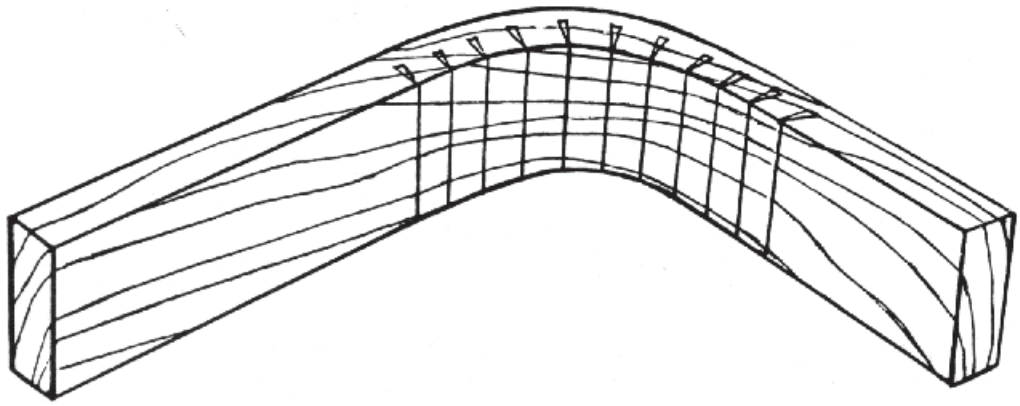
Tip #87 How To Cut Saw Kerfs For Bending

Description:
Pieces of stock may be bent by crosscutting equally spaced kerfs in the portion of the stock to be bent. The spacing and depth of the kerfs depends upon the amount of bend and the flexibility of the stock.

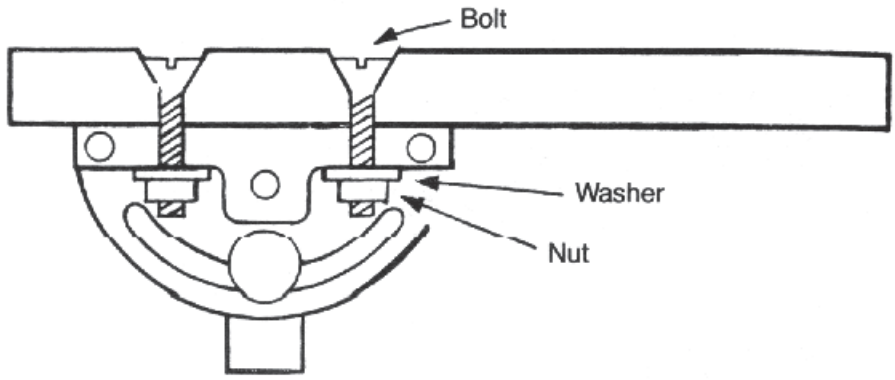


Use:
Bending stock by means of kerf cuts is a quick, practical method of constructing garden arbors, edges for drum tables and stools, or other projects requiring arched, curved or bent integral parts.

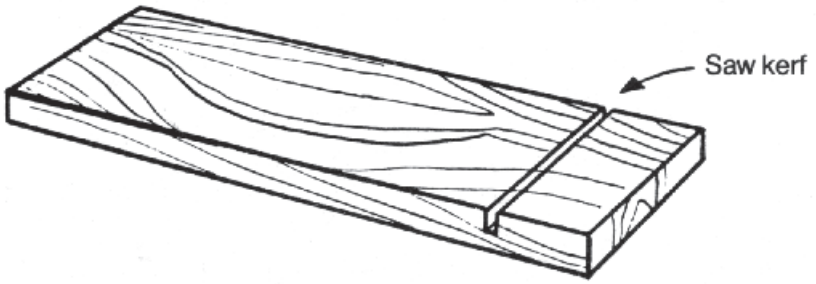
Operations:
Warning: When cutting molding, it is necessary to remove the upper saw guard. Whenever the upper saw guard is removed, keep the lower guard in place and work with extreme caution.

1. Prepare a piece of stock 3/4" x 1-3/4" x 18".
2. Install miter gauge extension.

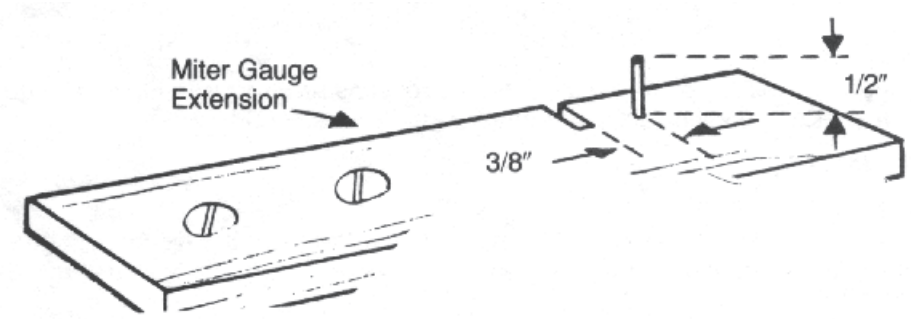
Note: If you do not have a miter gauge extension, construct one using pieces of stock 3/4" x 2-1/2" x 18". Fasten to miter gauge with flat headed stove bolts. Counter sink or counter bore bolt holes.



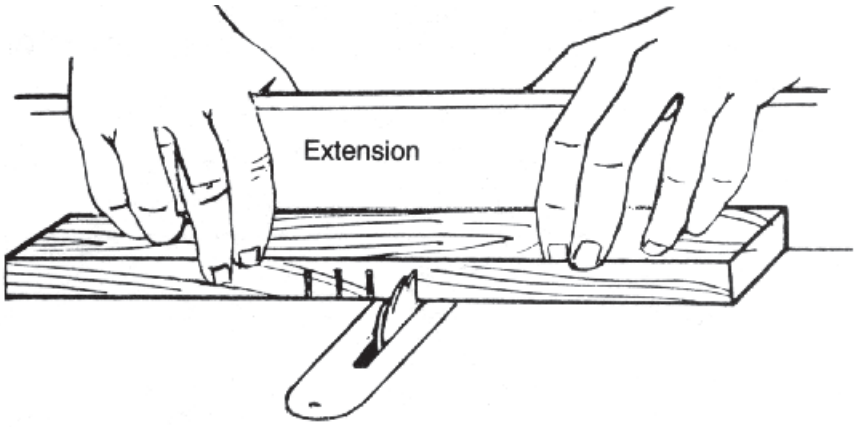
3. Set saw blade to 5/8" height.
4. Make crosscut in scrap stock.



5. Place miter gauge in left table slot and make cross cut through extension.
Note: Let us decide that 3/8" will be the "kerf spacing".
6. 3/8" to the right of this cut, drive a 6 penny finishing nail 1/2" from bottom edge.
7. Cut off nail 1/2" from surface of extension. (See drawing)



8. Place stock on table, edge against miter gauge extension and end touching nail.
9. Make crosscut.
10. Move stock to right placing kerf over nail in extension and repeat cut.



11. Continue until kerfs are made the full length of stock.
12. The stock may now be readily bent.
Note: Dampening the outside surface of stock reduces the probability of cracking.