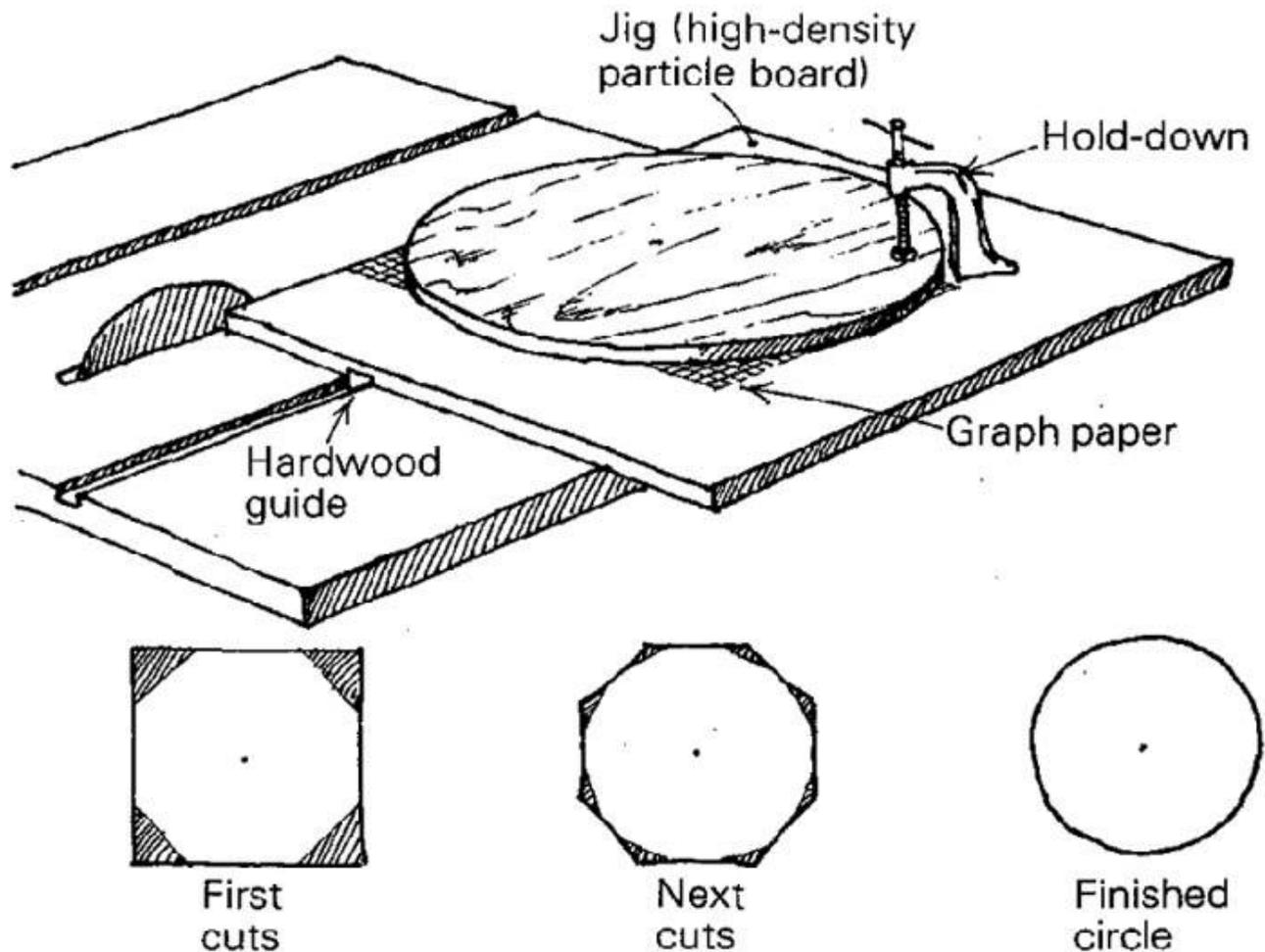


Cutting Circles with a Table Saw

Round tabletops, lazy-Susan shelves and other large circles can be cut on the table saw with a simple jig. Cut a dado in the underside of a 3/4-in. high-density particleboard base and glue in a hardwood key, sized for a sliding fit in the saw's left-hand miter slot. Wax the jig bottom and key to reduce friction. Measuring from the blade, accurately locate and paste sheets of 1/4-in. graph paper to the jig top to aid in layout.

To use, first cut the circle blank somewhat oversize and locate its center. Next mark the radius of the finished circle on the graph paper and pin the center of the circle blank at this mark. Make sure the blank will rotate freely but is firmly pinned to the jig. Start by lopping off the corners of the blank. Hold the blank and jig firmly while sliding them past the blade. If hand-holding the work appears unsafe, mount a hold-down clamp on the base to lock the blank while cutting. Continue cutting off the corners of the blank until it is almost round. Then, with the work just touching the blade, rotate the blank to trim off all the high spots. The smoothest circles are produced using high-quality, sharp carbide blades.



Second Method

To cut circles on the table, I first attach a false table on the left hand side of the table saw blade.

- draw a line perpendicular from the center of the blade on the false tabletop.
- On that line measure over from the blade $\frac{1}{2}$ the distance of the diameter of the circle and
- place a pin or nail thru the stock,
- this is your pivot point.
- With the table saw blade below the table
- turn on the saw and then
- raise the blade just about an $\frac{1}{8}$ " at a time and
- spin the stock unit you get thru the material.

