

Quick & Easy Jig Bandsaw Lumber Maker

Turn firewood into free stock for small projects



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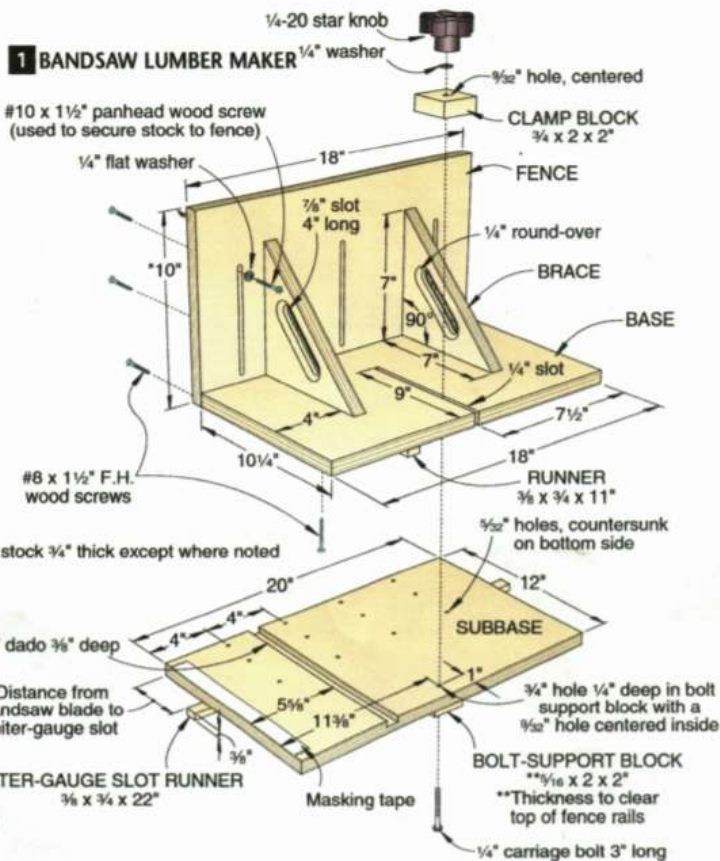
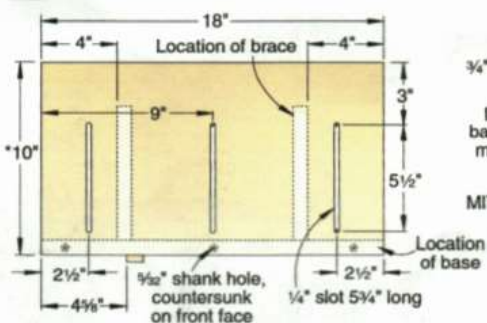
The more we worked with this jig the more we liked it for turning found wood into valuable stock. Here, we'll cover the basics of using this jig for ripping small logs and other odd-shaped blocks of wood into short boards.

Cut the jig pieces to shape

Cut the subbase, base, fence, bolt-support block and braces to size from $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood [Drawings 1 and 1a]. The height of the fence will be determined by the clearance of your bandsaw blade guard to the bandsaw table. Bandsaws with riser blocks and 16" bandsaws will rip wider stock and allow for a taller fence than the clearance of a standard 14" bandsaw.

Cut the dado, drill the holes, and form the slots in the pieces where marked. See

1a FENCE (Blade side shown)



*Height of fence will depend on clearance

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[Drawing 1a] for slot locations in the fence. We've intentionally offset the middle slot in the fence to the knob slot in the base to better access the middle fence slot. Cut the runners to size from solid stock. Rout $\frac{1}{4}$ " round-overs on the handle openings in the braces. Assemble the jig in the configuration shown using glue and screws. Add finish to the different pieces. Do not glue the runner to the base as you have to remove it later for certain operations.

Caution: Resawing exposes large portions of the bandsaw blade as the blade guard has to be raised just above the workpiece to allow the stock to move through the blade. When making cuts, the blade is often hidden in the wood being cut. Always know exactly where the blade will exit the wood and never push the workpiece at the blade exit point when finishing a cut. Use a block of wood as a pushstick if needed.

Using the subbase as a sliding table

For log half sections and other workpieces too large to fit between the assembled jig subbase and blade guard, secure the log section or workpiece to the subbase with wood screws, making sure that the screw heads are countersunk so they don't scratch the bandsaw table surface. For a stable fit against the subbase, machine the bottom surface of the workpiece as flat as possible. A hand plane, power plane, or wide jointer work well.

Draw a cutline on the bottom surface of the workpiece of where you want to make the first bandsaw cut. Position the subbase upside down on the workpiece and line up the edge of the subbase with the marked cutline. For stability, the subbase should cover at least half of the workpiece to keep the workpiece from tilting when bandsawn. Screw the workpiece to the subbase.

Position the jig on the bandsaw table with the miter-gauge slot runner in the miter-gauge groove and make the first cut [Photo A]. Do not use this process for a round piece of wood (log or branch). For round stock use the subbase with the fence for maximum stability. For a free article on chainsawing log stock to size, visit woodmagazine.com/chainsawblanks

Combine the subbase and base/fence for max support

Secure the base/fence assembly onto the subbase with the carriage bolt and knob, and screw the workpiece to the fence in at least two places. Some workpieces [Photo B], might need to be shimmed to keep them perfectly

stable when cutting. With the workpiece screwed to the fence, position the workpiece so it overhangs the subbase by about 1" to allow for drying and planing. Tighten the knob to secure the base to the subbase. For long stock (over about 18") we recommend using a helper or an infeed and outfeed table to keep the jig flat on the bandsaw table when starting and finishing the cut.

Make the first ripping cut [Photo C]. The handle openings in the braces allow you to push the stock through the blade while keeping your hands clear of the cutting blade. Turn the saw off, and back the jig and stock past the blade once it has stopped moving. Using a combination square, mark an increment line on the masking tape [Photo D]. Allow about $\frac{1}{8}$ " extra for the kerf and any possible machining (sanding or planing) you want to do to the resawn stock later. For example, if you need $\frac{1}{2}$ " finished stock, mark $\frac{5}{8}$ " increments.

Loosen the knob and reposition the fence/base assembly on the subbase, aligning the outside edge of the fence with the next increment mark on the masking tape. The runner on the bottom of the base allows you to move the base/fence parallel with the subbase and bandsaw blade, allowing for consis-

tent width from the front to the back of the piece being cut.

Tighten the knob and make the next cut. Determine exactly how far the screws through the fence enter the workpiece to avoid hitting the screws with the blade. Our $1\frac{1}{2}$ " screws protrude into the workpiece $\frac{3}{4}$ ", so we never cut closer than $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the fence allowing us $\frac{1}{2}$ " of clearance between the blade and ends of the screws.

Using the fence for standard resawing operations

Remove the base/fence from the subbase. Place the base/fence assembly between the bandsaw column and blade [Photo E]. Adjust the position of the fence to the blade for the desired thickness to be cut, and clamp the base/fence to the bandsaw table keeping the fence parallel to the miter-gauge slot. It's important that the workpiece have a flat bottom to ride on the bandsaw table. 🌲

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