

Online Extra

Circular Saw

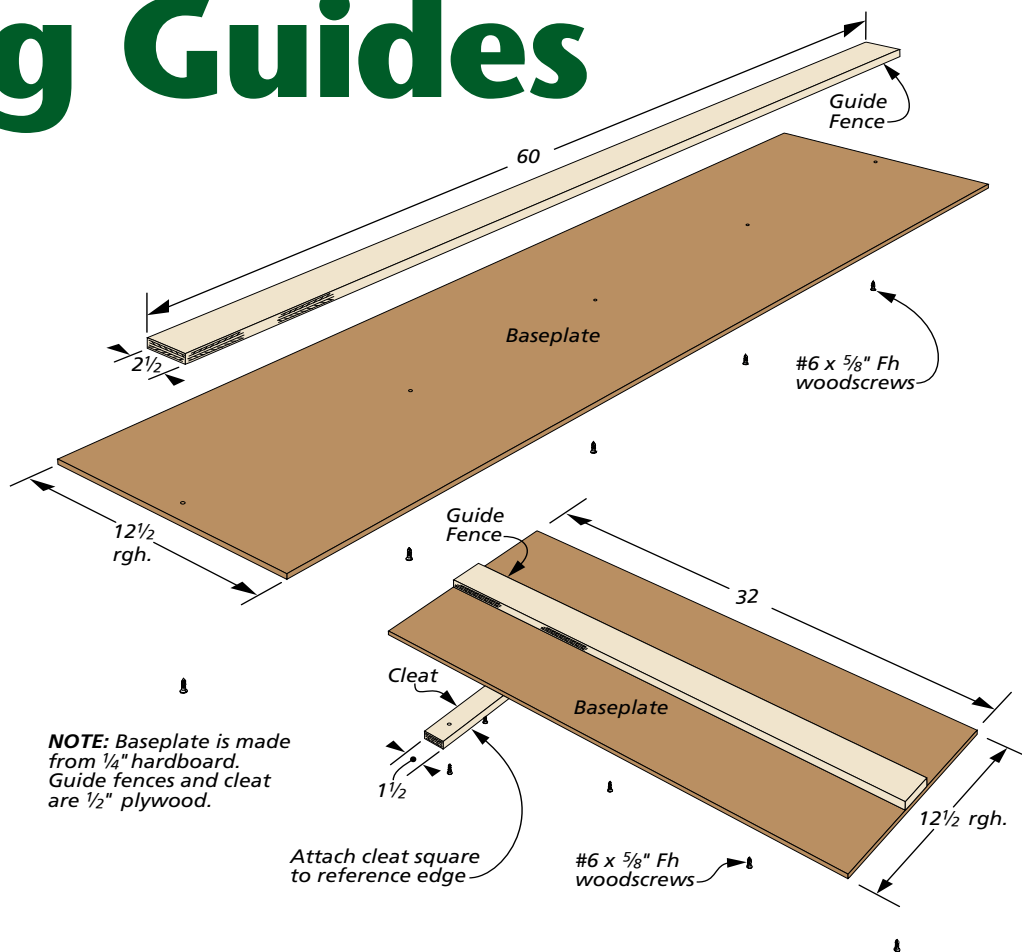
Cutting Guides

The two circular saw cutting guides featured in the article in *Woodsmith* No. 185 offer a big return for a small investment in time and material. The design is pretty basic and once the guides are completed, your cuts will be smoother, more accurate, and require less effort.

BASEPLATE. The long guide and the shorter crosscut guide share similar construction. The basis of each is a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard baseplate and a plywood fence. First, you'll need to cut the baseplate to length and approximate width. It should be wide enough to accommodate the shoe of your saw, the guide fence, and ample clamping space on the far side of the fence.

GUIDE FENCE. A $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood fence attached to the baseplate guides the saw. The edge of the saw's shoe rides along the fence during the cut. To ensure straight cuts, you want to make sure the guide edge of the fence is cut true and smooth.

ASSEMBLE. Once the fence is attached, you'll use your saw to trim the baseplate, creating an accurate reference edge. So before locating the fence on the baseplate, you'll need to know the distance between the far edge of the saw's shoe and the inside edge of the blade. To position the fence from the edge of the baseplate, add about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to this measurement. I used glue and countersunk screws



NOTE: Baseplate is made from $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard. Guide fences and cleat are $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood.

installed from the underside of the baseplate to attach the fence.

TRIM. With the fence in place, you can trim the baseplate to final width. Just keep the saw's shoe tight against the fence as you make the cut.

CROSSCUT CLEAT. The long guide is ready to go, but the crosscut guide gets one

important addition — a perpendicular cleat attached to the underside of the baseplate. For guaranteed square cuts, the cleat has to be installed square to the reference edge of the baseplate. A carpenter's square will help with this. Again, I used countersunk screws and glue to attach the cleat.

