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Tips for Trouble-Free Printing

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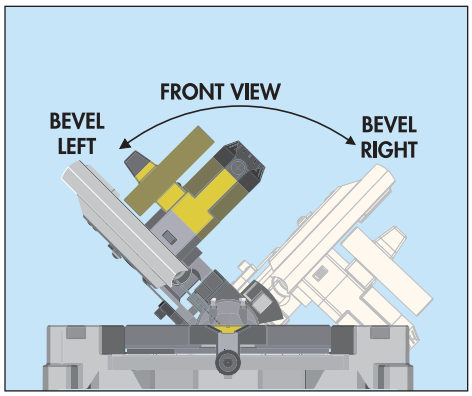
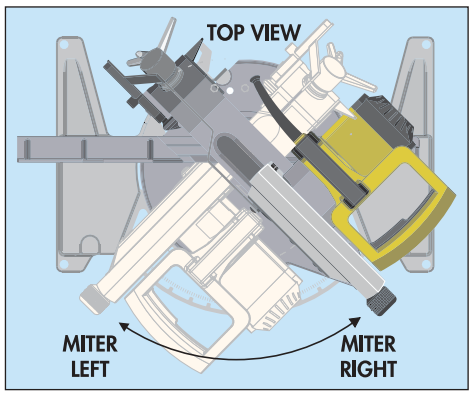
MITER SAW 4-STEP TUNE-UP

Whether you're trimming boards to length, cutting miter joints, or making tricky compound angle cuts, a miter saw is ideally suited to the task. But like most power tools in your shop, the pre-set stops and angle scales rarely give you the dead-on accuracy you need. An owner's manual will guide you through some of the basic adjustments, but these will only get you *close* to an accurate setup. As with all tools, the proof is in the performance. The only way to get your saw tuned to perfection is to make a series of test cuts, and then do some *fine* tuning based on those results.

On the following page we'll walk you through the process of using test cuts to check the 45° and 90° settings for both miters *and* bevels. That will make it easy to dial in your miter saw for perfect cuts.





MITERS
To check the miter settings, you'll need to rotate the turn- table on your saw to 0° and also 45° to the left and right.

BEVELS
To check the bevel adjustments, you'll need to tilt the head of the saw to the left and right.

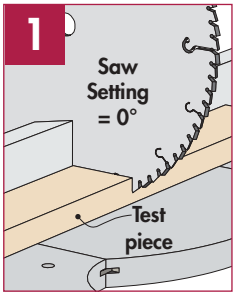
Miter Adjustments

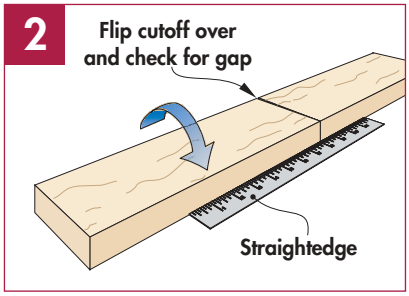
1 SQUARE BLADE TO FENCE

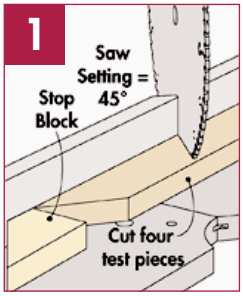
With the turntable set at 0°, check to see if blade is square to the fence. If it's not, adjust the saw according to the owner's manual. To check the setup, make a 90° crosscut in a wide test piece *(Fig. 1)*.Then flip one of the cutoffs over, butt the ends together, and align the edges with straightedge *(Fig. 2)*. If there's a gap, readjust the saw, make another test cut, and check the setting again. Continue like this until the pieces fit tightly together.

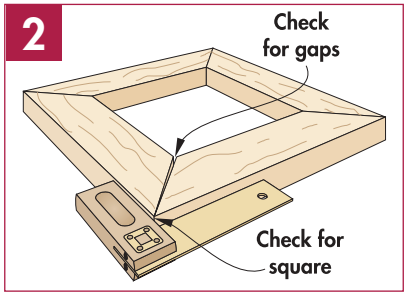
2 45° MITER SETTING

Next, rotate the turntable to 45° and check whether the blade is actually 45° to the fence *(see Photo)*. After making any necessary adjustments, miter four test pieces to identical lengths *(Fig. 1)*. Then fit the pieces together to form a frame *(Fig. 2)*. If there are gaps, readjust the setting, and make additional test cuts until you're satisfied with the fit. Finally, repeat the process for the opposite 45° setting.









Bevel Adjustments

3 SQUARE BLADE TO TABLE

To ensure accurate bevel cuts, start by unlocking the knob that lets you tilt the arm of the saw. Then square the blade to the table *(see Photo)* and tighten the knob. To make it easy to return to this setting, adjust the built-in stop on the saw and then crosscut another test piece. For this test cut, set the piece on edge *(Fig. 1)*. Here again, flip one cutoff over and butt the ends together to check for a gap *(Fig. 2)*.

4 45° BEVEL SETTING

Tilt the arm of the saw so the blade is set at 45° to the table *(see Photo)* and adjust the 45° stop on the saw. Then cut a set of four identical-length test pieces. Notice that here, the pieces are standing on edge *(Fig. 1)*. This produces a longer cut, which will emphasize any error in the setup. As before, assemble the test pieces into a frame *(Fig. 2)*, check for gaps, and readjust the saw if necessary.