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Band Saw Circle Jig



BAND SAW CIRCLE JIG

You can cut circles on a band saw by simply driving a nail into a piece of plywood and using it as a pivot point. Or, you can build an adjustable jig. This jig can be held to the table with clamps or a unique turn button system.

BASE. To build the jig, start by cutting a base of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, 24" long, and 2" wider than the depth of your band saw table, see Fig. 2.

TONGUE. To form the sliding tongue that holds the pivot nail, bevel rip a section out of the center of the base.

BACKBOARD. The outside two sections are joined back together with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood backboard, see Fig. 2. To determine its length, lay the two outside sections together upside down with the sliding tongue in place, and measure across all three pieces.

Next, to determine its width, measure across the front of your saw table and add $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Then draw a line across the three pieces using this measurement, and cut the backboard to width so it fits on this line.

Now, screw the backboard to the bottom of the jig with the sliding tongue in place.

STOP SYSTEM. The sliding tongue is held in the correct position (depending on the radius to be cut) with a thumb screw or studded knob mounted in a threaded insert, see Fig. 1.

To install the insert, drill a counterbored hole into the backboard, centered near the end of the tongue slot. Then install the insert and thumb screw or knob. (Put a penny in the counterbore to diffuse the pressure.)

PIVOT NAIL. Next, drill a hole near the end of the tongue, snip a 3d nail in half, and push it into the hole as a pivot point, see Fig. 1.

BLOCKS. You can clamp the jig to your band saw's table, or hold it in place with turn buttons. To attach turn buttons, cut two blocks $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and slightly less in thickness than the saw table. Then, glue the blocks to the bottom of the base, tight against the left end of the table, see Fig. 3.

TURN BUTTONS. To mount the jig to the table, drill two counterbored holes for carriage bolts, see Fig. 4. Then make two turn buttons to fit onto the bolts and use wing nuts or knobs to tighten them down, see Fig. 5.

ALIGNMENT. To align the jig for use, clamp it down so the pivot nail aligns with the front of the saw blade's teeth.

