

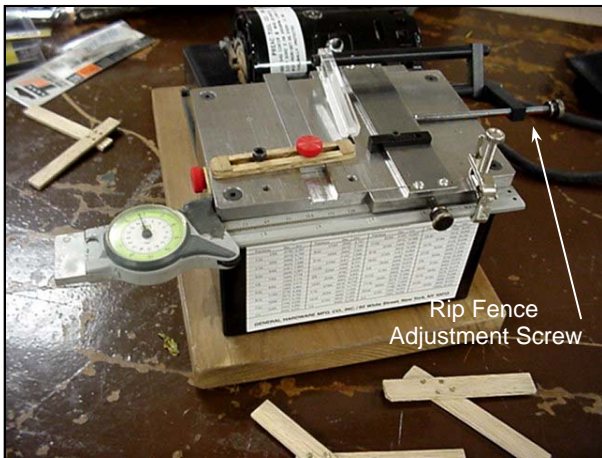
Economical Accuracy

The January meeting apparently caused the creative juices to kick in for a couple of Shipwrights. The discussion on Preac saw modifications was very informative, but many of the units on display did require access to machine shop equipment or at least some kind of mechanical aptitude. Well, that didn't deter Richard Nygren and Jim Merritt, as they left that meeting bound and determined to upgrade their saws. The net result was some economical, yet accurate innovations.

Richard Nygren came up with an unbelievable bargain, which helps him to accurately gauge the height adjustment of the saw blade. Everyone had a hard time believing that his magnetic base dial indicator cost him only \$20! This great find was purchased from MSC Industrial Supply Co., which can be contacted at www.mscdirect.com or through their toll free number at 1-800-645-7270. The model number for this Mitutoyo indicator is 09900572. A set of various feelers for the gauge can be purchased for only \$6.21, and the part number is 76444256.

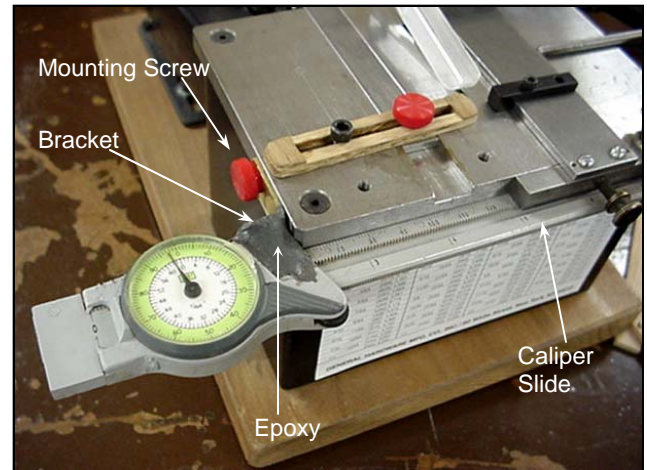
The beauty of this setup is that Richard didn't have to modify the saw in any way. He merely sets the magnetic base on the saw table, lines up the gauge feeler with the top of the saw blade, and measures the height adjustment. Not bad for twenty bucks!

Just about everyone who owns a Preac has scratched their heads over how to accurize the rip fence adjustment. The membership was given a number of elaborate solutions to the problem, but Jim Merritt felt that there had to be another way.



One of Jim's favorite tools is the dial caliper. After studying its mechanism, he came up with an innovative

way to adapt it to his saw. The only problem was that it would mean destroying the instrument. Rather than do that, Jim went over to Ace Hardware, and found the exact same pair for under \$20.



After removing the plastic jaws, a brass bracket was affixed to the caliper dial housing with some epoxy. Merritt's first efforts at gluing the bracket didn't meet with much success. After several adjustments, the assembly fell apart. So it was back to Ace where a product called CP-7 was purchased. As of meeting time, the stuff was still holding firm.

An 8-32 threaded hole was then drilled and tapped at the end of the saw table, which allowed the calipers to be positioned as shown in the photo. Jim used a mounting screw scrounged from a Preac accessory to fasten the assembly to the table.

A small clamp, purchased at American Science

and Service was used to clamp the rip fence guide to the caliper slide. As the rip fence is adjusted in or out, the caliper dial will now indicate the amount of travel. Merritt especially liked the unit's ability to give him readings in millimeters, one hundredths, and 1/64" increments. The fact that the *Nina* and *Pinta* are foreign kits has made the metric option particularly convenient.

Richard Nygren may have come up with the statement of the evening concerning all this. "It may not give you less waste, but it will be perfectly dimensioned." That's very profound, indeed.

