



Woodsmith **PLANS**

# MITERING AND FITTING SMALL MOLDINGS



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Mitering small moldings on the table saw doesn't have to be a hassle. With a few tried-and-true techniques, a perfect fit is guaranteed.



**C**utting accurate miters on the table saw is always a challenge. But when you're mitering small, fragile pieces of molding that highlight a project, the difficulty factor increases.

**THE GOAL.** Due to the small size, the moldings can be difficult to hold on to safely. You need a way to maintain good control of the workpieces while keeping your hands and fingers safe. Second, the moldings can be flexible, so firm support while

making the cuts is essential. Finally, when fitting these small pieces, the margin for error is small. The miters need to be cut cleanly and accurately with the pieces sized correctly.

**FIRST, MAKE A SLED.** The solution to all these challenges starts with the small miter sled shown in the photo above. It gives you support below and behind the workpiece so positioning and control is easy and chipping is minimized. Plus, once a kerf is cut in the sled, you always

have a quick, precise way to align your mark with the blade. You'll find more details on making this simple sled on page 3.

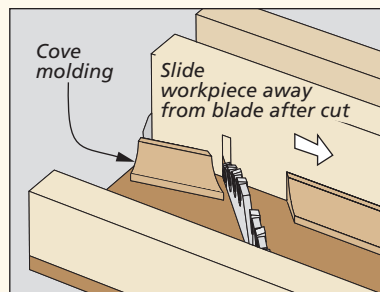
**A CLEAN CUT.** The drawings at left show how to make a miter cut with the sled. It's just a simple one, two, three. Line up your mark, push the sled through the blade, then slide the piece away from the blade.

But there are a few other considerations to keep in mind as well. You'll find yourself having to make two different kinds of miter joints when fitting small moldings — inside and outside. An inside miter fits into a corner, an outside miter wraps around a corner.

**ONE SETUP.** Whenever possible, I like to make both inside and outside miter cuts with the business end of the miter gauge and sled angled back toward me, as shown in the main photo. This gives you a much better view for fine control of the workpiece. It won't work for all cuts,



▲ Align your layout mark with the edge of the kerf in the sled and then make the cut.



▲ When the cut is complete, slide the workpiece away from the blade before retracting the sled.



