A project plan for building a rip-fence extension

Fine Woodworking's art director can thank Mike Pekovich, From Getting Started in Woodworking, Season 2. Table saw fence extension is easy and inexpensive enough left over to make a handy shelf.

The only tools needed to make this bench are a drill/driver, a circular saw, and a hand tool in any woodworking shop. The vise is iron woodworking vise, which is an essential to fit a variety of handy bench accessories.

The base is 4x4s and 2x4s, joined simply with long bolts and short dowels. The construction lumber (4x4s and 2x4s), joined top is two layers of MDF (medium-density fiberboard), cut from a single sheet, with his workbench is easy and inexpensive enough left over to make a handy shelf.

There is room at one end for a graceful arch at the bottom of the sides, lower stretcher, and the other a short long curves formed with a flexible wood pin. At the top are gen- (as opposed to radius curves that can seem mechanical). At the top are gen-

B Y  A S A  C H R I S T I

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ON MOST TABLESAWS, CUTTING A 4X8 SHEET of plywood is, at best, a dicey proposition. The sheet is heavy, the rip fence is too short, and, at the beginning of the cut, most of the sheet hangs unsupported in front of the saw.

As a solution, I added a rip-fence extension to my tablesaw. It helps support the right side of the plywood when it's overhanging the front of the saw table.

The extension has just three parts: an auxiliary fence, a ledge, and a clamping block. The auxiliary fence serves as a substitute for the rip fence, extending forward to provide a longer, more positive reference for the right edge of the plywood. The ledge provides vertical support for the overhanging plywood. And the clamping block provides a means to clamp the extension securely to the rip fence.

When cutting the auxiliary fence, make sure its two edges are straight and parallel. The clamping block and ledge attach to the auxiliary fence with glue and a few screws. To use it, clamp the auxiliary fence tightly to the rip fence. Establish the cut width by measuring the distance from the blade to the edge of the auxiliary fence, and lock the rip fence in place. Place the front of the plywood on the saw table, and keep the right-hand edge of the plywood against the auxiliary fence during the cut.

—PHILIP A. HOUCK, Boston, Mass.