

## MITER SAWS

At most framing jobs today you'll see a 10" or 12" miter saw set up. Dewalt has a 12" now that will crosscut 16", good saw. Dewalt makes good carpentry equipment. These are real time-savers. An important rule to follow that I will cover time and time again is that anytime you use a miter saw, table saw or a band saw, you need to keep the crown (curve) to the fence. Called crown-away. For instance if you cut a birds mouth in a rafter and have the crown to you, you have the birdsmouth on the wrong side. Crown-away. The only time you cut a board with the crown to you is when you are cutting a stringer for a stair. If you ever have a board on the miter saw and you have a gap between it and the fence of the saw, you may be in for a big and dangerous surprise when you start the cut. The saw is going to grab the board and pull it to the fence. If you are asleep on the job, it could take you and your hand with it. Be careful when you hear a carpenter call a miter saw a chop saw, this is usually what he does what he does with a miter saw, he chops with it, he throws the blade into the wood to show how smart and fast he is. He is not someone you want to work with. Ease the saw into the

material and let the saw do its job. These hotshot carpenters usually don't know a crown from a hole in the ground. But you can learn a lot from them, I have. How not to do something. The procedures in these two sections could save your limbs and life. I was cutting a 1x6x14 in half for some door jambs on a sliding compound miter saw. I went about half way through and the board bucked, saw stopped, and the blade was hung up in the board. Pitch tension. I knew better than to try and restart the saw, I wedged the board open, and released the blade. The board had so much pitch tension in it, I had to turn it over and cut from the other side. I used small, shallow cuts so as to release the pitch tension slowly. I've had this happen maybe 100 times since miter saws came out and the point is you never know what's going to happen when you make a cut. You have to, at all times, stay awake and expect the unexpected of pitch tension. Crown to the fence. The main thing is, read and follow the instructions that come with your tools. Most of the time it is the correct way to do the procedure. Never use a 24 tooth rip blade on a miter saw. It will grab the material and could cause a serious injury. Always use a 60 or preferably an 80 tooth blade.

Remember, minimum 60 teeth on a 10" saw, 80 to 120 on a 12". Never use a blade with over a 10° hook on any miter saw; rip blades have a 15°-20° hook. Some sliding saw blades have a 0° hook, no hook. Lay a frame square across the center of a blade and you will see the hook on the teeth. The increased hook angle will grab and jerk the material.