United States Patent	12390950
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
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Fence stop system for a saw and method thereof

Abstract

A fence stop system for a table saw includes a fence stop that has a stop surface that is moveable between first and second positions. In the first position, the stop surface is disengaged from a portion of a table saw fence. In the second position, the stop surface engages the portion of the table saw fence. The fence stop includes a micro adjustment mechanism to “dial in” an exact measurement for a rip or cut. The fence stop system may additionally include a second fence stop that can be coupled to the first fence stop to create a mated pair. When the stop surfaces are in their second positions (i.e., stopping position), part of the table saw fence is disposed between the respective stop surfaces that allow the fence to translate between the stop surfaces to effectuate a dado cut in the wood.

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Appl. No.: **17/469288**

Filed: **September 08, 2021**

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20230073793 A1	Mar. 09, 2023

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: **B27B27/02** (20060101); **B27B27/10** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **B27B27/02** (20130101); **B27B27/10** (20130101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: B27B (27/00); B27B (27/02); B27B (27/08); B27B (27/10)

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This disclosure is directed to a fence stop and method of use thereof for a table saw. More particularly, the present disclosure is directed to a fence stop for a table saw that includes one or more fence stops for selective adjustment of a fence for a table saw that also enables a dado to be cut.

BACKGROUND

(2) Woodworkers often cut or rip large pieces of wood or plywood via a table saw. When using a table saw, woodworkers are also often required to make numerous cuts of wood having similar dimensions. This is common in cabinet making where the cabinets all have similar dimensions.

(3) Table saws have a fence that acts a guide for the piece of wood as it is cut or ripped. However, it is common for the fence to need to be moved to another location, at least temporarily, for a variety of reasons. When the woodworker needs to return to cut a piece of wood having a similar dimension prior to moving the fence, there is uncertainty whether the second piece of wood will have the same dimension because it is difficult to truly return the fence to its original location.

(4) Different from table saws, other types of woodworking saws have used fence stops. For example, fence stops are known to exist for miter saws and jig saws. However, these require unique

configurations for the particular type of saw and are not able to be used for table saws.

SUMMARY

(5) Thus, it has been recognized that a need exists for a fence stop for use with a table saw. The present disclosure addresses this need and other needs by providing a fence stop system for a table saw. In addition to the fence stop for a table saw, a need has also been addressed that enables the fence stop system to allow a table saw to perform a dado cut in a piece of wood or board by selective alignment of two mated fence stops.

(6) In one aspect, an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure provides a fence stop system for a table saw includes a fence stop that has a stop surface that is moveable between first and second positions. In the first position, the stop surface is disengaged from a portion of a table saw fence. In the second position, the stop surface engages the portion of the table saw fence. The fence stop includes a micro adjustment mechanism to “dial in” an exact measurement for a rip or cut. The fence stop system may additionally include a second fence stop that can be coupled to the first fence stop to create a mated pair. When the stop surfaces are in their second positions (i.e., stopping position or raised position), part of the table saw fence is disposed between the respective stop surfaces that allow the fence to linearly translate between the stop surfaces to effectuate a dado cut in the wood.

(7) According to one example, the fence stop system for a table saw in the present disclosure provides a “flip stop” or fence stop for a rip fence for a table saw. One exemplary commercial embodiment of the present disclosure is commercially available for sale by Woodpeckers, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company, and is known as the Rip-Flip Fence Stop System. The exemplary fence stop system for a table saw is advantageous for wood workers such as cabinet manufacturers who are consistently manufacturing rail and stile doors, amongst other types of items. In one example, the rail and stile, and face frame construction are typically all cut at a certain dimension; for example, 2⅛ inch. The fence stop of the present disclosure may be installed on a rail of a table saw assembly so as to always set the fence of the table saw to the 2⅛ inch dimension. The wood may be cut and ripped and then the fence stop can be flipped down below the rail, out of use, so that the fence may be adjusted to another dimension. When the fence stop is in the raised and engaged position (also known herein as the second position of the stop surface), it allows the wood worker to automatically and selectively set the fence at the desired dimension without having to double-check or look that the fence is in a correct position because it will always remain at that same position. The wood worker may then begin to rip and cut wood boards at the desired dimension. The fence stop system of the present disclosure enables a wood worker to easily change their position of their fence if desired by lowering the fence stop relative to the rail. Thereafter, the fence stop may be raised to cut the selected and set dimension again at another later time. This allows a wood worker to duplicate two pieces of wood stock that have the exact same dimensions.

(8) The fence stop system of the present disclosure not only stops the fence in one direction but in two. Namely, the use of a second fence stop enables a wood worker to cut perfect fitting and square dados. For example, fence stop system of the present disclosure enables a wood worker to cut dados that are not traditionally able to be cut with a conventional dado blade. For example, with nominal quarter-inch plywood, which is actually under one-quarter inch, and with a typical dado blade the absolute minimum cut is the two outside blade dimensions which is a quarter of an inch. Thus, a nominal quarter-inch piece of plywood, typically used for the bottom or drawers, would be too sloppy and not square in the dado. The present disclosure enables two cuts or rips to be formed utilizing the first and second fence stops adjacent the fence to perform a perfect fitting dado for a nominal quarter-inch piece of plywood that has an actual dimension less than one-quarter inch using a standard one-eighth inch blade. To set up the fence stop system to perform a dado cut, the second fence stop is loosened relative to the rail and it is flipped such that the respective second ends of the first and second fence stops face each other. The first and second fence stops are coupled together via a coupling unit or coupler and secured together via set screws that may be

tightened via an Allen key. The coupling of the first and second fence stops together enables them to slide as a mated pair or union along the length of the rail. Thereafter, the ratchet knobs associated with the handles may be tightened and lowered so they do not interfere with pivoting movement of the levers on the fence stop that carry the respective stopping surfaces of the first and second fence stops. The wood worker may then slide the table saw fence assembly to a location between the stopping surfaces of the respective first and second fence stops and raise the levers to position the stop surfaces associated with the first fence stop on one side of the fence and the stopping surface associated with the second fence stop on an opposite side of the fence. The depth the saw blade may then be set to a desired depth for the depth of the groove of the dado that is desired to be cut. In one example, assume the location of the dado needs to be one inch from the end of the plywood stock. The cursor looking through a viewport on the table saw rail may be moved to the one inch indicator and the fence is locked into position. Thereafter, the mated pair of fence stops may be slid beneath the fence in unison and the lever of the first fence stop raised to raise the stopping surface above the rail. A thumb screw or micro adjustment member connected to the stopping surface may then be maneuvered to engage the stop block on the fence. Then a first cut may be made for the dado. Thereafter, to enlarge the groove so that the plywood can go in, the saw needs to be brought a little closer to the blade. Then, the second stop will be raised and bring the stopping surface very close to, but not touching, the stop block on the other side of the fence. Then, the fence handle is raised and the fence is slightly moved over to alter the offset distance of the blade relative to the fence. Then, the board may be ripped a second time and cut to generate a dado that has a dimension equal to that of the nominal quarter-inch piece of plywood that actually has a dimension less than one-quarter inch. The wood worker may then install the nominal quarter-inch piece of plywood onto the wood via the square dado.

(9) In yet another aspect, an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may provide a fence stop system for a table saw, the system comprising: a rail defining a channel, wherein the rail is adapted to be connected to a surface of a table saw assembly; a first fence stop that is moveable along the rail and selectively locked at a position along the rail, the first fence stop comprising: a stop surface that is moveable between a first position and a second position, wherein when in the stop surface is in the second position the stop surface abuts a portion of a table saw fence and when the stop surface is in the first position the stop surface does not contact the table saw fence. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a lever that pivots about an axis that is parallel the rail, wherein the lever pivots between a lowered position and a raised position; wherein the stop surface is carried by the lever, and the first position of the stop surface is associated with the lowered position of the lever and the second position of the stop surface is associated with the raised position of the lever. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the stop surface is above the rail when the lever is in the raised position and is below the rail when the lever is in the lowered position. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a micro adjustment mechanism, wherein the stop surface is on the micro adjustment mechanism. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: an aperture defined in the lever, wherein the micro adjustment mechanism extends through the aperture and positions the stop surface to one side of the lever. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the micro adjustment mechanism comprises: a rotatable member and a lock, wherein when the lock of the micro adjustment mechanism is unlocked the rotatable member is adapted to be rotated to linearly translate the stop surface to impart adjusting movement to the table saw fence, and when the lock of the micro adjustment mechanism is locked the stop surface is fixed relative to the lever. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide a second fence stop that is moveable along the rail and selectively locked at a second positon along the rail. This exemplary

embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide a stop surface on the second fence stop that is moveable between a first position and a second position, wherein when in the stop surface on the second fence stop is in the second position the stop surface of the second fence stop abuts a different portion of the table saw fence and when the stop surface of the second fence stop is in the first position the stop surface of the second fence stop does not contact the table saw fence. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide a lock handle on the table saw fence disposed between the stop surface of the first fence stop and the stop surface of the second fence stop. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the table saw fence is linearly moveable between a first engagement with the stop surface of the first fence stop and a second engagement with the stop surface of the second fence stop, wherein movement of the table saw fence between the stop surfaces of the first and second fence stops is adapted to cut a dado in a piece of wood. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the second fence stop comprises: a second lever that pivots about an axis that is parallel the rail, wherein the second lever pivots between a lowered position and a raised position; a second stop surface carried by the second lever, wherein when in the second lever is in raised position the second stop surface abuts a portion of a table saw fence and when the second lever is in the lowered position the second stop surface does not contact the table saw fence. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide a coupler to join the first fence stop and the second fence stop. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the stop surface on the second fence stop is above the rail when a lever on the second fence stop is in a raised position and is below the rail when the lever on the second fence stop is in a lowered position. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a slide nut adapted to engage the rail and enable the first fence stop to slide relative to the rail. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a tapered aperture formed in a lever, wherein a pivot axis about which the lever pivots extends through the tapered aperture. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a body having first and second ends, and at least one flat side extending between the first and second ends, wherein the flat side of the body engages the rail. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a body having first and second ends, and bore formed in the first end adapted to receive a coupler to join the first fence stop with a second fence stop. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a lever having a flat surface configured to engage a frontal surface of the table saw assembly when the lever is in a raised position, wherein the raised position of the lever is associated with the second position of the stop surface, and the stop surface is carried by the lever. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide a chamfered edge on the rail and a chamfered edge on a body of the first fence stop complementary to the chamfered edge on the rail. This exemplary embodiment or another exemplary embodiment may further provide wherein the first fence stop further comprises: a lever and a pivot axis, wherein the lever is rotatable about the pivot axis, and the pivot axis is aligned parallel to a longitudinal direction of the rail.

(10) In yet another aspect, another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may provide a method comprising: coupling a rail of a fence stop system to a portion of a table saw assembly having a table saw fence; coupling a first fence stop to the rail; moving a stop surface between a first position and a second position, wherein when the stop surface is in the second position the stop surface abuts a portion of the table saw fence and when the stop surface is in the first position the stop surface does not contact the table saw fence. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide sliding the first fence stop along the rail. This exemplary method or

another exemplary method may further provide wherein sliding the first fence stop along rail moves the first fence stop in a direction perpendicular to a cutting direction of the table saw assembly. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide moving a lever on the first fence stop from a lowered position to a raised position, wherein the lower position of the lever is associated with the first position of the stop surface and the raised position of the lever is associated with the second position of the stop surface. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide wherein moving the lever on the first fence stop from the lowered position to the raised position is accomplished by pivoting the lever about a pivot axis oriented parallel to a length of the rail. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide positioning the stop surface above the rail when the lever is in the raised position and position the stop surface below the rail when the lever is in the lowered position. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide moving the stop surface via a micro adjustment mechanism on the first fence stop. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide wherein moving the stop surface is accomplished by imparting linear translation to the stop surface via rotational action of a portion of the micro adjustment mechanism. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide rotating a thumbwheel on the micro adjustment mechanism to linearly translate the stop surface. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide locking the stop surface at a selected location via a lock wheel on the micro adjustment mechanism. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide coupling a second fence stop to the rail; coupling the first fence stop to the second fence stop; and disposing a lock handle of the table saw fence between the stop surface on the first fence stop and a stop surface on the second fence stop. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide cutting a dado in a piece of wood while the lock handle is disposed between the stop surface on the first fence stop and the stop surface on the second fence stop. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide engaging a first portion of the table saw fence with the stop surface on the first fence stop; cutting a first portion of the dado; subsequent to cutting the first portion of the dado, engaging a second portion of the table saw fence with the stop surface on the second fence stop; and cutting a second portion of the dado. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide adjusting the stop surface on the second fence stop via a second micro adjustment mechanism on the second fence stop. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide unlocking the first and second fence stops relative to the rail; and sliding the first and second fence stops to a different position along the rail, wherein the first and second fence stop are slid as a mated pair. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide cutting a second dado having a different offset distance from an edge of a piece of wood than the first dado. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide moving the stop surface from the second position to the first position; and moving the first fence stop below the table saw fence to an opposite side of the table saw fence. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide moving the stop surface from the second position to the first position; and moving the table saw fence over the first fence stop to position the first fence stop on an opposite side of the table saw fence. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide unlocking the first fence stop relative to the rail such that the first fence stop may slide along the rail; unlocking a lock handle on the table saw fence; contacting a stop block on the table fence with the stop surface on the first fence stop; and moving the table saw fence and the first fence stop in unison while the stop block contacts the stop surface on the first fence stop. This exemplary method or another exemplary method may further provide revolving the stop surface around a pivot to move the stop surface between the first position and the second position.

(11) In yet another aspect, an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may provide a method comprising: effecting a rail of a fence stop system to be coupled to a portion of a table saw assembly having a table saw fence; effecting a first fence stop to be coupled to the rail; effecting

the first fence stop to be slid along the rail; effecting a stop surface to be moved between a first position and a second position, wherein when the stop surface is in the second position the stop surface abuts a portion of the table saw fence and when the stop surface is in the first position the stop surface does not contact the table saw fence; and effecting the stop surface to be adjusted via a micro adjustment mechanism on the first fence stop.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) Sample embodiments of the present disclosure are set forth in the following description, are shown in the drawings and are particularly and distinctly pointed out and set forth in the appended claims.

(2) FIG. **1** is a top perspective view of a fence stop system for a table saw according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. **2** is an exploded top perspective view of the fence stop system for a table saw.

(4) FIG. **3** is a top first side perspective view of one exemplary fence stop.

(5) FIG. **4** is a top second side perspective view of the exemplary fence stop from FIG. **3**.

(6) FIG. **5** is an exploded top first side perspective view of the exemplary fence stop from FIG. **3**.

(7) FIG. **6** is a longitudinal cross section view of the exemplary fence stop taken along line **6**-**6** in FIG. **3**.

(8) FIG. **7**A is an end elevation view of the fence stop system mounted to a table saw according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. **7**B is an enlarged end elevation view of the region labeled “SEE FIG. **7**B” in FIG. **7**A.

(10) FIG. **7**C is an enlarged operational end elevation view of the region from FIG. **7**B depicting the fence stop removed from the rail.

(11) FIG. **8**A is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting the stop surface having been raised from its lowered first position to a raised second position.

(12) FIG. **8**B is an operational end elevation view of the fence stop depicting the stop surface in its raised second position.

(13) FIG. **8**C is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting the fence stop being locked into position and engaging the fence with the fence stop.

(14) FIG. **8**D is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting the fence being move laterally from the fence stop.

(15) FIG. **8**E is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting the fence engaging the fence stop and being locked at a desired location.

(16) FIG. **8**F is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting a piece of wood or board being rip cut at a desired offset distance based on the location of the fence stop.

(17) FIG. **9**A is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting a micro adjustment lock wheel having been loosened so that a micro adjustment can be made via rotational action of a micro adjustment mechanism or screw.

(18) FIG. **9**B is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting locking the fence at a desired location after having performed a micro adjustment via rotational action of the micro adjustment screw.

(19) FIG. **9**C is an operational front side elevation view of the fence stop depicting locking the lock wheel on the micro adjustment screw.

(20) FIG. **10** is a side view of a coupler utilized to mate a first fence stop with a second fence stop.

(21) FIG. **11**A is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail prior to being coupled together.

(22) FIG. **11**B is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail prior to

being coupled together, with a rotational movement of the second fence stop occurring to alter its orientation relative to the first fence stop.
(23) FIG. **11**C is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail being mated or coupled together.
(24) FIG. **11**D is longitudinal cross section view of two fence stops mated or coupled together taken along line **11**D-**11**D in FIG. **11**C.
(25) FIG. **11**E is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together to perform a first dado cut in a piece of wood or board.
(26) FIG. **11**F is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together and the fence being unlocked and moved as an intermediary step prior to cutting a second dado cut.
(27) FIG. **11**G is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together and the fence being locked and for cutting a second dado cut in the piece of wood or board.
(28) FIG. **12**A is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together and the one fence stop being rotated to a lowered position and the mated pair being unlocked to slide along the rail so the lowered fence stop can slide below the fence assembly.
(29) FIG. **12**B is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together having been slid to another location along the rail with one fence stop still in the lowered first position after having been slid along the rail and the lowered fence having slid below the fence assembly.
(30) FIG. **12**C is an operational front side elevation view of two fence stops on the rail mated or coupled together with the tables saw fence assembly moved between the two respective stop surfaces on the mated fence stops and both fence stops in their respective raised second position.
(31) Similar numbers refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(32) FIG. **1** depicts a fence stop assembly or system generally at **10**. Fence stop system **10** attaches with a table saw assembly **12** including a saw blade **14** and a table saw fence **16** that is movable along or relative to a table saw rail **18**. Table saw rail **18** includes a first end **18**A and a second end **18**B defining a first direction therebetween. The longitudinal length of the table saw rail **18** is aligned parallel with the first direction. The first direction is shown in FIG. **1** as being parallel to coordinate line **20**. A second direction is perpendicular to coordinate line **20** and represented by coordinate line **22**. The second direction is associated with the diameter or the “ripping” direction of the saw blade **14**. A third direction parallel with coordinate line **24** is associated with the vertical direction of the table saw assembly **12**. Inasmuch as the table saw assembly **12** is a table saw, and not another type of saw such as a miter saw or a jig saw, the saw blade **14** is one that extends upwardly through hole formed in a major planar surface of the table saw assembly, and is not a type of saw blade the pivots downwardly from above as is the case for miter saws.
(33) The table saw fence **16** is slidable along the rail **18** in the first direction parallel with coordinate line **20**. Fence **16** may be locked into a position via a lock handle **26**. When the fence **16** is locked at a selected position along the length of rail **18**, a first sidewall **28** of fence **16** is offset a distance **30** from blade **14** on table saw assembly **12**.
(34) Rail **18** additionally includes a bottom surface **36** opposite the top surface **34**. The top surface **34** and bottom surface **36** are vertically aligned relative to the third direction parallel to coordinate line **24** perpendicularly intersects the major surfaces of the top surface **34** and the bottom surface **36**. Table saw fence **16** additionally includes a slide bracket **32** that slides along or near the top surface **34** of rail **18**. Slide bracket **32** may have at least one viewport **38** attached thereto. Viewport **38** is provided with a looking aperture to provide a user a viewport to see indicia or a ruler on the top surface **34** of rail **18** in order to set the desired offset distance **30** from the blade **14**. When the fence sidewall **28** is locked in a desired position, the user may activate (i.e., electrically power/turn

on) the blade **14** in order to cut or rip a piece of wood, such as plywood, in the ripping direction parallel to coordinate line **22**.

(35) Fence stop assembly or system **10** includes components that are connected to and used specifically in conjunction with table saw assembly **12**. Particularly, fence stop assembly or system **10** includes a rail **50** (that is different from rail **18**), a first fence stop **52**, and a second fence stop **52**A. The first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A are moveable along or relative to the rail **50**. IN one particular embodiment the first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A are slidable along the rail **50**. In one particular embodiment, first fence stop **52** and second fence stop **52**A are identical. Accordingly, for brevity, reference will be made to the first fence stop **52** and identical features or components on the second fence stop **52**A will be designated with the same reference numeral followed by the capital letter "A". However, it is possible and one would be motivated to slightly alter the fence stops to have different characteristics if necessary to achieve a desired application.

(36) As shown in FIG. **2**, rail **50** includes a first end **54** and a second end **56**. Rail **50** includes a longitudinal length that is oriented parallel to the first direction or coordinate line **20**. In one particular embodiment, rail **50** is formed from a unibody monolithic member. In one specific embodiment, rail **50** may be formed of extruded aluminum that is sufficiently strong yet lightweight and able to be mounted on rail **18** of table saw assembly **12**. The rail **50** may be a unibody that is integrally extruded, molded, printed, or additively manufactured, removably machined, or formed as a unitary, monolithic member substantially fabricated from a rigid, manmade, material. In one example, metal or metal alloys, such as stainless steel or aluminum alloy, may form a substantial majority of the components or elements used to fabricate the rail **50** body and the various components integrally formed, molded, or extruded therewith. The rigid rail **50** should withstand typical woodworking handling from an operator pressing the rail **50** against a piece of wood or other woodworking tools without damaging the rail **50**. While it is contemplated that the rail **50** and its additional components described herein are uniformly and integrally extruded, molded, or formed, it is entirely possible that the components of the tool body be formed separately from alternative materials as one having routine skill in the art would understand. In another example, the rail **50** may be formed from an elastomeric material or rubber material configured to withstand deformation upon impact or bending by the operator (i.e., a woodworker). Furthermore, while the components of the rail **50** are discussed below individually, it is to be clearly understood that the components and their corresponding reference elements of the rail **50** are portions, regions, or surfaces of the body and all form a respective element or component of the unitary rail **50**. Thus, while the components may be discussed individually and identified relative to other elements or components of the rail **50**, in this exemplary embodiment, there is a single rail **50** having the below described portions, regions, or surfaces.

(37) Rail **50** defines a first channel that is substantially C-shaped in cross-section extending longitudinally from the first end **54** to the second end **56**. First channel **58** is an open channel having an opening that would allow a member or device to be inserted into channel **58** in a direction parallel to the second direction or parallel to coordinate line **22**. Rail **50** includes a second channel **60** that is positioned adjacent the first channel **58** and includes an opening that is perpendicular to the opening of first channel **58**. Namely, the opening to second channel **60** is along the bottom edge of rail **50** and would allow a member to be inserted into second channel **60** in the vertical direction or direction parallel to coordinate line **24**. Rail **50** has additional features herein described.

(38) Fence stop assembly or system **10** additionally includes a plurality of mounting brackets **62** that couple rail **50** to the lower surface **36** of rail **18** on the table saw assembly **12**. In one particular embodiment, mounting brackets **62** may be generally elongated S-shaped or Z-shaped including a first planar portion **64** and a second planar portion **66**. First planar portion **64** includes an aperture aligned in the vertical direction or parallel to coordinate line **24** that is adapted to receive a screw

therethrough to mount the mounting brackets **62** to the rail **18** on the table saw assembly **12**. Second planar portion **66** includes at least one aperture but in some embodiments two apertures extending vertically therethrough configured to receive at least one, but in some embodiments two screws therethrough. The apertures **188** formed in second planar portion **66** may be oblong-shaped or rounded-rectangle-shaped to provide bracket **62** to slidably adjust for precision mounting. The length of apertures **188** may be aligned in the second direction or parallel to coordinate line **22**. The heads of screw or bolt **68** are configured to engage and be slidably received within second channel **60** in order to mount the rail **50** to the underside of rail **18** by the bolt **68** extending through aperture **188**. The head of screw or bolt **68** is received within channel **60** and may be tightened via a threaded nut. For installation of the rail, one bracket **62** may be installed at a time so as to not disrupt the alignment of rail **18** on table saw assembly **12** that will have been previously installed or assembled with the production of table saw assembly **12**.

(39) With continued reference to FIG. **2**, the exploded perspective view indicates that the first fence stop **52** includes a slide nut **70** that is slidably received within first channel **58** of rail **50**. Slide nut **70** includes a threaded aperture to receive a corresponding threaded bolt on first fence stop **52**. The threaded aperture **72** allows a bolt of first fence stop **52** to extend in the second direction or parallel to coordinate line **22** through the opening to first channel **58**. The slide nut **70** has a size that enables the nut **70** to slide within first channel **58** in a direction parallel to the longitudinal length of rail **50** or parallel to first direction **20** without being pulled out of the channel in a direction parallel to coordinate line **22**.

(40) One of the exemplary fence stops is depicted in FIG. **3**-FIG. **6**. Reference will be made to the elements of the fence stop depicted in FIG. **3**-FIG. **6** as portions of the first fence stop **52**; however, as mentioned previously, for brevity when shown with a corresponding reference element ending with the capital letter “A”, this will designate the same element on second fence stop **52**A.

(41) Fence stop **52** includes a body **74** having a first end **76** and a second end **78**. Body **74** is a generally cylindrical member extending from first end **76** to second end **78** but having flat sidewalls and a convex semi cylindrical outer surface between the flat sidewalls. Body **74** includes a first sidewall **80** and a second sidewall **82** diametrically opposite the first sidewall **80**. A bore **84** extends transversally through the body **74** from sidewall **80** to sidewall **82**. The bore **84** has a countersink **86** formed in the first sidewall **80**. The countersink has a diameter greater than that of bore **84**. The bore **84** receives a threaded screw **88** therethrough that is configured to threadably mate with the threaded aperture **72** formed in slide nut **70**. The countersink **86** receives a collar **90** on a handle **92** that may be rotated about axis **94** to loosen or tighten the relationship between body **74** and slide nut **70**.

(42) A threaded aperture **96** is defined in the body and is offset towards the first end **76** from the countersink **86**. Aperture **96** is aligned parallel to axis **94** and is in open communication with a smooth bore **98** that is centrally aligned along the length and defines an opening in first end **76**. Bore **98** is configured to receive a coupler **230** (FIG. **10**) therein and have a set screw **100** engage the coupler **230** (FIG. **10**) when threaded into aperture **96**.

(43) Body **74** further includes a threaded bore **102** formed in the second end **78** and extending along the central longitudinal axis of body **74**. Bore **102** extends centrally within the body **74** and terminates an end that is prior to the transverse bore **84**. Stated otherwise, bore **102** is distinct from and not in open communication with bore **84**. Similarly, bore **98** is distinct from and not in open communication with transverse bore **84**. At least one protrusion or a pair of protrusions **104** extend radially outward from the second surface **82** of body **74** in a direction parallel to axis **94**. Protrusions **104** include chamfered walls **106** along the longitudinal edges thereof. In one particular embodiment, body **74** is a unibody monolithic member formed from a rigid material capable of withstanding typical woodworking forces. Some exemplary materials are aluminum or stainless steel.

(44) With continued reference to FIG. **3**-FIG. **6**, the fence stop **52** additionally includes a lever **108**

having a unique configuration. Lever **108** includes a first end **110** opposite a second end **112**. The first and second ends **110**, **112** are spaced apart from each other. A first surface **114** and a second surface **116** are offset parallel to each other and extend between the first and second ends **110**, **112**. A sidewall defining a thickness of the lever **108** extends between the first surface **114** and the second surface **116**. The sidewall **118** is a continuous sidewall that is largely uninterrupted but has a unique configuration. Sidewall **118** includes a first portion **120** defining the first end **110** that is convex and extends between the first surface **114** and the second surface **116**. The lever **108** includes a second portion **122** of sidewall **118** that extends from the portion **120** towards the second end **112** and is largely offset parallel to the central axis **144** of the fence stop **52**. From portion **122**, a concavely-curved portion **124** flares radially outward to a protrusion **126** that defines a surface or portion of a surface of sidewall **118** that is configured to act as a bump stop for the lever when it is pivoted about an axis of the fence stop **52**, as described in greater detail herein. From the protrusion **126**, a second concave surface **128** extends towards the second end **112** that is defined by a convexly-curved portion **130**.

(45) Lever **108** defines a central opening **132** that extends entirely through the lever **108** from the first surface **114** to the second surface **116**. The central opening **132** is generally a rounded triangular configuration in cross section; however, other shapes of the central aperture are entirely possible. The central aperture configuration in one embodiment may complement or otherwise be similar to that of the outer profile or parameter edge of lever **108**. Thus, with the protrusion **126** extending radially outward from the central axis of the central aperture **132**, this causes the central aperture **132** to have a portion of the opening that extends radially outward from the central axis in a manner similar to that of protrusion **126**.

(46) Lever **108** additionally includes a tapered bore **134** that extends from the first surface **114** to the second surface **116**. More particularly, the tapered bore **134** includes an outer diameter at the first surface **114** that is larger than the diameter of the opening of the bore **134** at the second surface **116**. Stated otherwise, a tapered sidewall **136** extends from the first surface **114** towards the second surface **116**. In one particular embodiment, the tapered sidewall **136** may extend entirely from the first surface **114** to the second surface **116**. In a particular embodiment, as shown in FIG. **6**, the tapered sidewall **136** extends from the first surface **114** towards a middle portion of the lever **108** where the bore stops tapering and then is a uniform bore defined by an inner sidewall **138**. Tapered bore **134** is configured to receive a bolt or screw **140** therethrough such that the bolt or screw **140** is threadably received within the threaded bore **102** on the body **74**. As shown in FIG. **6**, the threaded bolt or screw **140** threads into the threaded bore **102** and couples the lever **108** to the body **74** such that the second end **78** of the body **74** is closely adjacent the second surface **116** of the lever **108**. The body **74** and the lever **108** may be spaced via a washer **142** that will provide a clearance or a gap between second surface **116** and second end **78** to allow the lever to rotate and pivot about the central axis **144** of the fence stop **52**.

(47) The bolt or screw **140** includes a first end **146** and a second end **148**. The second end **148** may be formed and define an Allen key receptacle such that the flights of the screw **140** extend fully from the first end **146** to the second end **148**. As will be described in greater detail herein, the second end **148** is configured to receive thereon a complementary threaded portion of a tapered nut **150**.

(48) With continued reference to FIG. **3**-FIG. **6**, the tapered nut **150** includes a first end **152** opposite a second end **154**. The second end **154** defines an annular surface **156**. Near the second end **154** is a hex nut configuration of a sidewall. From the hex nut sidewall **158**, there is a tapered sidewall **160** that tapers from the hex nut **158** towards the first end **152**. A threaded bore extends centrally through the tapered nut **150** such that the tapered bore **162** threadably receives the second end **148** of bolt or screw **140**. The threaded bore **162** extending fully through the tapered nut **150** allows a set screw **164** to be threaded into the threaded bore **162** of the tapered nut **150**. The set screw **164** holds the bolt or screw **140** in place that allows the tapered nut **150** to reside within the

tapered bore **134** of lever **108**. As will be described in greater detail below, when the lever **108** is pivoted about axis **144**, the lever may rotate such that the tapered sidewall **136** of the lever **108** engages the tapered sidewall **160** of the tapered nut **150** allowing the pivoting action about axis **144** to occur.

(49) The lever **108** defines a threaded bore **166** that is configured to receive an adjustment screw **168**. The adjustment screw **168** is one exemplary embodiment of a micro adjustment mechanism or device that enables the fence stop **52** to impart micro adjustments to move the sidewall **28** of the fence **16** to a desired location along the length of rail **18** shown in FIG. **1**. Particularly, one exemplary embodiment of the micro adjustment mechanism or device is screw **168** having a thumbwheel **170** and a threaded screw terminating in a stop surface **172**. The stop surface **172** is a generally planar surface perpendicularly-oriented relative to central axis **144**. As will be described in greater detail herein, the stop surface **172** moves between a first position and a second position. In one particular example, the stop surface **172** is configured to revolve around axis **144** such that it moves between various positions configured to engage or not engage a portion of the fence assembly **16** or table saw fence **16** depending on the desired or selected position of the fence stop **52** based on user preference. Stated otherwise, the stop surface **172** can revolve about axis **144** as lever **108** pivots about axis **144** from an engaged and stopping position (i.e., the second position) to a disengaged or non-stopping position (i.e., the first position). When the stop surface **172** is moved via the lever **108** pivoting to the stopped position, the table saw fence or a portion thereof engages or touches the stop surface **172**. When the stop surface **172** carried by lever **108** is in the lowered or disengaged or non-stopping position or first position, then the table saw fence **16** or fence assembly may easily pass over the entire fence stop **52** so as to enable the fence assembly to selectively slide along the length of rail **18** to a desired location selected by user preference.

(50) A lock wheel **174** is operatively connected with the micro adjustment mechanism. In one embodiment, the lock wheel **174** is an annual member defining a threaded bore **176** that is positioned between the first surface **114** of lever **108** and the thumbwheel **170**. The lock wheel **174** may be threadably turned along the length of the micro adjustment screw **168** in order to lock the stop surface **172** in a desired position. Particularly, the lock wheel **174** may be rotated to engage the first surface **114** of the lever **108** to effectively lock the stop surface at a desired location. If the stop surface **172** needs to be moved, the lock wheel **174** may be rotated to disengage the lock wheel **174** from the surface **114** on the lever which will thereby allow the thumbwheel **170** to be turned to move the position of the stop surface **172** relative to second surface **116** of lever **108**.

(51) FIG. **7**A and FIG. **7**B depict a cross section view of the fence stop **52** installed on rail **50** of the fence stop assembly system **10**. FIG. **7**C depicts the removal of the fence stop **52** from the rail **50**.

(52) FIG. **7**A depicts a single bolt **178** used to mount the first portion **64** of mounting bracket **62** to the lower surface **36** of rail **18**. Bolt **178** may be installed from the bottom such that the head of bolt **178** is positioned below the lower surface **36** of rail **18**. The second portion **66** of bracket **62** is positioned lower than the first portion **64**. Bolt **68** is used to install the rail **50** above the second portion **66** of bracket **62** and below the lower surface **36** of rail **18**. Stated otherwise, in this particular example, rail **18** is configured to mount between bracket **62** and the lower surface **36** of rail **18**. However, it is understood that other configurations are possible.

(53) FIG. **7**B depicts that bolt **68** includes a head **180** that is disposed within the second channel **60**. Head **180** has a width or diameter that is complementary or approximates the maximum dimension of the second channel **60** measured in the second direction parallel to coordinate line **22**. This ensures a tight fight of the head **180** within the second channel **60**. The bolt **68** extends downwardly through the opening **182** that has a narrower dimension than that of the primary portion of second channel **60**. This creates a ledge **184** for the head **180** of bolt **68** to abut. Bolt **68** may be tightened with a nut **186** to mount the rail **50** to the rail **18**. The second portion **66** of mounting bracket **62** may be formed with a plurality of oval or oblong apertures **188** that allow for slight transverse adjustment in the second direction or in the direction parallel to coordinate line **22** when mounting

the rail **50** to the rail **18**. The rail **50** includes an upper extension **190** that abuts the frontal sidewall of the rail **18** to limit the maximum amount of travel of the rail **50** in the second direction or in the direction parallel to coordinate line **22**.

(54) With continued reference to FIG. **7**B, the fence stop **52** is coupled to the rail **50** by inserting the slide nut **70** into the first channel **58** such that the height of the slide nut **70**, which is oriented parallel to the coordinate line **24**, is aligned with the maximum vertical dimension of the first rail **18**. The height of the slide nut **70** is greater than the dimension of the opening **192** to the first channel **58**. This creates a ledge **194** for the slide nut **70** to engage the ledge **194** to retain the fence stop in a desired position along the length of the rail **50**. When the slide nut **70** engages ledge **194**, a boss or collar of slide nut **70** is disposed within the opening **192** to channel **58**, wherein boss or collar defines a portion of threaded aperture **72**. Additionally, a portion of the wall of the rail that defines the opening **192** to channel **58** is chamfered or has a chamfered edge **196** that is complementary to the chamfered edge **106** on the protrusion **104** from body **74** of the fence stop **52**. The chamfered edge **106** and the chamfered edge **196** align and contact each other when the screw **88** is mounted and tightened onto slide nut **70**. The chamfered edges **106**, **196** align to ensure proper vertical alignment in a direction parallel to coordinate line **24** and ensure that the fence stop **52** is aligned in both the first direction and the second direction.

(55) FIG. **7**C depicts the removal of the fence stop **52** from the rail **50**. The screw **88** may be loosened so as to disconnect the slide nut **70** from its engagement with ledge **194**. This will allow the slide nut **70** and the fence stop **52** to slide within the channel **58** along the longitudinal length of the rail that is oriented in the first direction parallel to coordinate line **20**. Stated otherwise, prior to complete removal from the rail **50**, the fence stop **52** may be loosened to slide along the length of the channel **58** of rail **50** to selectively position the fence stop **52** at any desired length. As will be described in greater detail below, it is typical for table saws, such as table saw assembly **12**, to need common dimensions when cutting wood having standard sizes. For example, when a wood worker is making cabinets, often many of the cabinets have the same dimensions in a certain direction. As such, the fence stop **52** may be slid to a desired location corresponding to a certain dimension offset **30** of the fence wall **28** relative to blade **14** and locked into that position by tightening the screw **88** to engage the slide nut **70** as shown in the locked position of FIG. **7**A and FIG. **7**B. However, in the event the woodworker wants to remove the fence stop, the slide nut may be loosened by rotating screw **88** in a counterclockwise direction about its axis and the slide nut may be moved out of the channel **58** such that the fence stop may be removed from the rail and pulled away in the direction indicated by arrow **198**.

(56) Collectively, FIG. **8**A-FIG. **12**C generally depict a variety of the operations and methods/processes of the fence stop system **10** for table saw assembly **12**.

(57) FIG. **8**A depicts the beginning operation for a user to set a desired offset distance **30** for the sidewall **28** of fence **16** relative to blade **14** on table saw assembly **12**. After the fence stop **52** is installed on the rail **50**, the user may loosen the handle **92** as indicated by arrow **200**. Loosening of the handle **92** disengages or loosens the grip of the slide nut **70** in the first channel **58** so that the fence stop **52** may slide along the rail to a user selected distance. The sliding of the fence stop **52** may occur independently or it may occur in unison with the movement of the fence **16** as indicated by arrow **202**. When moved in unison in the direction of arrow **202**, the lever **108** should be rotated and pivoted upwardly above the rail **50** about axis **44** as indicated by arrow **204**. The fence stop **52** slides along the length of the rail in a direction parallel to dimension line **20**. When sliding in unison, the stop surface **172** engages the stop block **210**. More particularly, force may be imparted from the table saw fence **16** through the stop block **210** through the stop surface **172** to effectuate linear movement or linear translation of the first fence stop **52**.

(58) FIG. **8**B depicts the pivoting movement of the lever **108** about axis **144** as indicated by arrow **206**. When the lever **108** is pivoted upwardly, the stop surface **172** is positioned above the rail **50**. More particularly, stop surface **172** is positioned above the first channel **58** and above the second

channel **60**. When in this raised position, the stop surface **172** is above the lower surface **36** of the rail **18** on table saw assembly **12** but below upper surface **34** of rail **18**. However, it is entirely possible that the stop surface **172** could be positioned above the upper surface **34** of rail **18**. When the lever **108** and stop surface **172** are in the raised and stopping position (i.e., the second positon of stop surface **172**), the portion **126** of lever **108** engages the frontal surface **208** of rail **18**. Surface **126** engages the frontal surface **208** to prevent over rotation of the lever about axis **144**. By engaging the portion **126** of the lever **108** with the frontal surface **208**, the stop surface **172** is aligned with a portion of the table fence assembly **16**. In one particular embodiment, the stop surface **172** is moved to its second positon and aligned with a nut or the head of a bolt **210** that causes the fence or a portion of the fence to be stopped in a desired position by the fence stop **52**. While the bolt head **210** is a shown embodiment, any surface acting as a stop block to engage the stop surface **172** may be utilized. Thus, bolt head **210** may also be referred to herein as stop block **210**. It will be understood that the indicia on the upper surface **34** are to be calibrated based on the size of the bolt head **210** or associated stop block to ensure that the stop surface **172** engages the portion of the fence to offset the distance **30** the appropriate amount based on the dimensions of the components used herein.

(59) FIG. **8**C depicts locking the fence stop **52** into a set and selected position based on a desired offset distance **30**. To lock the fence stop **52** at the user-selected and desired position, an operator will rotate handle **92** in a clockwise direction as indicated by arrow **212**. This will lock the body **74** to the rail **50**. When the body **74** of fence stop **52** is locked to the rail, the lever **108** can be pivoted and between the lowered position and the raised position. When in the raised position, as shown in FIG. **8**C, the fence assembly **16** may be moved in the direction indicated by arrow **214** so that the bolt head **210** or stop block abuts the stop surface **172** to provide a desired offset distance **30**.

(60) FIG. **8**D depicts that the fence is able to be moved slightly to be adjusted if needed, as indicated in arrow **216**. If adjustment in the direction of arrow **216** is not needed, then, as shown in FIG. **8**E, the fence **16** may be moved and returned to abut the stop block **52** by engaging bolt head **210** with stop surface **172** by moving the fence **16** in the direction of arrow **214** and then locking the fence **16** in place by rotating the locking handle **26** downwardly in the direction of arrow **218**.

(61) FIG. **8**F depicts that when the fence is locked into a position, a piece of wood **219** may be ripped or cut via saw **14** to provide a desired cut dimension defined by the offset distance **30**. While the cutting action is occurring, the stop surface **172** engages the bolt head **210** or the stop block of the fence **16**.

(62) FIG. **9**A-FIG. **9**C depict the ability to perform micro adjustments while the fence stop **52** is in the raised blocking position. In operation and with reference to FIG. **9**A-FIG. **9**C, the fence stop system **10** installed on the table saw assembly **12** can be used for micro adjustments in conjunction with the alignment of the fence and sidewall **28** of fence **16** to align the viewport **38** over a desired indicia location on the top surface **34** of rail **18** to provide a desired offset distance **30** from the blade relative to the sidewall **28**.

(63) FIG. **9**A depicts that the lever **108** carrying the stop surface **172** is in the raised position above rail **50** to position the stop surface in its second position. The handle **92** of fence stop **52** is in the locked position such that the body **74** does not move relative to the rail **50**. The stop surface **172** is positioned above the rail **50** in its second positon having been moved from its first position below the rail **50**. The lock wheel **174** has been threadably moved along the length of micro adjustment screw or mechanism **168** to the left or towards the second end of rail **50** as indicated by arrow **220**. The rotation of lock wheel **174** allows micro adjustments to occur. Particularly, when the lock wheel **174** is disengaged from the first surface **114** of lever **108**, the lock wheel is effectively in the unlocked position when not engaging first surface **114** as shown in FIG. **9**A. This allows a user to rotate the thumbwheel **170** operatively connected to the micro adjustment mechanism or screw **168** to move the stop surface **172** at a fine or relatively small amounts or increments in the first direction parallel to coordinate line **20**. The micro adjustment of stop surface **172** can occur in

either direction as indicated by arrow **222** in response to rotation of thumbwheel **170**, wherein the rotation of thumbwheel **170** is indicated by arrow **224**. Thus, the operative association is one of rotation-to-translation. Namely, rotational action of one portion of the micro adjustment mechanism effectuates linear translation of another portion of the micro adjustment mechanism or stop surface **172**.

(64) FIG. **9**B depicts that the rotation of thumbwheel, shown by arrow **22** in FIG. **9**A, causes the micro adjustment to move stop surface **172** slightly to the right as indicated by arrow **228**. However, the micro adjustment may also be towards the left. Regardless, the micro adjustment may occur as a slight linear translation in either way parallel to coordinate line **20**. Once the micro adjustment has occurred, the lock handle **26** of the table saw assembly **12** may be locked into place by moving handle **26** downwardly as indicated by arrow **226** in a direction parallel to coordinate line **24**. This locks the table saw fence **16** at the desired offset **30** that was micro adjusted in FIGS. **9**A-**9**B.

(65) As shown in FIG. **9**C, the stop surface **172** may be then locked into a position by threading the lock wheel **174** along the length of the micro adjustment mechanism or screw **168** in a direction to the right as indicated by arrow **229** to move the lock wheel **174** from its unlocked position shown in FIGS. **9**A-**9**B to its locked position shown in FIG. **9**C in which the lock wheel **174** engages the first surface **114** of lever **108** to threadably lock the stop surface **172** at a desired position relative to rail **18**. After the lock wheel **174** has been moved to the right in the direction shown in **229** and the lock wheel locks the micro adjustment screw **168** in a desired position, the stop surface **172** engages the corresponding or complementary bolt head **210** or stop block **210** on the fence **16** or fence assembly **16**. This ensures the desired offset distance **30** and is confirmed by the operator by viewing through the viewport **38** to identify indicia on the top surface of the rail **18**.

(66) Typically, the fence stop **52** is left in place at a desired distance or dimension along the rail at which the fence, or more particularly the sidewall **28** of fence **16**, needs to be positioned so that an operator of the table saw assembly **12** can make a plurality of ripping cuts all needing the same dimensions. As stated previously and common with cabinet woodworking, many cabinets have similar dimensions. Thus, a wood worker needs to rip or cut many similar dimensions multiple times. Thus, the fence stop **52** of the present disclosure enables a cabinet maker or other woodworker to set a desired stop distance to provide an offset for the table saw blade that can be used a plurality of times; however, when another cut is needed, a portion of the fence stop **52**, such as lever **108** carrying stop surface **172**, may simply pivot down below the rail **50** and enable free passage of the fence **16** thereabove when the lever **108** carrying the stop surface **172** is in the lowered position so that the fence **16** can be moved to an alternate location along the length of rail **18**. Then, thereafter, if the user or wood worker needs to return to the original position of the fence stop **52**, the user may flip the lever or pivot the lever **108** about the axis **144** upwardly to position the stop surface **172** to its raised second position above the rail **50** to their again engage the stop block or bolt head **210** on the fence assembly or fence **16**. The user will know that the offset distance **30** is correct without the need for additional measurement or adjustment.

(67) FIG. **10** depicts a coupler according to one aspect of the present disclosure. More particularly, an insert coupler **230** has a first end **232** opposite a second end **234**. The coupler **230** defines a generally cylindrical body interrupted by two narrowed diameter regions **236** and **238**. The first narrowed region **236** is defined by tapered sidewalls **240** and the second narrowed region **238** is defined by tapered sidewalls **242**. The first narrowed region **236** is spaced apart from the second narrowed region **238** by a central cylindrical portion **244** having the same outer diameter and cylindrical configuration as the first end **232** and the second end **234**. As will be described in greater detail below, the coupler, more particularly insert coupler **230**, is utilized to join the first fence stop **52** with the second fence stop **52**A as detailed below in FIG. **11**A-FIG. **12**C and as particularly shown in FIG. **11**D.

(68) FIG. **11**A depicts the use of the second fence stop **52**A in conjunction with first fence stop **52**.

The second fence stop **52**A is slid along the rail **50** as indicated by arrow **245** such that the micro adjustment screw **168**A approaches body **74** on first fence stop **52**. Handle **92**A on second fence stop **52**A is shown in the unlocked position which allows the body **74**A to slide relative to rail **50** in the direction of arrow **245**.

(69) FIG. **11**B depicts the rotation of the second fence stop **52**A about an axis parallel to the second direction or coordinate line **22** wherein the axis of rotation extends along the center of screw **88**A (FIG. **11**D). The pivoting or rotation of second fence stop **52**A is indicated by arrow **246**. The handle **92**A during rotational movement in the direction of arrow **246** of fence stop **52**A is in the unlocked position. When the second fence stop **52**A is rotated, the second lever **108**A has the ability to move between a raised and lowered position, wherein FIG. **11**B depicts the lever **108**A in the raised position to position the stop surface **172**A on the second fence stop **52**A above the rail **50**. In FIG. **11**B, the second fence stop **52**A is moved slightly to the right as indicated by arrow **248** to space the end **76** of first fence stop **52** apart from the end **76**A of second fence stop **52**A. The coupler or insert coupler **230** is inserted in the bore **98**A of the second fence stop **52**A and secured with the set screw **100**A. The set screw includes a tapered end that complements the tapered sidewalls **240** on coupler **230** to secure the coupler **230** within the bore **98**A.

(70) FIG. **11**C depicts the operation of the mating or union of the first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A. To form the union of the mated pair of first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A, the second fence stop **52**A may be slid towards the first fence stop **52** as indicated by arrow **250**. When the first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A are mated or unioned together as a mated pair, the coupler **230** is inserted into the bore **98** of first fence stop **52**. The set screw **100** on first fence stop **52** may be engaged into the coupler **230** to secure the tapered end of set screw **100** with the tapered walls **242** of coupler **230**. The mated pair of first and second fence stops **52**, **52**A directly abut the end **76** of body **74** with the end **76**A of body **74**A. Handle **92**A may then be rotated about the axis defined by screw **88**A as indicated by arrow **252** to lock the second fence stop **52**A, and more particularly lock the body **74**A of second fence stop **52**A, to the rail. The configuration of FIG. **11**C is utilized to cut a dado or multiple dados in a piece of wood. The dado cut is effectuated by a dado blade configuration **14**A having more than one cutting blade. Effectuating a dado cut allows a slight amount of travel between the stop surface **172** and the stop surface **172**A as indicated by the directional movement arrow **254**.

(71) FIG. **11**D depicts the mated pair of the first fence stop **52** and the second fence stop **52**A in cross section. When mated, the coupler **230** extends along axis **144** centrally through the first and second fence stops **52**, **52**A. The coupler is positioned within the respective bores **98**, **98**A of the first and second fence stops **52**, **52**A. Set screw **100** on first fence stop **52** is disposed within the tapered region defined by tapered walls **242** on coupler **230** and the set screw **100**A on the second fence stop **52**A is disposed within the tapered region defined by tapered walls **240** on coupler **230**. First end **76**A on fence stop **52**A directly abuts first end **76** on fence stop **52**. The screws **88**, **88**A perpendicularly intersect axis **144** to allow the rotation of handles **92**, **92**A, respectively, to lock the respective bodies **74**, **74**A to the rail **50**. When both handles **92**, **92**A are unlocked, the mated pair of fence stops **52**, **52**A may slide along the rail in unison via their respective slide nuts **70**, **70**A.

(72) FIG. **11**E depicts the cutting of the first portion of a dado **256** within a piece of wood **258** utilizing dado blade **14**A. To effectuate the dado cut or dado **256** in wood **258**, the handle **26** of fence **16** is moved downwardly in a direction parallel to coordinate line **24** to lock the fence in a first position in which the stop surface **172** engages stop block **210**. The dado is cut by moving the wood **258** parallel to the second direction or parallel to coordinate line **22** to rip the wood **258** to create the dado **256**.

(73) FIG. **11**F depicts the removal of wood **258** and the unlocking of handle **26** as indicated by arrow **262** and moving the fence **16** in a direction parallel to the first direction or parallel to coordinate line **20** as indicated by arrow **264**. This will engage the second stop surface **172**A with a second stop block **210**A on fence **16**.

(74) FIG. **11**G depicts that the handle **26** may be returned to its locked position by locking the fence at a desired location by moving handle **26** downwardly as indicated by arrow **266**. The dado **256** may be cut again by ripping wood **258** in a cutting direction parallel to the first direction to widen the width or increase the cut of the dado **256** via dado saw **14**A.
(75) While not shown in FIG. **11**A-FIG. **11**G, it is to be understood that the micro adjustment mechanism or feature could be implemented to adjust the size of the dado **256** as necessary by rotating the respective thumbscrews **170**, **170**A on the first and second fence stops **52**, **52**A.
(76) FIG. **12**A-FIG. **12**C depict the operation of moving the mated pair of first and second fence stops **52**, **52**A to create another dado having a different offset distance from that which was described previously in FIG. **11**A-FIG. **11**G. Particularly, if another dado having a different offset from the fence sidewall **28** is desired, the lever **108** on the first fence stop **52** may be lowered. Particularly, the stop surface **172** is moved from its raised position (i.e., second position) to its lowered position (i.e., first position) by rotating the lever **108** about axis **144** as indicated by arrow **268**. Then, the handles **92**, **92**A may be rotated counterclockwise as indicated by arrows **270**, **272**, respectively. The counterclockwise rotation of handles **92**, **92**A loosens the bodies **74**, **74**A so that the mated pair of fence stops **52**, **52**A may slide along the longitudinal length of rail **50** in unison. Lowering the lever **108** to position the stop surface **172** below the rail **50** enables the mated pair to slide beneath the handle **26** of fence **16**. As shown in FIG. **12**B, the mated pair slides along the longitudinal length of the rail as indicated by arrow **274** such that the lever **108** passes beneath the handle **26** on fence **16**. The handles **92**, **92**A may be returned to their locked position by rotating them clockwise. This provides an engagement of the fence stop **52**, **52**A as a mated pair to be selectively joined to the rail **50**.
(77) As shown in FIG. **12**C, the fence **16** may be moved as indicated by arrow **276** to engage the stop block **210**A with second stop surface **172**A. The handle **26** may be lowered to lock the fence in a desired position as indicated by arrow **278**. Thereafter, lever **108** may be pivoted upwardly about axis **144** as indicated by arrow **280** to position the stop surface **172** above the rail **50** so that it may be ready to engage stop block **210** to cut another dado **256** in wood **258** in the manner described in FIG. **11**A-FIG. **11**G but having a different offset distance than that which was previously described.
(78) Various inventive concepts may be embodied as one or more methods, of which an example has been provided. The acts performed as part of the method may be ordered in any suitable way. Accordingly, embodiments may be constructed in which acts are performed in an order different than illustrated, which may include performing some acts simultaneously, even though shown as sequential acts in illustrative embodiments.
(79) While various inventive embodiments have been described and illustrated herein, those of ordinary skill in the art will readily envision a variety of other means and/or structures for performing the function and/or obtaining the results and/or one or more of the advantages described herein, and each of such variations and/or modifications is deemed to be within the scope of the inventive embodiments described herein. More generally, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that all parameters, dimensions, materials, and configurations described herein are meant to be exemplary and that the actual parameters, dimensions, materials, and/or configurations will depend upon the specific application or applications for which the inventive teachings is/are used. Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific inventive embodiments described herein. It is, therefore, to be understood that the foregoing embodiments are presented by way of example only and that, within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereto, inventive embodiments may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described and claimed. Inventive embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to each individual feature, system, article, material, kit, and/or method described herein. In addition, any combination of two or more such features, systems, articles, materials, kits, and/or methods, if such features, systems, articles, materials, kits, and/or methods are not mutually inconsistent, is included within the inventive scope of the present

disclosure.
(80) All definitions, as defined and used herein, should be understood to control over dictionary definitions, definitions in documents incorporated by reference, and/or ordinary meanings of the defined terms.
(81) The term “slidable” as used herein means capable of sliding or able to be slid.
(82) The articles “a” and “an,” as used herein in the specification and in the claims, unless clearly indicated to the contrary, should be understood to mean “at least one.” The phrase “and/or,” as used herein in the specification and in the claims (if at all), should be understood to mean “either or both” of the elements so conjoined, i.e., elements that are conjunctively present in some cases and disjunctively present in other cases. Multiple elements listed with “and/or” should be construed in the same fashion, i.e., “one or more” of the elements so conjoined. Other elements may optionally be present other than the elements specifically identified by the “and/or” clause, whether related or unrelated to those elements specifically identified. Thus, as a non-limiting example, a reference to “A and/or B”, when used in conjunction with open-ended language such as “comprising” can refer, in one embodiment, to A only (optionally including elements other than B); in another embodiment, to B only (optionally including elements other than A); in yet another embodiment, to both A and B (optionally including other elements); etc. As used herein in the specification and in the claims, “or” should be understood to have the same meaning as “and/or” as defined above. For example, when separating items in a list, “or” or “and/or” shall be interpreted as being inclusive, i.e., the inclusion of at least one, but also including more than one, of a number or list of elements, and, optionally, additional unlisted items. Only terms clearly indicated to the contrary, such as “only one of” or “exactly one of,” or, when used in the claims, “consisting of,” will refer to the inclusion of exactly one element of a number or list of elements. In general, the term “or” as used herein shall only be interpreted as indicating exclusive alternatives (i.e. “one or the other but not both”) when preceded by terms of exclusivity, such as “either,” “one of,” “only one of,” or “exactly one of.” “Consisting essentially of,” when used in the claims, shall have its ordinary meaning as used in the field of patent law.
(83) As used herein in the specification and in the claims, the phrase “at least one,” in reference to a list of one or more elements, should be understood to mean at least one element selected from any one or more of the elements in the list of elements, but not necessarily including at least one of each and every element specifically listed within the list of elements and not excluding any combinations of elements in the list of elements. This definition also allows that elements may optionally be present other than the elements specifically identified within the list of elements to which the phrase “at least one” refers, whether related or unrelated to those elements specifically identified. Thus, as a non-limiting example, “at least one of A and B” (or, equivalently, “at least one of A or B,” or, equivalently “at least one of A and/or B”) can refer, in one embodiment, to at least one, optionally including more than one, A, with no B present (and optionally including elements other than B); in another embodiment, to at least one, optionally including more than one, B, with no A present (and optionally including elements other than A); in yet another embodiment, to at least one, optionally including more than one, A, and at least one, optionally including more than one, B (and optionally including other elements); etc.
(84) When a feature or element is herein referred to as being “on” another feature or element, it can be directly on the other feature or element or intervening features and/or elements may also be present. In contrast, when a feature or element is referred to as being “directly on” another feature or element, there are no intervening features or elements present. It will also be understood that, when a feature or element is referred to as being “connected”, “attached” or “coupled” to another feature or element, it can be directly connected, attached or coupled to the other feature or element or intervening features or elements may be present. In contrast, when a feature or element is referred to as being “directly connected”, “directly attached” or “directly coupled” to another feature or element, there are no intervening features or elements present. Although described or

shown with respect to one embodiment, the features and elements so described or shown can apply to other embodiments. It will also be appreciated by those of skill in the art that references to a structure or feature that is disposed "adjacent" another feature may have portions that overlap or underlie the adjacent feature.

(85) Spatially relative terms, such as "under", "below", "lower", "over", "upper", "above", "behind", "in front of", and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if a device in the figures is inverted, elements described as "under" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "over" the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term "under" can encompass both an orientation of over and under. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly. Similarly, the terms "upwardly", "downwardly", "vertical", "horizontal", "lateral", "transverse", "longitudinal", and the like are used herein for the purpose of explanation only unless specifically indicated otherwise.

(86) Although the terms "first" and "second" may be used herein to describe various features/elements, these features/elements should not be limited by these terms, unless the context indicates otherwise. These terms may be used to distinguish one feature/element from another feature/element. Thus, a first feature/element discussed herein could be termed a second feature/element, and similarly, a second feature/element discussed herein could be termed a first feature/element without departing from the teachings of the present invention.

(87) An embodiment is an implementation or example of the present disclosure. Reference in the specification to "an embodiment," "one embodiment," "some embodiments," "one particular embodiment," "an exemplary embodiment," or "other embodiments," or the like, means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiments is included in at least some embodiments, but not necessarily all embodiments, of the invention. The various appearances "an embodiment," "one embodiment," "some embodiments," "one particular embodiment," "an exemplary embodiment," or "other embodiments," or the like, are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiments.

(88) If this specification states a component, feature, structure, or characteristic "may", "might", or "could" be included, that particular component, feature, structure, or characteristic is not required to be included. If the specification or claim refers to "a" or "an" element, that does not mean there is only one of the element. If the specification or claims refer to "an additional" element, that does not preclude there being more than one of the additional element.

(89) As used herein in the specification and claims, including as used in the examples and unless otherwise expressly specified, all numbers may be read as if prefaced by the word "about" or "approximately," even if the term does not expressly appear. The phrase "about" or "approximately" may be used when describing magnitude and/or position to indicate that the value and/or position described is within a reasonable expected range of values and/or positions. For example, a numeric value may have a value that is +/−0.1% of the stated value (or range of values), +/−1% of the stated value (or range of values), +/−2% of the stated value (or range of values), +/−5% of the stated value (or range of values), +/−10% of the stated value (or range of values), etc. Any numerical range recited herein is intended to include all sub-ranges subsumed therein.

(90) Additionally, the method of performing the present disclosure may occur in a sequence different than those described herein. Accordingly, no sequence of the method should be read as a limitation unless explicitly stated. It is recognizable that performing some of the steps of the method in a different order could achieve a similar result.

(91) In the claims, as well as in the specification above, all transitional phrases such as "comprising," "including," "carrying," "having," "containing," "involving," "holding," "composed

of," and the like are to be understood to be open-ended, i.e., to mean including but not limited to. Only the transitional phrases "consisting of" and "consisting essentially of" shall be closed or semi-closed transitional phrases, respectively.
(92) In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness, and understanding. No unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirement of the prior art because such terms are used for descriptive purposes and are intended to be broadly construed.
(93) Moreover, the description and illustration of various embodiments of the disclosure are examples and the disclosure is not limited to the exact details shown or described.

Claims

1. A method comprising: coupling a rail of a fence stop system to a portion of a table saw assembly having a table saw fence; coupling a first fence stop having a lever to the rail, wherein the lever includes a first end and a second end, and a first surface and a second surface that extends between the first end and the second end, wherein the lever moves about an axis that is parallel to the rail, and wherein the second surface at the first end of the lever is attached to an outer surface of a body of the first fence stop; and moving a stop surface that is carried by the second end of the lever vertically between a lowered first position and a raised second position, wherein when the stop surface is in the raised second position the stop surface abuts a portion of the table saw fence and when the stop surface is in the lowered first position the stop surface does not contact the table saw fence.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: sliding the first fence stop along the rail with the stop surface in the lowered first position; and sliding the first fence stop along the rail with the stop surface in the raised second position.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein sliding the first fence stop along rail moves the first fence stop in a direction perpendicular to a cutting direction of the table saw assembly.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface via a micro adjustment mechanism on the first fence stop.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein moving the stop surface is accomplished by imparting linear translation to the stop surface via rotational action of a portion of the micro adjustment mechanism.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising: rotating a thumbwheel on the micro adjustment mechanism to linearly translate the stop surface.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising: locking the stop surface at a selected location via a lock wheel on the micro adjustment mechanism.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface from the raised second position to the lowered first position; and sliding the first fence stop along the rail below the table saw fence to an opposite side of the table saw fence.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface from the raised second position to the lowered first position; and moving the table saw fence over the first fence stop to position the first fence stop on an opposite side of the table saw fence.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising: unlocking the first fence stop relative to the rail such that the first fence stop may slide along the rail; unlocking a lock handle on the table saw fence; contacting a stop block on the table fence with the stop surface on the first fence stop; and moving the table saw fence and the first fence stop in unison while the stop block contacts the stop surface on the first fence stop.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface via a micro adjustment mechanism on the first fence stop, wherein the stop surface is a generally planar surface oriented perpendicular to a central axis.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface via a micro adjustment

mechanism; locking the stop surface in a desired position.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein locking the stop surface is accomplished by rotating a lock wheel having threads that correspond to threads on the micro adjustment mechanism.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising: engaging a surface on the lock wheel with a surface on a lever coupled to the first fence stop.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising: moving the stop surface via a micro adjustment mechanism on the first fence stop when the stop surface is in the raised second position.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein moving the stop surface vertically between the lowered first position and the raised second position is accomplished by revolving the stop surface about an axis.
17. A method comprising: effecting a rail of a fence stop system to be coupled to a portion of a table saw assembly having a table saw fence, wherein the rail defines a channel; effecting a first fence stop to be coupled to the rail; effecting the first fence stop to be slid along the rail; effecting a stop surface to be moved vertically between a lowered first position and a raised second position, wherein when the stop surface is in the raised second position the stop surface abuts a portion of the table saw fence and when the stop surface is in the lowered first position the stop surface does not contact the table saw fence; effecting a second fence stop to be coupled to the rail; effecting the first fence stop and the second fence stop to be coupled together via a coupler, wherein a first end of the coupler is connected to the first fence stop and the second end of the coupler is connected to the second fence stop; and effecting the first fence stop and the second fence stop to be slid along the rail as a mated pair.
18. A method comprising: coupling a rail of a fence stop system to a portion of a table saw assembly having a table saw fence, wherein the rail defines a channel; coupling a first fence stop to the rail, wherein the first fence stop has a first stop surface adapted to engage a first side of the table saw fence; coupling a second fence stop to the rail, wherein the second fence stop has a second stop surface adapted to engage a second side of the table saw fence; coupling the first fence stop to the second fence stop via a coupler, wherein a first end of the coupler is connected to the first fence stop and the second end of the coupler is connected to the second fence stop; sliding the first fence stop and the second fence stop along the rail as a mated pair; and disposing a portion of the table saw fence between the first stop.