Table Saw Tenon Jig Setup, Safe Cuts and Fit Guide

Table saw tenon jig work starts with the board clamped vertically on end while the jig rides in the miter slot, as Woodworking Advisor explained in September 2024. That source notes the standard bar fit measures 3/8 inch by 3/4 inch as of September 2024. Our shop notes follow the same testing process for fit and repeatability.

How Does a Table Saw Tenon Jig Hold Work?

Table saw tenon jig holding uses a vertical face riding in the miter slot, with a 3/8 inch by 3/4 inch bar fit noted by Woodworking Advisor in September 2024. The board stands on end against the face while the bar slides the jig past the blade for cheek cuts, as Woodworking Advisor described in September 2024. Shops cutting matching mortises often pair this setup with a dedicated mortising jig to keep both halves consistent.

How Do You Set Up a Table Saw Tenon Jig for Clean Cheeks?

Table saw tenon jig setup sets blade height to the shoulder line and fence position for cheek thickness, using 3/4 inch thick faces described by Woodcraft in February 2016. Woodsmith advised in February 2026 to cut the mortise first and size the tenon to fit with shoulders straight and square. Cut shoulders with stock flat, then clamp stock upright and adjust the fence so waste falls clear of the blade, as Woodsmith described in February 2026.

Design | How it guides | Best use

Miter-slot jig | Bar slides in slot | Tall stock on small saws
Fence-riding jig | Saddle slides on rip fence | Repeat cuts with fence control

Why Does a Table Saw Tenon Jig Cut Without the Guard?

Table saw tenon jig cuts run without the stock guard because the clamp body sits beside the blade, a limit Woodworking Advisor noted in September 2024. Clamp fully and try to shift the board by hand before starting the saw, as Woodworking Advisor advised in September 2024. Long stock stays steadier with a sliding table when the board extends past the saw, and hands stay on the jig handles clear of the blade path, as Woodworking Advisor advised in September 2024.

Should You Build or Buy a Table Saw Tenon Jig?

Table saw tenon jig builds use five wood parts plus a clamp and the existing rip fence, as Popular Woodworking showed in May 2024. That design uses a large plate measuring 3/4 inch by 8 inch by 12 inch and a hardwood fence measuring 1-1/4 inch thick by 1-3/4 inch wide, as Popular Woodworking detailed in May 2024. Assembly uses #8 by 1-1/2 inch screws with one clearance hole 1/32 inch oversize for adjustment, as Popular Woodworking detailed in May 2024. The fixed fence stays at 90 degrees, as Woodcraft described in February 2016.

"Nothing wrong with simple." said Robert W. Lang in Popular Woodworking in May 2024.

Table Saw Tenon Jig FAQ

What does a table saw tenon jig do?

A table saw tenon jig clamps stock vertically and guides it past the blade for cheek cuts, as Woodworking Advisor described in September 2024. It keeps tall boards square and repeats thickness across a batch.

Can a table saw tenon jig use the stock blade guard?

No, a table saw tenon jig usually runs without the stock guard because the clamp body blocks it, as Woodworking Advisor noted in September 2024. Clamp tightly and feed with the handles after setting height to the shoulder.

How do you set blade height on a table saw tenon jig?

Set a table saw tenon jig blade just below the shoulder line on scrap, as Popular Woodworking advised in May 2024. Start low and raise in small steps before setting the fence so waste falls clear.

Should you build a table saw tenon jig or buy one?

Build a table saw tenon jig from 3/4 inch stock with five parts and a clamp for occasional use, as Popular Woodworking showed in May 2024. Buy a machined jig for frequent repeat cuts.