**Crosscutting on the Table Saw:**

The table saw excels at one task: accurate straight cuts. Ripping and crosscutting are fundamentally different actions.

*Crosscutting* refers to cutting across the wood fibers, or more generally to cutting in the shorter dimension.

Keep your fingers away from the blade!

Long awkward pieces can tip during or after the cut. Support both pieces through the cut.

Typical crosscuts are made by holding the workpiece against the *miter fence* and pushing it through the blade. A safer and more accurate approach is to use the *crosscut sled*. (The CHS shop has a big crosscut sled that can handle pieces up to 26 inches wide.)

Remember the back of the blade is moving just as fast as the front, but with the teeth *rising*. If the teeth catch the wood, the blade will kick the wood up or back at you. *Kickback is the greatest danger of crosscutting on the table saw!*

Kickback while crosscutting happens when all or part of the work rotates into the back of the blade.

If you need to make repeated crosscuts (ie making duplicate pieces), you can clamp a stop to the rail of the crosscut sled.

For longer repeated pieces, you can clamp a stop block to the *forward edge only* of the rip fence to register the workpiece as shown:



Never never never make a crosscut with the work in contact with the rip fence. This is very dangerous!

**Generic Power Tool Safety for Robotics Field Builders:**

1. The tool does not know or care about you or the work. The tool’s only goal is to convert electrical to mechanical energy by spinning something very sharp very fast.
2. Your goal is to arrange the world so the tool’s mechanical energy serves to cut wood fibers, rather than hurl projectiles, yank your hair, grab your arm or carve your flesh.
3. Remember chronic injury – use hearing protection and respiratory dust protection.

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