# Cabinet Saw Test

A review of 10 heavy-duty cabinet saws from Europe, North America and Taiwan

# BY NIALL BARRETT AND LON SCHLEINING

ew tools are as central to a workshop as a tablesaw. Buying one is not a decision woodworkers take lightly, and it's no surprise that heated debates over cabinet saws take up a lot of bandwidth on Internet woodworking discussions, including *Fine Woodworking's* own, Knots. With hundreds—if not thousands—of dollars' price difference among models, people want to know what they're getting (or not getting) for their money. That's what we wanted to find out, too.

We've used many models of tablesaws over the years, from contractor models to larger industrial machines. Like all woodworkers, we've gotten used to working in our individual ways, and there's no denying that we have our preferences. But as we prepared to spend several weeks poring over a roomful of saws, we cleared our heads and imagined ourselves in the market for a heavy-duty cabinet saw, something you trade up to when a contractor's saw just isn't enough. We made a list of the features we were looking for, which included the following:

• Plenty of power to rip through 8/4 thick hardwood without blinking

- A tough, accurate, easy-to-read rip fence
- Safety features that would help keep body parts intact
- Ease of assembly and adjustments
- Confidence that parts and service are but a phone call away

• A nice fit and finish to make us feel good about spending our hard-earnedmoney.

Although we looked at 12 saws, we performed our most extensive tests on 10 cabinet saws: Bridgewood BW-12CS, Delta Unisaw, General 350-1, Grizzly Industrial G1023ZF, Inca 2200, Jet JTAS-10, Lobo TS-1010, Powermatic 66, Sunhill TAS-12 and Transpower/CP



Tools TSC-10HK. The Delta and Powermatic are made in the United States; the General in Canada; the Inca in France (it was originally made in Switzerland); and the rest in Taiwan. (For our impressions of two European-made sliding-table saws, see the story on p. 84.)

What sets a good tablesaw apart from a lesser one can be quantified to a certain extent. Parts such as the table and arbor flange (the part the blade rests against) can be measured to see how perfectly flat they've been machined. Rip fences can be checked for



accuracy and stiffness. But subjective criteria also play an important part when choosing a tool. These factors include the overall fit and finish, whether a saw has a left- or right-tilting blade and the ergonomics of safety equipment.

We approached the 10 cabinet saws the same way a typical buyer would. We uncrated them and read the instruction manuals that came in the boxes. Then we assembled them. And finally, we cut wood. Along the way we took lots of notes and compared features. The two of us didn't always agree on what we liked best, but

# About the authors

Fine Woodworking has frequently relied on editorial staff to review large machines, mainly because the job is a time-consuming undertaking that's best done with several people in a large shop. But in this case, two of our authors, Niall Barrett



Niall Barrett



Lon Schleining

and Lon Schleining, proposed to take on the task. They made a convincing case for why they were right for the job, and we agreed. Between them, they have more than 50 years of woodworking experience. Niall is a native of Ireland and a New York furniture maker. Lon teaches woodworking and builds custom stairs in California.

# What they looked at



**Tabletops were checked for flatness.** Feeler gauges were used to measure any gap between the top and a straightedge placed across it at a variety of angles.



**Arbor flange was checked for runout.** A dial indicator was placed against the arbor-flange face and zeroed, then the arbor was rotated. Variations were noted.



Fences were checked for accuracy. A good fence is a critical component and must be rigid and easy to read.



The saws got a once-over for safety. On/off switches should be large and easy to reach.

we were pretty much in sync when it came down to what we found undesirable.

#### Assembly isn't overly complicated

Because these tools weigh about 400 lbs. each, assembly is usually a job for two people. Many of the parts are easily assembled by one person, but others, such as cast-iron table wings, are more safely handled by having a helper on hand.

Instruction manuals vary in quality, but we didn't run into any real snags. We were amused by the section of the Lobo manual devoted to the rip-fence alignment. It appeared to have been copied, photos and all, from the Jet manual, whose fence is distinctively different but has some similar adjustment mechanisms. The manuals that stand out as examples of clarity and comprehensiveness are produced by Delta, Grizzly, Inca, Jet and Powermatic. All of the machines come with motors already installed, although the buyer must supply a plug in most cases.

#### **Tabletops were checked for flatness**

We used a 30-in. straightedge and feeler gauges to check the castiron tops for flatness in several directions (see the top photo on p. 79). The Jet top is so flat that we couldn't even measure a discrepancy; most of the tops ranged from 0.004 in. to 0.008 in. out of flat (either dished or crowned in places), and the only two to score in the teens were the Grizzly at 0.013 in. and the Sunhill at 0.018 in. (a hair over  $\frac{1}{64}$  in.).

Although we can't really say if it makes an important difference, it's worth noting that the Powermatic tabletop has the most highly polished surface, almost a mirror grind, which makes it look like it's chrome plated. The polish is a reflection of the overall excellent fit and finish of the Powermatic.

Most of the tabletops are about 27 in. or 28 in. deep; the exceptions are the Bridgewood (29 in. deep), the Sunhill (30 in. deep) and the Inca (31 in. deep). Most of the saws come with a pair of extension wings that are about 8 in. wide; the exceptions are the Bridgewood, whose extension wings are 11 in. wide, and the Jet and Transpower, with 10-in.-wide extension wings. The Delta, as supplied, has one extension wing. Nonmetal wings are an accessory on the Inca, whose one-piece tabletop is 273/8 in. wide.

We used a dial indicator to check the arbor-flange faces for runout (see the second photo from the top on p. 79). All of the flanges registered less than 0.0001 in. of runout. That's good. A true arbor is important because it ensures the blade (assuming it, too, is flat) will not wobble and cause a sloppy cut.

We also checked whether the zero and 45° stops were adjusted correctly at the factory and if the tabletop was adjusted so that the miter slots were parallel to the blade. Again we were pleased to find that all of the saws were delivered ready to go.

#### Search for a ripping good fence

The most stunning differences among the saws are the quality differences in rip fences. (For more on tablesaw fences, see *FWW* #133, pp. 50-57). While you could certainly cut wood with any of the fences supplied, some of them are a source of frustration.

Among the best fences are the Biesemeyer, which is available on the Delta, and the similarly designed T-square fences on the Bridgewood, General, Inca, Jet and Powermatic. All of these fences are rigid, ride smoothly over the rails and have hairline cur-

# Bridgewood BW-12CS



Blade size: 10 in. or 12 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: General T-square (52 in.) Price: \$1,600 Warranty: One year Contact: (800) 235-2100

**Niall:** Of the saws in this price range, the Bridgewood gives you a lot for the money. The saw has a large table and interchangeable arbor spindles for both 10-in. and 12-in. blades,

**Lon:** This is my favorite of the 12-in. cabinet saws. The fit and finish are excellent. The instruction manual, however, incorrectly described spindle changeovers, which could result in damage to the parts. We called the company, and to its credit, we were given proper instructions over the phone.

sors that are easy to read. (The Delta is also available with the Unifence, which we didn't test.)

The Powermatic Accu-Fence is the heaviest of the T-square fences and has a feature that shows forethought by the designers. Should you damage the facing, you can replace it by removing bolts, accessible from the underside of the fence (see the right photo below).

The Jet Xacta fence face is also easy to remove. Additionally, the Xacta fence face is made of a slippery plastic that never needs waxing (see the third photo from the top on p. 79). The Xacta fence's cursor has a built-in magnifier—which is a good idea—but false readings are possible if you're not standing directly over the magnifier. That's because the cursor is positioned too high off the measuring tape. The most simple fix would be to add shims be-



The Inca 2200 has movable fence rails. The front and rear rails ride in dovetailed keyways. The design allows you to use the fence's full rip capacity on both sides of the blade.



The Powermatic Accu-Fence has a removable face. Bolts, accessible from the underside, make replacement easy.

#### Delta Unisaw

#### General 350-1

Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Left or right Fence: Biesemeyer (52 in.); Unifence also available Price: \$1,600 Warranty: Two years Contact: (800) 438-2486

Niall: Based on the criteria we looked at, you can't go wrong here. It has an excellent fence and good fit and finish.

Lon: Although the dust port is an accessory, the machine has added features such as a two-wrench arbor and brackets and hooks for storing the miter gauge, rip fence and wrenches. The parts and service departments, however, are sometimes hard to reach on the phone.

tween the cursor and its mounting bracket, thereby lowering it.

The Inca has an ingeniously designed fence (see the left photo on the facing page). It consists of extruded-aluminum rails that slide into dovetailed keyways cast into the underside of the tabletop. That means you can work with the fence far to the left or right of the blade or anywhere in between. A sliding measuring scale makes it easy to zero the cursor no matter where the fence rails are positioned. You can remove the rails in about 30 seconds by loos-

ening four locking knobs, a plus for anyone with a small shop or garage who needs to stow his machinery out of the way. The fence itself is similar to other Tsquare fences: It has a threepoint clamping head and a steel box beam. Attached to the beam is an extruded-aluminum sliding section that can be positioned at three different heights as well as forward or back (much like Delta's Unifence). Although we noted some flex in the fence, it has a clamp knob at the rear that can be tightened when working with heavy stock, which alleviates the problem.

The lowest-price saw, the Transpower, has the poorestquality fence. It rides stiffly across the rails, which are lighter than the rails used on the other T-square fences, and the alu-

Why I like left-tilting saws On a saw with a left-tilting blade, you can make miter cuts using the rip fence on the right side of the table and never worry about trapping the workpiece or an offcut between a tilted blade and the

rip fence.

On a saw with a righttilting blade, where the fence is also placed to the right, there's a greater chance for violent kickback if the trapped stock or offcut should twist slightly and make contact with the teeth of the blade. You can move

the fence to the left side of the blade to avoid this problem, but most rip fences (the Inca excepted) have limited cutting capacity to the left side of the blade. Another way is to set up a tablesaw jig that has a recess for the offcut (see FWW #129, pp. 62-65), but that creates more work.

If your work never calls for this kind of cut, then ignore the debate of right tilt vs. left tilt. Otherwise, you might consider left-tilt saws made by Delta, Jet and Powermatic.-L.S.

Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: General T-square (52 in.) Price: \$1,600 Warranty: Two years Contact: (819) 472-1161; also available from Wilke Machinery (800) 235-2100

Niall: This Canadian-made saw has a solid overall feel and good fit and finish. But the design of the dust collection needs improvement. There's no internal ramp leading to the dust port, which is a foot above the floor.

Lon: This saw comes nearly ready to go to work. I really like that the extension wings are attached at the factory and shimmed level. This is a saw you can receive in the morning and put to work by lunch.

minum extrusion used on the face of the fence can be deflected with only moderate pressure.

The Shop Fox fence on the Grizzly initially impressed us with how smoothly it tracks across the rails. But we were not happy with its performance. The Shop Fox is complicated to adjust and doesn't always lock down perfectly parallel to the blade. Because it bumps up against the mounting bracket of the splitter at the rear of the machine, rip cuts thinner than 13/4 in. are impossible unless

> you remove the safety equipment. Also, the stick-on measuring tape came loose in places after only two weeks.

> The fences supplied with the remaining saws work okay, but they aren't quite up to the standards set by the better T-square fences found on the aforementioned machines.

#### **Safety features** are worth noting

After years of using tablesaws, we're familiar with those rare but frightening moments when we wished we had an easy-toreach off switch.

The best combination of switch style and location can be found on the Delta Unisaw (special edition model). The switch has a nice, big mushroom-shaped off button (see



# **Grizzly Industrial G1023ZF**



Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: Shop Fox (24<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.) Price: \$1,095 Warranty: One year Contact: (800) 523-4777

**Niall:** This is a perfectly adequate saw as far as the saw itself goes. I like the large, solid metal handwheels. The miter gauge can be adjusted for a snug fit to the slot. The fence, however, needs to be reengineered.

**Lon:** This seemed like a lot of saw for the money until I used the fence, which didn't always lock perfectly parallel to the blade.

#### Inca 2200



Blade size: 12 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: Inca T-square (25 in.)

Price: \$2,999

**Warranty:** Five years on mechanicals; one year on electronics and drive belts

Contact: Garrett Wade (800-221-2942) or Injecta Machinery (888-593-2453)

**Niall:** I love the sliding-rail T-square fence system on this machine, which allows you to enjoy the full ripping capacity on both sides of the blade. The miter gauge that comes standard is easy to adjust accurately and is a cut above what's supplied with the other saws. The fin-type splitter moves with the blade, a better design than that found on the North American and Taiwanese saws we tested.

**Lon:** I really like the movable rails of the fence, too. Although the standard fence limits the cutting capacity to only 25 in., you can buy a set of longer rails (\$300) if you need them. The dust-collection system is easily the best of the saws in this group. Overall, the fit and finish are excellent, except that the throat-plate opening and miter slots need to be deburred. The lnca is the most expensive saw in its class, but you do get the aforementioned extra features as well as a carbide-tipped Forrest blade and the longest warranty.

the bottom photo on p. 79), and the unit is located toward the front of the saw, where you can reach it with a knee or hip in an emergency. The General has a similar mushroom-shaped off switch, but the box is attached to the saw's cabinet, which requires a longer reach. The switches on the Grizzly, Jet and Powermatic are also close to the front rail, within easy reach.

**Splitters and guards**—It's amazing that most saw manufacturers still haven't designed a blade guard and splitter that is as least as functional as a good rip fence. The North American and Taiwanese saws have similarly designed systems. A piece of sheet metal serves double duty as the splitter and the framework to which are attached anti-kickback pawls and a blade guard. Do these systems work? Yes, they do, and you should keep them on your machine whenever possible. But we know that many woodworkers remove them, setting themselves up for potential injury. And why is that? The answers vary, but the most common reasons are that the guards reduce your view of the blade, and. with the guards attached it is awkward or impossible to make very narrow rip cuts, dadoes or rabbets.

Splitters prevent kickback by keeping the kerf open when ripping solid stock. Splitters also prevent stock from rotating away from the rip fence. After using the European saws, we grew fond of their fin-style splitters, which move up and down along with the sawblade. We like them because they can be kept in place when cutting dadoes or rabbets using a standard blade. (You may have to remove them when using a stacked dado.)

**Miter gauges**—Miter gauges supplied with most cabinet saws are pretty basic affairs, and that's why there's such a huge aftermarket business in miter gauges. All of the machines have T-slot miter gauges, which allow you to back the gauge slightly off the table without it falling to the floor. The General's miter gauge stands out as the beefiest of the bunch. Grizzly's gauge has setscrews tapped into the bar to adjust its fit to the slot.

But the best miter gauge comes with the Inca. It's the same one sold as an accessory by Woodhaven (800-344-6657) of Iowa, and it has a FastTrak adjustable face attached. The miter gauge has precisely machined presets for common angles, and the extruded-aluminum FastTrak has a flip stop.

If you plan to do a lot of crosscutting on any of the other saws, we'd recommend either making a sled (see *FWW*#128, pp. 66-69) or buying an aftermarket miter gauge.

#### Inside the saw: power, noise, dust and more

All of the saws we tested run on 230 volts. All of the machines have plenty of power to rip planks of 8/4 hardwood with ease when using a sharp blade. These big motors are one of the main advantages of buying a cabinet saw vs. buying a contractor or benchtop model. The motor ratings vary from 12.4 amps to 15 amps, but the manufacturers list them all at 3 hp. Higher amperage doesn't necessarily mean a more powerful motor (see *FWW*#135, pp. 72-74). That's because a motor's efficiency rating and other internal dynamics determine how much of the current actually goes toward producing horsepower.

We checked the machines for noise levels (using the same blade), and there's not a lot of difference among them. When measured from about 3 ft. away, our sound meter registered about

# Jet JTAS-10

## Lobo TS-1010



Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Left or right Fence: Jet Xacta (50 in.) Price: \$1,400 Warranty: Two years Contact: (800) 627-4538

**Niall:** This saw is an excellent buy at \$1,400. The fit and finish are good. The tabletop and wings are slightly larger than many of the other 10-in saws.

**Lon:** Little refinements, such as a reinforcing bracket for the switch, show attention to details. There is really very little to criticize about this saw. I even like the new white paint scheme. The machine is priced right, you have the option of left or right tilt, and with a little tweaking, the fence's cursor can be improved.

90 dB. None of the machines are particularly noisy, but don't dispense with the hearing protection just yet.

Enclosed cabinets help with dust removal—Most cabinet saws have a ramp inside the base that slopes to a dust port for hooking up to a dust collector, another advantage of a cabinet saw over an open-based contractor saw. The General, however, is the only saw without an internal ramp. Also, the General's fiberglass dust port, which is part of the motor shroud, is up so high that a



Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: Lobo T-square (50 in.) Price: \$1,099 Warranty: One year Contact: (800) 786-5626

**Niall:** This saw has a cast-iron throat plate, as is found on larger industrial machines. But overall, the fit and finish of the machine are mediocre. The miter gauge has a flimsy, thin scale that is crudely trimmed.

**Lon:** There are lots of sharp edges on the castings, a lack of attention to detail. The paint was chipped in places and was touched up with a different shade of white. On the other hand, the fence, a T-square style, is the best of the saws priced right around \$1,000. Our saw was damaged in shipping, not necessarily the fault of the manufacturer, and when we called to get a damaged part replaced, the company said it had none in stock.

foot of sawdust will accumulate inside the base. Delta is the only manufacturer to charge an extra \$55 for a dust-port hookup.

The Inca has the best dust collection. Inside the cabinet a ducted shroud surrounds the lower part of the blade. A hose runs from the shroud to a 4-in. dust port in the base of the machine. Additionally, there's a smaller dust port connected atop the blade guard.

**Blade changing is easier**—The days of wedging a block of wood against the blade to loosen the arbor nut may not yet have

# A spot check on service and parts

When you lose or break a part on a cabinet saw, you have to deal with the manufacturer to get a replacement. To replicate that scenario, we called the parts departments of the North American and Taiwanese saw manufacturers and ordered an arbor nut to replace the one our dog swallowed. We wanted to find out how long it took to get through on the phone and whether the part was in stock. Additionally, we called all of the companies and asked a simple technical question: How do we tighten the motor drive belt?

We got an arbor nut from all manufacturers within 10 days. The fastest response came from General (via Wilke Machinery Co.), Grizzly and Sunhill, whose parts arrived in three days. We had difficulty getting through to Delta's parts department the first time we tried; either the line was busy or we were put on hold. We tried another day and got through in a few minutes. We were told the reason we had trouble getting through was that Delta gets about 1,000 calls a day. Maybe they need more clerks.

We were also able to find

out how to tighten the motor drive belt. In most cases the call took only a few minutes; a few calls required patience. When we called Delta, we were asked to leave a message, and someone called us back two hours later with the information. We could not get through to General; after many attempts, being put on hold, then being disconnected, we gave up. But when we called Wilke Machinery Co., which sells General tools along with its own Bridge-wood line, we got good customer service. *–N.B. and LS.* 

# **Powermatic 66**

# Sunhill TAS-12



Blade tilt: Left Fence: Powermatic Accu-Fence (50 in.) Price: \$1,999 Warranty: One year Contact; (800) 238-4746

Niall: The saw just has the look and feel of an industrialquality machine. The tilt and blade-height adjusters work effortlessly.

Lon: This is the heavyweight in the test, literally. The saw has a massive cast-iron trunnion, and the fence is bigger than anything else we looked at. The machine also comes with a high-quality SystiMatic carbide-toothed combination blade.

passed, but the end is near. Delta's arbor now has a flat machined into it for a second wrench, which makes blade changing easier. We also found this style arbor on the Bridgewood and Jet, but surprisingly the manuals didn't mention the feature, nor was a second wrench supplied. The Inca has a hole machined through the arbor spindle. By sticking a pin through a matching hole in the tabletop, the arbor can be locked in place when changing the blade.

The Bridgewood comes with interchangeable arbor spindles, a <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-in. spindle for 10-in. blades and a 1-in. spindle for 12-in. blades. The Sunhill is sold as a 12-in. saw, but a 5/8-in. spindle will also fit. Spindle changes on these machines take only a few minutes. The Inca is a 12-in saw. (If you wish to use a 10-in blade, a machinist

# Two sliding tablesaws from Europe



A sliding table is essentially a large



**FELDER K7** 



Blade size: 10 in. or 12 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: Sunhill (30 in.) Price: \$1,700 Warranty: One year Contact: (800) 929-4321

Niall: I like the generous table size and the ability to switch the arbor spindles for either a 10-in. blade or a 12-in. blade. But for the price, I'd expect a higher-quality fence.

Lon: The extra blade capacity is a good feature, but the fence is difficult to repeatedly set parallel to the blade. This saw could use a little more attention to detail. Lots of machined edges had not been deburred, so you can cut yourself.

can open up the arbor hole on a blade.) The extra inch of cutting depth offered by a 12-in. saw can be a real plus.

**Tablesaw trunnions affect accuracy, vibration**—A trunnion is the structural member inside the saw to which the arbor spindle is attached. When you crank the tilt- or height-adjusting wheels, the tamnion moves, too, Adjustable locking screws stop the trunnion at 90° and 45° to the tabletop. To cut with precision and with a minimum of vibration, a saw's trunnion and interconnected components must be machined to fairly close tolerances. You can get an idea of how snug everything fits together by locking the tilt and height adjusters, then attempting to wiggle the motor. We found

miter gauge, which is why these saws don't have slots for miter gauges machined into their tables. A sliding table provides a more secure platform for larger stock and a smoother cutting motion, which results in better accuracy and less strain on the operator. These saws cost a bit more, but that's because they have more features, including improved dust-collection systems.

#### **FELDER K7**

This is an impeccably engineered saw. It comes close to matching the precision of a good-quality metalworking machine. Move the sliding table a few inches, and you get the feeling you've entered a new dimension in woodworking. We detected absolutely no play in the table, even though it glided effortlessly along its track.

For a busy shop or the hobbyist who demands the best, the Felder seems to be worth its \$5,890 price tag. The rip fence is extremely rigid and heavy and requires a bit of muscle to move. The locking mechanism is unique: A lever is attached to a cam, which locks to the underside of the fence rail. This saw is delivered completely assembled, including the 48-in. sliding table.

The blade guard and splitter are typical of European saws and work very well. We especially like the guard; unlike the other European guards made of opaque plastic, this one is clear, giving a good view of the blade, which is 350mm (approximately 12 in.). The dust-collection system is a typical European configuration: Below the blade a shroud draws dust away to a dust port; another dust port is connected to the

### Transpower/CP Tools TSC-10HK



Blade size: 10 in. Blade tilt: Right Fence: Transpower (30 in.) Price: \$825 Warranty: One year Contact: (800) 654-7702

**Niall:** The lowest priced of the lot. The fence operates roughly and isn't tough enough for a 3-hp machine.

**Lon:** I thought this might be an okay low-budget saw until we installed the fence, which is difficult to slide along the rails. Also, the rails and extrusion on the face of the fence ought to be much stiffer to keep them from deflecting.

that the Bridgewood, Delta, General, Inca, Jet and Powermatic saws have the snuggest-fitting trunnion components.

After using all of the saws and comparing their features, we found that price does make a difference. Good fences, nice fit and finish and precision in machining cost a little extra. For a tool that you buy once and hope never to replace, it probably pays to shop for the best features, not the lowest price.

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# The authors' picks

Lon: For the money, the Delta Unisaw is a first-class saw in terms of workmanship, reputation and resale value. If I were on a tight budget, I'd seriously consider the Jet. Although it doesn't have as long-lived a reputation as the Unisaw, it appears to be a well-made machine, and time may indeed show it to be a solid performer. The Inca 2200 is very tempting; I really like the way the fence system was engineered, and if I ever have to move to a smaller shop, I'd consider this saw. My absolute favorite machine, however, remains the Powermatic 66. Everything about it is a little beefier, and in my mind, the more iron, the better.

Niall: My pick for overall value in this group has to be the Jet JTAS-10. Judging from the attention paid to details on this saw, my gut feeling is that it's well made. But over the years I've become so fond of my older Inca saw that if it melted down in a fire, I would have to replace it with another. The Inca is not priced for everyone, but I've become used to its accuracy and finesse. It comes with features that are accessories for most other saws. For example, the Inca's rip fence can be repositioned as far to the left as to the right of the blade. The miter gauge has flip stops and a sliding head. After using an Inca, most stock cabinet saws feel crude by comparison.

blade guard. The saw can be ordered with many options, including a bigger sliding table and long rails for the rip fence. The machine comes with a three-year warranty (except belts) and six-year warranty on the sliding table. For more information, contact Felder USA at (800) 572-0061.

#### **ROJEK PK 300**

This is a nicely designed 3-hp, 12-in. saw. The modest sliding table is best used for finish-cutting predimensioned stock. The weight of a half-sheet of **3**/4-in. plywood causes the sliding table to sag slightly, making it difficult to get a true 90° edge. But if you're using smaller stock, the saw would be a good choice. (Rojek's larger saws have a reticulating arm beneath the sliding table to handle heavier loads.) The fence is solid and locks by way of a levered screw that butts up against the rail. Reading the scale is awkward, because the reading is taken off the edge of the fence's thick, cast-iron microadjuster. The face of the fence is extruded aluminum, and it can be slid forward or backward.

The fit and finish are very good, and many provisions have been made for accurately setting up the machine. For example, the saw has leveling feet, and the tabletop itself has leveling adjusters. Belt tensioning is adjusted via a screw. There's good access to the inside of the machine, and it comes with a complete tool kit for adjusting all of the parts. The manual, however, is poorly translated, but when we called the importer, we were given good instructions over the phone. Rojek incorporates all of the very effective dust-collection and safety features we've come to expect from European saws. Imported by Tech Mark (800-787-6747), the machine, with a sliding table and extension table, costs \$2,685. It has a one-year warranty on mechanicals and a six-month warranty on electronics.—*N.B. and L.S.* 



ROJEK PK 300