

Cutting Wide Boards on a Table Saw



Crosscutting wide boards on my table saw has always been a challenge. The pieces are awkward to handle, and it's hard to control my mitre gauge when its head is off the table. I know some saws have a T-slot in the table and a mitre gauge bar with a plate that catches in the slot. But mine isn't equipped this way.

That makes it difficult to hold everything and guide the board. I've had cuts come out crooked, and I got concerned that the blade might bind in the kerf, causing the board to kick back.

To make cutting wide boards easier, I turn my mitre gauge around, so the mitre gauge head is in front of my board, instead of behind. I hold the work piece snug against the gauge with my left hand, and use my right to push the work piece through.

On some boards, the mitre gauge head may be off the saw table when you complete your cut, so make sure you keep a firm grip on the gauge.