Thin Strip Cutting Jig

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- Splitter
- Auxiliary Fence
- Sled Base (fix in place)
1) Position the Sled on the table saw.
2) Place the Auxiliary Fence on top of the Sled and clamp the Auxiliary Fence to the table saw fence.
3) Adjust the table saw fence to the desired distance between the right side of the saw blade and the left side of the Auxiliary Fence. This will be the thickness of the slice.
4) Using a push stick, and with the Auxiliary Fence as the fence, slice off a sliver of wood. As soon as the wood passes the Auxiliary Fence it will fall off. Repeat until you have all the strips.
Jig for Cutting Repeatable Thin Strips

Cutting off thin strips of wood to consistent thickness can be a difficult and sometimes dangerous task on a table saw. Consistency on a table saw is often achieved by setting the distance between the saw blade and the fence. With thin strips of wood in the order of 1/8” or 1/32” this can be challenging. This jig uses an auxiliary fence that eliminates the possibility of trapping the wood between the blade and the fence and uses a progressive splitter that keeps the blade from allowing the kerf to wander into the very thin slice and thereby produce thickness inconsistency over the length of the finished slice.

This jig is my adaptation of a technique used by Thomas J. MacDonald on one of his web videos. MacDonald attributes his approach to the North Bennet Street School.

The jig is made up of two parts: (1) Sled with Splitter, (2) Auxiliary Fence

Make the Sled with the Splitter
1. Make the sled base out of 1/4 MDF or some similar material. The dimension from front to back should be roughly equivalent to the size of your saw table top.
2. Fabricate and attach a saw guide track. Position it to provide about 4 inches of sled base to the left of the saw blade and about 2 inches of sled to the right of the saw blade.
3. Fabricate and attach Sled Stops to hit against the saw table top on the front and back of the sled. This prevents the sled base from moving. Alternatively, clamp the sled to the saw base.
4. Lower the saw blade all the way. Position the Sled on the saw table top and raise the saw blade through the Sled as high as possible.
5. Fabricate and attach the Back Guide and Splitter. The flat left side of the Splitter should align exactly with the left side of the saw blade as indicated by the hole cut in step 4 above.

Make the Auxiliary Fence Guide
1) Fabricate a U shaped Auxiliary Fence out of any scrap material. The part closest to the saw blade should be smooth and slick. Hard maple is a good choice.
2) The length of the Auxiliary Fence should be roughly the distance from the start of the saw blade to the front edge of the saw table top.
3) The width of the Auxiliary Fence should be such that the left side of the Auxiliary Fence can touch the saw blade when attached to the table saw main fence. See step 2 in “Make the Sled with the Splitter” above.
4) The front of the Auxiliary Fence should align with the front of the saw blade. This is determined when the sled is in position and the saw blade is raised.
5) No part of the Auxiliary Fence should extend past the start of the saw blade or the thin strips will get trapped when they are cut free.