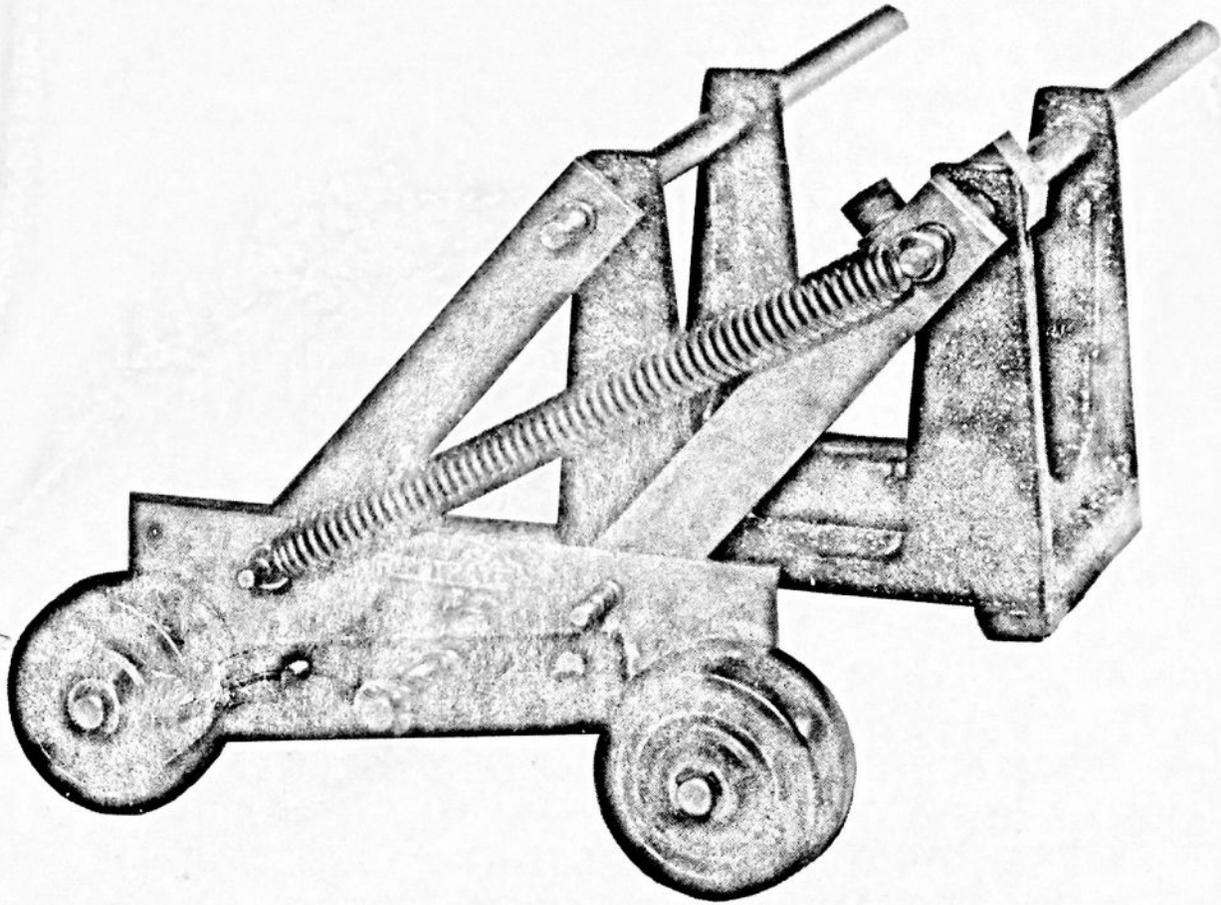


# **the RIPSTRATE<sup>®</sup>**



## **owner's manual**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SETTING UP AND  
USING YOUR RIPSTRATE**

## **CAUTION...PLEASE READ!**

Because it permits power saws to be fed without requiring either hand near the blade, and because it greatly decreases the likelihood of kickbacks, the RIPSTRATE represents an important advance in safety technology. However, it must be remembered that *power woodworking equipment can cause injury if not properly used, and no safety device can supplant the use of care and common sense when working with them.* We advise that the RIPSTRATE be used in addition to, and not instead of other safety practices such as guards, goggles, rolled up sleeves, good light, uncluttered floor, and all the other safety rules that good craftsmen observe:

**ALWAYS WEAR GOGGLES.**

**KEEP SLEEVES ROLLED UP OR BUTTONED AT CUFFS.**

**KEEP FLOOR AROUND SAW CLEAR OF DEBRIS.**

**STAY ALERT AROUND MACHINERY.**

**MAKE SURE YOUR RIPSTRATE IS SECURELY MOUNTED AND PROPERLY ADJUSTED.**

**MAKE SURE THE FENCE IS SECURELY CLAMPED, AND PARALLEL WITH THE BLADE.**

**BE SURE TO READ THIS MANUAL.**

***FOLLOW THESE COMMON SENSE RULES AND ENJOY SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE WOODWORKING.***

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**603 585 6883**

## **RIPSTRATE SAFETY**

Welcome to the large and growing group of RIPSTRATE owners. We think, once you have used it, that you will consider it one of the most important tools in your shop. It will add to the safety and efficiency of your table saw, radial arm saw, and any other power tool using a fence to which it can be mounted. If you are an amateur craftsman, it will increase the enjoyment of your hobby, and if you are a professional woodworker, the improved safety and speed will mean more profit.

## **RIPSTRATE ENGINEERING**

The RIPSTRATE operates on a simple principle; two rollers are mounted on spring loaded arms which are set at a slight angle to the fence, so that forward motion of the workpiece forces it sideways against the fence, while the spring loaded arms hold it flat on the table. In addition the rollers are interconnected by a pawl which locks them both if the workpiece tries to move backwards, as it would in the event of a kickback.

The holding action is further enhanced by the self energising force on the arms, which press down harder as they are forced backwards.

The RIPSTRATE is also designed to be self adjusting. It automatically swings up to accommodate stock of any thickness. This is important, as a device which requires frequent adjustment very often doesn't get used.

Patent number 4,469,318

## **MOUNTING THE RIPSTRATE**

There are two steps to mounting the RIPSTRATE.

### **STEP 1.**

Use the accompanying template to locate the 1/2" holes in the auxiliary fence (facing board). The auxiliary fence should be the same height and length as your metal fence, and can be anywhere from 1" to 1 1/2" thick. Hardwood is best, but a straight piece of 2 x 4 will do.

Mount the RIPSTRATE as shown in the drawing, by placing the two pins in the holes, and tightening the thumbscrew to the back of the fence. We recommend using a hardwood block between the thumbscrew and the fence to distribute the pressure, and prevent marring of the fence. On thin sheet metal fences, we recommend using a long block to distribute the load along the entire fence.

The thumbscrew clamps the entire assembly together, with no other attachment needed. If you want to remove the Ripstrate for any reason, just loosen the thumbscrew and lift off the RIPSTRATE and the auxiliary fence as a unit.

### **STEP 2.**

With the RIPSTRATE mounted, place a board of the thickness you usually rip (say 3/4") against the fence, and let the wheels rest on it. Loosen the screw on the rectangular collar, and turn the collar counter-clockwise as far as it will go, then tighten the screw. The rollers are now set for this particular stock thickness, but will swing up to accomodate thicker stock. Experience will show which height is best for your particular shop, and after that it requires only occasional adjustment.

When setting up for the first time, check to see that both wheels bear on the board. If one wheel is a little high, level the unit by tapping with the heel of your hand, and tighten the thumbscrew firmly.

## **USING THE RIPSTRATE**

For most jobs, the roller assembly is kept close to the fence, but for wide panels it may be desirable to slide the rollers farther out from the fence. To do this, loosen the rectangular collar, which controls the distance from the fence, as well as the height of the rollers.

When making narrow cuts, with the blade close to the fence, it may be necessary to remove the guard so that the RIPSTRATE can be close to or even over or on the far side of the blade. In this case the RIPSTRATE itself functions as the guard. This feature is important in school shops and others in which use of a guard may be mandatory.

**When using the rollers over the blade, observe the following precautions:**

1. Set the rollers to the thickness of the stock being cut, so they will not snap down after the cut.
2. Make sure that the rectangular collar is tightened securely.
3. Make sure the rollers clear the blade. If one roller is too close to the blade, loosen the thumbscrew and slide the RIPSTRATE forward or back along the fence until both rollers are equidistant from the blade.

## **USE ON RADIAL ARM SAWS**

Since radial arm saws use a wood fence, it is not necessary to make up a facing board. The fence should be a minimum of 1" thick, and about 2" high. The RIPSTRATE is mounted in front of, or immediately behind the blade. When mounting in front of the blade, be sure to allow sufficient clearance so that the roller will not swing up into the blade when cutting a thick board.

Since the RIPSTRATE prevents the workpiece from moving backwards, long boards can be ripped by pushing halfway through, and then walking around behind the machine while the RIPSTRATE holds it, and pulling the board through to complete the cut. This works equally well on table saws.

## **MULTI PURPOSE TOOL APPLICATIONS**

The RIPSTRATE mounts without any problems on the Shopsmith and similiar multipurpose tools. It is also being used on shapers, jointers, bandsaws and overarm routers. Since fences vary widely on these machines, it is up to the user to determine whether, and how the RIPSTRATE can be mounted. The RIPSTRATE can also be mounted on special fences like the Biesemeyer "T Square"(tm), and the Rockwell "Unifence"(tm). If you have one of these fences, call or write for special mounting instructions.

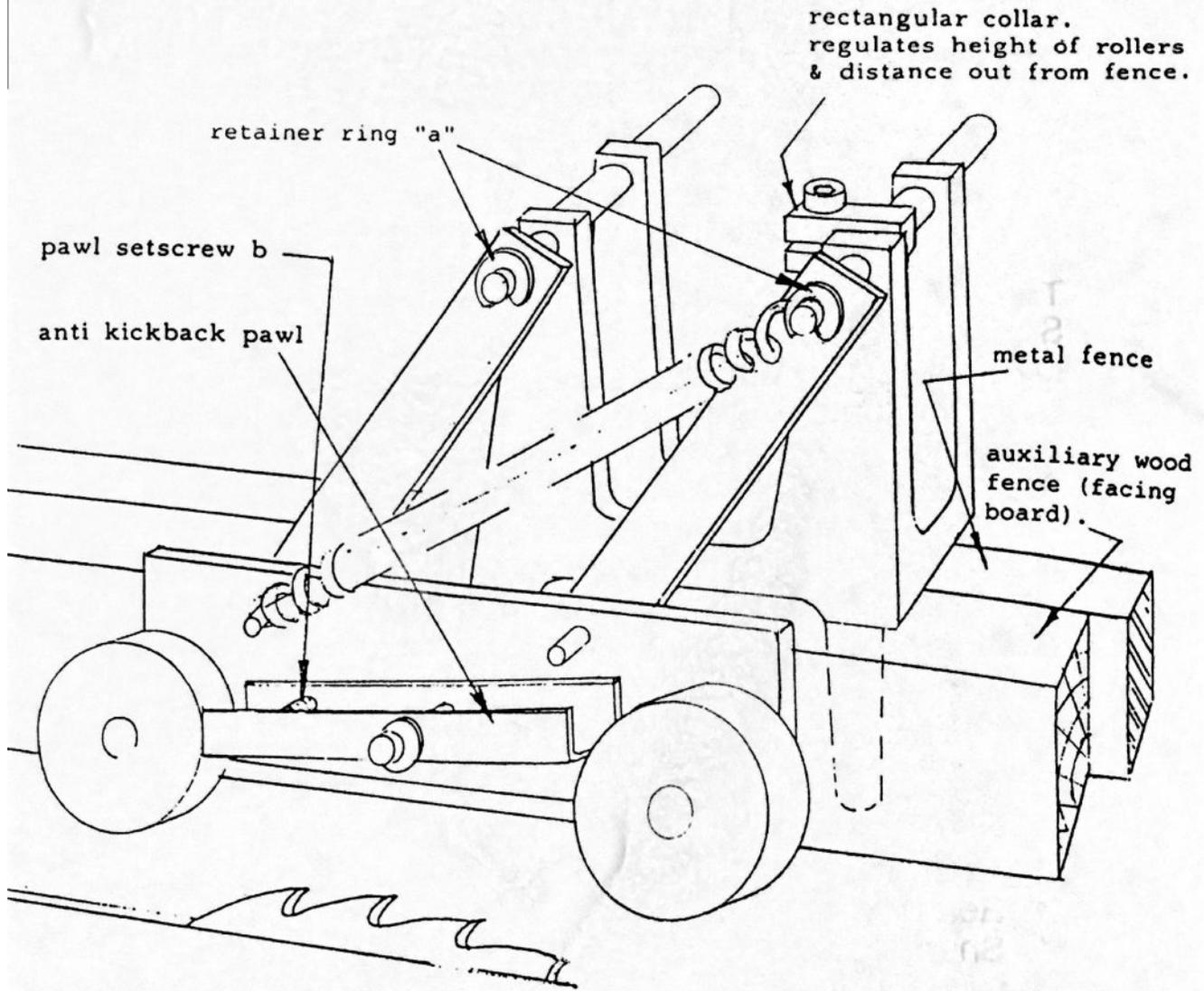
## **TO REVERSE RIPSTRATE FOR USE WITH FENCE ON LEFTSIDE OF BLADE.**

1. Remove spring retainer rings "a".
2. Remove spring.
3. Remove pawl setscrew "b".
4. Snap pawl to position shown in fig 2.
5. Replace setscrew "b" & spring as shown in fig 2.  
(Be sure both ends of spring rest in grooves of pins.)
6. Replace spring retainer rings "a" as shown in fig 2.  
(The extra ring is provided in case one is lost).
7. Turn the auxiliary fence upside down & mount in new position.

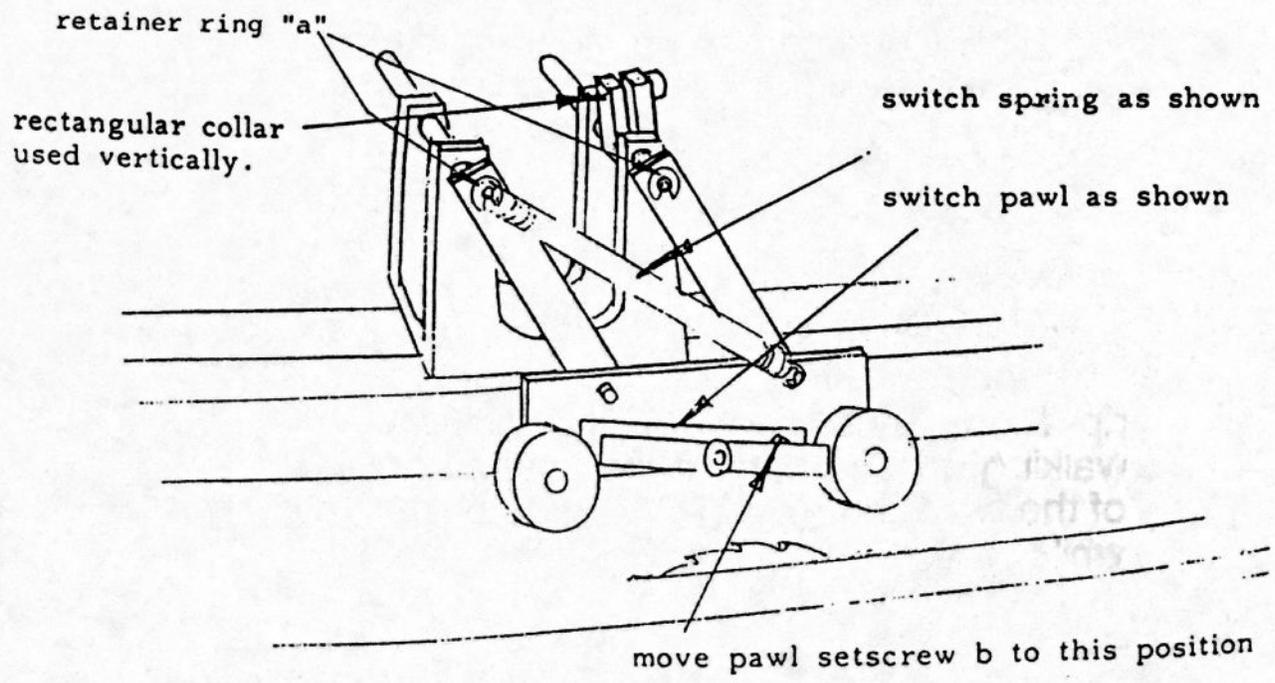
## **TIPS ON USING THE RIPSTRATE.**

**FOR RIPPING SINGLE PIECES:** Just push the work through with a stick. There is no need to guide it or hold it down with your hand. Many operators prefer to rip long pieces by pushing halfway through, then walking around behind the saw and pulling it the rest of the way. the RIPSTRATE will hold the board in place while you do this.

(See final instructions on last page.)



RIPSTRATE set up for use with fence on left side of blade.



**THE PUSH STICK SHOULD ALWAYS BE POSITIONED CLOSE TO THE LINE OF THE CUT,** so that it passes close inside the blade as you complete the cut. When making narrow cuts, use a pushstick thinner than the work being cut, so that it can pass under the RIPSTRATE. For very narrow cuts it is a good idea to use a wide push stick (1" or more), and let the blade cut a slit in it as it is pushed through. In this way both parts of the cut piece will be pushed through.

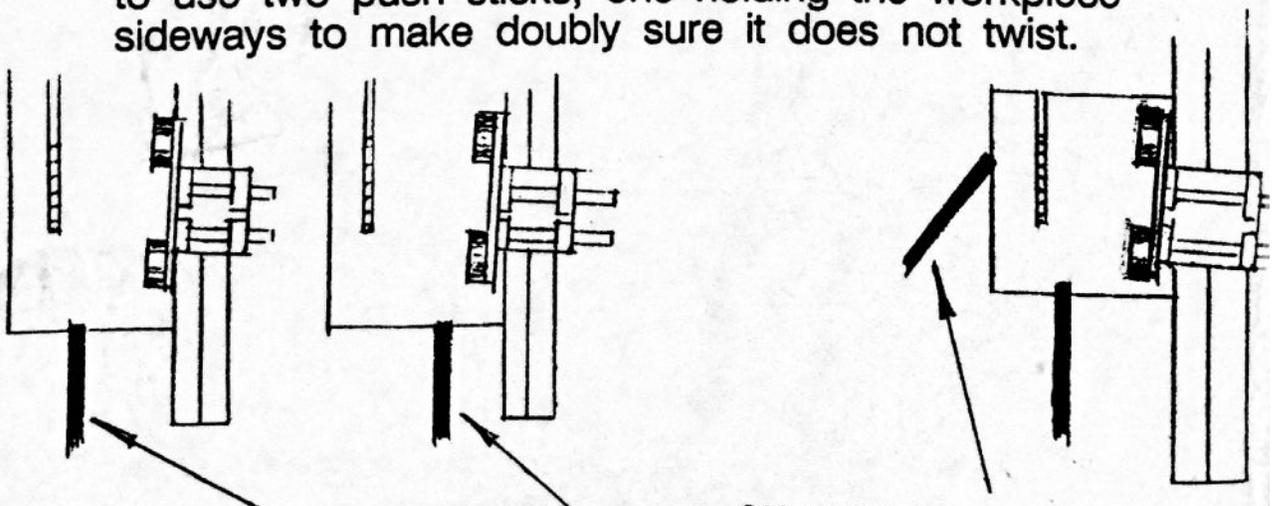
**Make sure the RIPSTRATE is mounted securely on the fence.** On fences made of thin sheet metal, a long piece of hardwood should be used on the back to distribute the pressure of the thumbscrew.

**PRODUCTION JOBS:** A lot of time can be saved on production jobs by pushing each piece through with the next. Use the free hand to pick up and position the pieces while the other hand continues to feed. The whole job can be fed through in one continuous cut.

**RIPPING LARGE PANELS:** Slide the rollers out from the fence a few inches. If working alone, use a support for the overhang of the panel.

**MAKING TRIAL CUTS:** It is sometimes desired to set the fence by making a trial cut. In this case, make the cut, then swing the RIPSTRATE forward and up with a stick. This will release the work-piece so it can be pulled back.

**CUTTING VERY SHORT PIECES:** Since short pieces have very little bearing along the fence, it is advisable to use two push sticks, one holding the workpiece sideways to make doubly sure it does not twist.



HOLD PUSHSTICK HERE .....NOT HERE

ON VERY SHORT PIECES USE EXTRA PUSHSTICK

# DRILLING TEMPLATE FOR AUXILIARY FENCE

NOTE: For radial arm saws, drill 3 sets of holes so that RIPSTRATE can be located alongside, in front of, or behind the blade, according to preference.

center line of saw blade arbor.

drill all the way through.

hole diameter 1/2"

NOTE: Enlarge the holes if the pins do not fit easily. Use a larger drill, a round file, or a curved chisel. Pins do not have to be a snug fit as the thumbscrew will clamp the RIPSTRATE firmly.

DO NOT CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE HOLES. THE ANGLE SHOWN IS CORRECT.

Auxiliary fence (facing board). Should be 1" thick minimum.

place this edge at inner edge of facing board to locate holes

