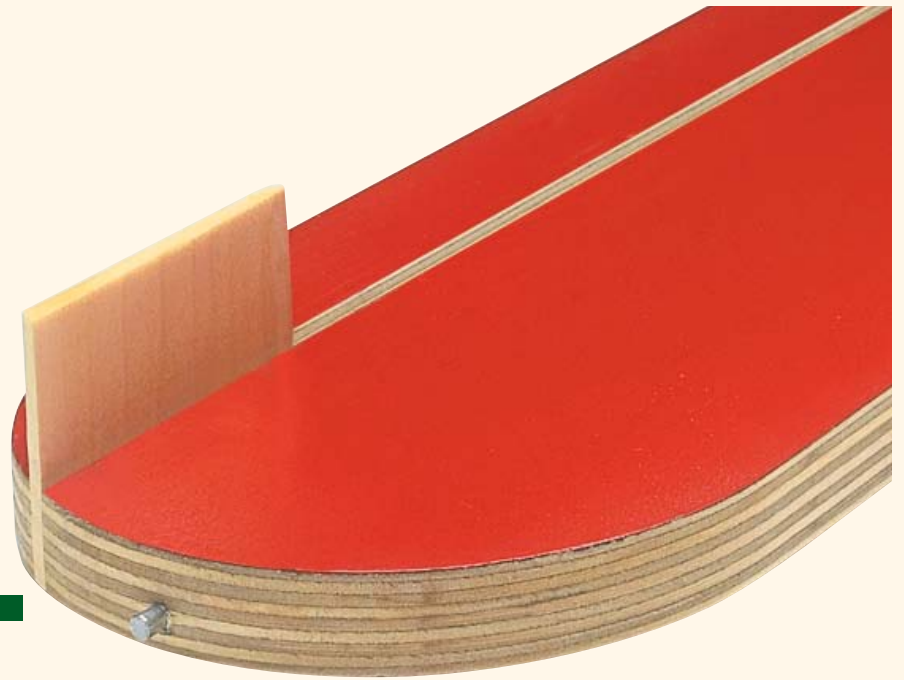


make a **Zero-Clearance Insert**



Cut small parts or thin strips safely and with less tearout by adding a zero-clearance insert to your table saw.

A zero-clearance insert with a splitter is one of the big keys to cutting small parts or ripping thin strips. The insert prevents the workpiece from getting trapped between the blade and the opening. And the splitter keeps the piece from binding on the blade. To make a new insert for your table saw, you'll need to start with a blank that matches the thickness of your stock insert. (**Note:** If the mate-

rial is thinner, you can add screws to the bottom so you can adjust it perfectly flush with the saw table.)

After tracing the outline of the original insert on the blank, cut away most of the waste (Figure 1). Then use a flush trim bit in the router table to create an identical insert (Figure 1a). Ripping a slot in the new insert is just a matter of carefully aligning the fence with the edge of the origi-

nal insert and making a stopped cut, as in Figure 2.

Finally, cut a hardwood splitter to size, sand one end to a point and glue it into the kerf with the point facing the blade.

