same width and height.
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- lay a thread of glue on the runner and press the plywood down onto it. You want the plywood to adhere to the runner so that it can be slid across the table.
-
- I drill 2 small holes in which I insert 2 finishing nails through the plywood and the runner. Be extra careful not to drill through the band saw table. These are just markers so anywhere will do.
-
- remove the now joined plywood/runner and drill a couple of holes into which you can insert some short wood screws to better hold the runner in place.
-
- put this sliding jig back onto the band saw table and verify that it slides nicely.
-
- cut, position and screw and glue a block to stop the jig from going past the front of the band saw table.
-
- remove the jig and put the blade back into the saw - once all adjustments have been made and all safety steps followed, turn on the saw and slide the jig into the blade as far as the stop block will allow
-
- shut off the saw and remove the jig
-
- using a square, draw a line 90 degrees to the front blade cut out to your right to the edge of the jig
-
- along this line, mark off some points. I have mine every 1/2". These will be the pivot points. Remember that a pivot 1/2" from the blade will yield a 1" circle when cut. I started mine off at the 2" mark because realistically, a 4" circle is as small as I can cut with a 1/2" blade and even that is tight.
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- with the jig off the saw, drill out the pivot points. I drilled mine out 3/16" so I can use a 3/16" aluminum shelf pin.
-
- the jig is done

To use, I take my log and mark on the flattest side where I want my centre to be. I drill a small 1/4" deep hole with a 3/16" bit and insert the shelf pin in the hole. Pull out the jig a bit. Flip the log over and insert the pin in one of the holes. Start the band saw and slowly slide the jig forward, cutting into the wood, until the jig will go no further because of the stop piece at the front. Gently rotate the log until you have cut out a circle.

Wet wood sometimes will curve back on itself as you are cutting and this will cause the kerf to close and sometimes bind the blade. One way around that is to take a small scrap and wedge it into the kerf to keep it from closing further.



Bandsaw Circle Cutting Jig