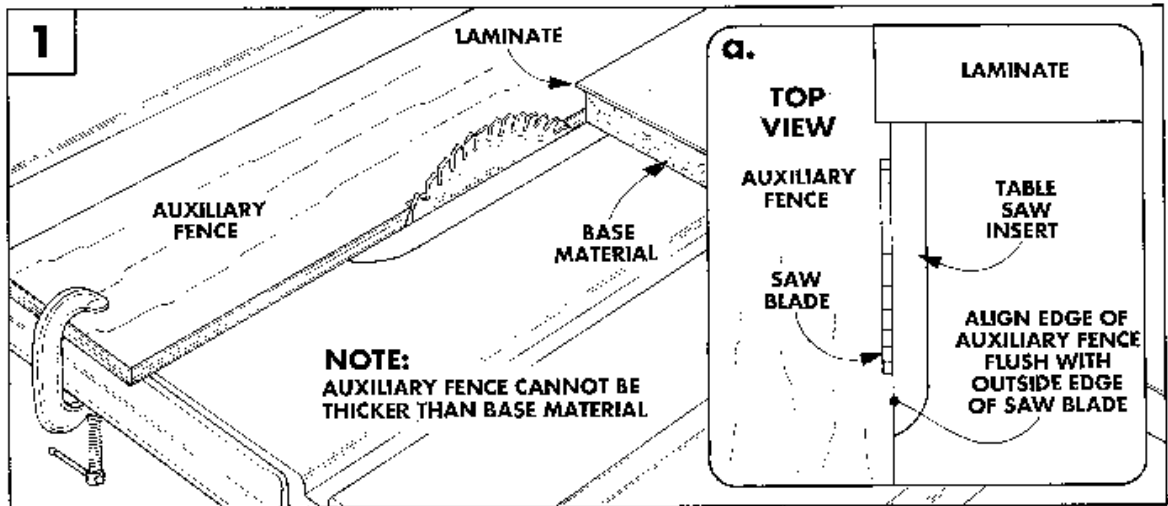


## Trimming Laminate on a Table Saw

I made a new router tabletop with a plastic laminate work surface. Typically, after gluing the laminate to the base material, you'd trim it to size with a flush trim bit in a router. But here's a technique I've used for the last twenty years to trim straight pieces on the table saw.

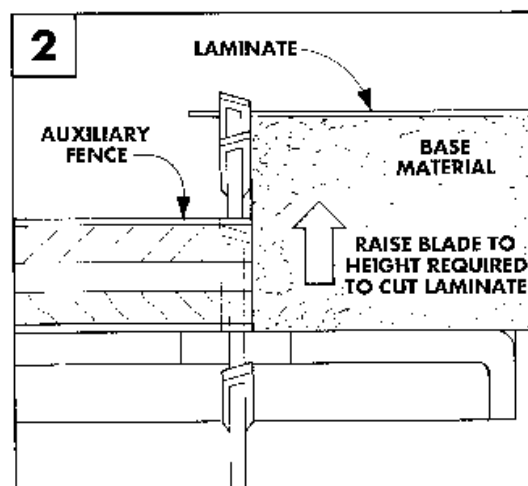


To do this, you need to make an auxiliary "fence." This isn't a typical auxiliary fence mounted vertically to the rip fence. Instead, this fence lies flat on the saw table, see Fig. 1. The blade is buried in the edge of the fence; so the outside edge of the blade is flush with the outside edge of the fence, see top view in Fig 1a.

This way the base material can slide along the fence untouched by the blade. Only the laminate that extends past the edge of the base material, and overlaps the fence, gets cut off.

I made my fence from a piece of plywood. It can be the same thickness or thinner than the base material, but not thicker.

To make the fence, first lower the blade into the saw table. Then clamp the plywood auxiliary fence to the saw table so the outside edge of the plywood is flush with the outside edge of the blade, see Fig. 1a.



Now turn on the saw and raise the blade through the plywood until the blade is high enough to cut the laminate, see Fig. 2.