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Router Straightedge Jig

In this plan you will be getting:

- Step by Step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Exploded view and elevation drawings.
- How-to photos with instructive captions.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.



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Router Straightedge Jig

What's the easiest way to trim the edges of a plywood panel straight? With a router, straightedge and straight bit, of course. Our version of the old standby straight-edge jig features a T-track that makes it even more versatile and hard working. This jig also breezes through rabbets, dados and grooves. It's a "must-build" for your shop.



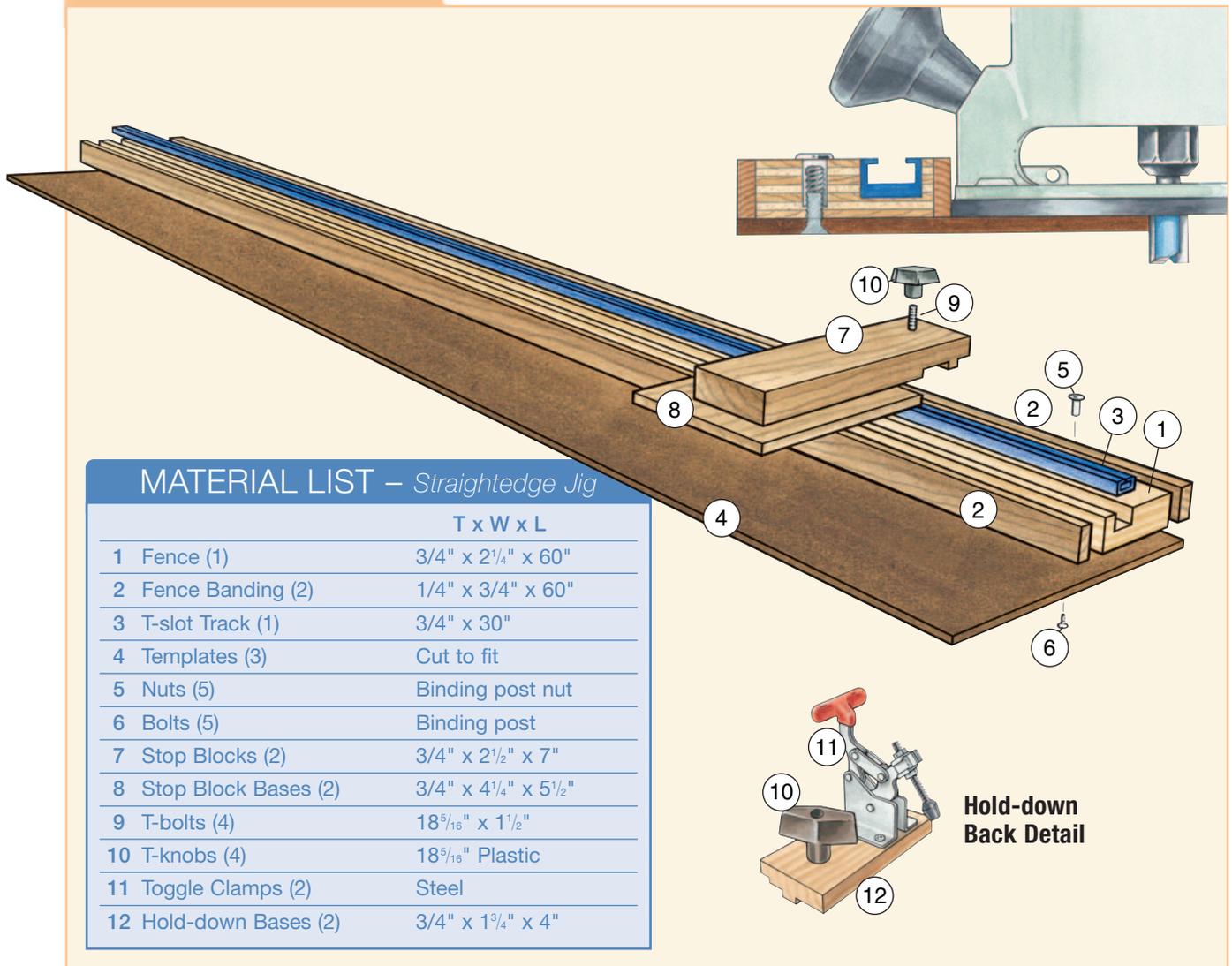
Here's a slick jig to have handy whenever you need to straighten a rough edge or plow a groove. It's actually multi-use straightedge, designed to custom-fit to your portable router. The router runs along its fence, and that guides a straight bit along a hardboard template attached to the bottom of the fence. Whenever you need to make

a cut, just line up the edge of the template with your trim line on the workpiece. You'll never have to go through the old measure-and-clamp routine again. The jig also performs a bonus task on the table saw—more on that later.

The heart of the jig is a straight, jointed plywood fence (piece 1). Seal this along its two ripped edges with strips of solid hardwood banding (pieces 2). Then plow a groove in the top to house an aluminum T-slot track (piece 2).

Cut one 1/4" hardboard template blank for each straight bit you own. Each of these templates (pieces 4) should be 7" wide to begin with. Attach the first template to the bottom of the jig with bolts and nuts (pieces 5 and 6), then install your largest-diameter straight bit in your portable router. Run the router along the fence so it trims the template to size. Use a permanent marker to note the bit size on the template, then chuck the next largest bit in the router. Bolt on a new template

Straightedge Jig Exploded View



MATERIAL LIST – Straightedge Jig

	T x W x L
1 Fence (1)	3/4" x 2 1/4" x 60"
2 Fence Banding (2)	1/4" x 3/4" x 60"
3 T-slot Track (1)	3/4" x 30"
4 Templates (3)	Cut to fit
5 Nuts (5)	Binding post nut
6 Bolts (5)	Binding post
7 Stop Blocks (2)	3/4" x 2 1/2" x 7"
8 Stop Block Bases (2)	3/4" x 4 1/4" x 5 1/2"
9 T-bolts (4)	18 5/16" x 1 1/2"
10 T-knobs (4)	18 5/16" Plastic
11 Toggle Clamps (2)	Steel
12 Hold-down Bases (2)	3/4" x 1 3/4" x 4"

piece, and repeat the process until you have individual, marked templates for each of your commonly used bits.

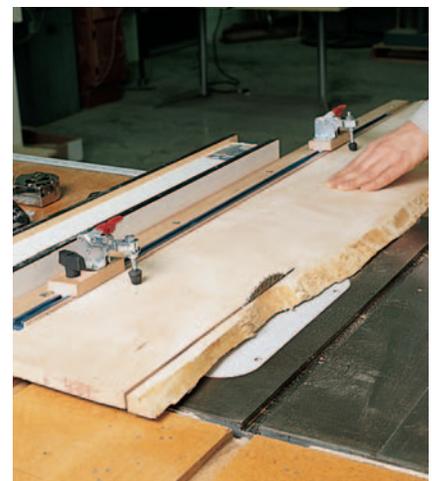
If you stop building this jig right now, you can make any straight trim cut, through groove, rabbet or dado you want with this jig. To tackle stopped cuts, just add a pair of adjustable stops to limit the router's travel.

The adjustable stops are simply short lengths of stock (pieces 7), each of which is attached to a base (piece 8) with glue and clamps. These bases need to be a little wider than the stops, so they won't interfere with the router's travel (otherwise, the machine's handles

might hit the stops). The wide bases also keep the stops aligned at 90° to the fence.

The stops are secured to the jig with T-bolts and knobs (pieces 9 and 10), which make them adjustable along the entire fence length.

Earlier, we mentioned a bonus function of this jig, and here it is: By attaching a couple of toggle clamps (pieces 11) to a spare set of hold-down bases (pieces 12), you can use the jig to straighten the edges of rough boards. Clamp the stock to the jig and run the jig along your table saw fence to slice off the bad edge. Simple.



The hold-down option on this jig allows you to slice straight edges on rough stock without fear of binding or kickback.