veritas®

Power Tool Guide 05J50.01

The Veritas® Power Tool Guide is a collapsible straightedge that can be clamped to any material under 1″ thick. The 52″ tool guide (05J50.03) can be clamped across sheet material up to 52″. The 8′ Power Tool Guide (05J50.01), or the 48″ tool guide extension (05J50.04) added to the 52″ tool guide, can be clamped across sheet material up to 100″. The advantage this guide has over other 8′ guides is that it may be dismantled quickly and easily for cutting smaller sheet material as well as for easier storage or transport. The guide includes a pair of 1″ capacity clamps that can be positioned anywhere along its length. For clamping material thicker than plywood sheets, a pair of 2″ capacity clamps (05J50.09) is available separately. An optional 12″ traveller (05J50.02) used in conjunction with a user-made base plate ensures that your power tool will effortlessly follow the intended line with greater safety. The utility of the traveller is further enhanced with the optional position stop (05J50.10) that clamps onto either guide rail.

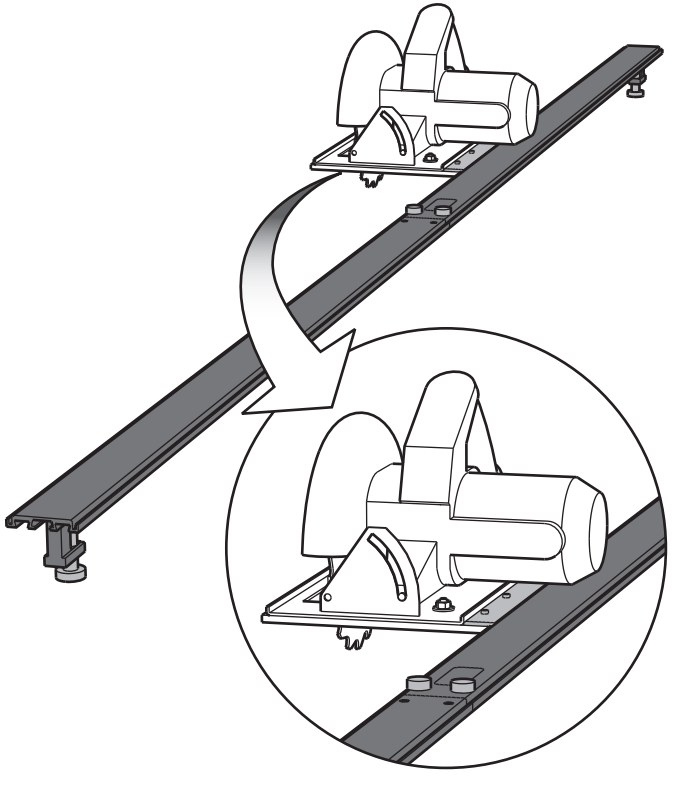


Figure 1: Veritas Power Tool Guide.

⚠ Safety Rules

These safety instructions are meant to complement those that came with your power tool. We suggest that you reread those, in addition to these listed here before you begin to use this product. To use this product safely, always follow both sets of safety and general instructions.

1. Wear proper eye protection.
2. Wear proper hearing protection.
3. Remove adjusting keys before use.
4. **Do not** use this tool if it has been damaged in any way.
5. Clamp the workpiece firmly against the table or bench before cutting.
6. When mounting a circular saw to the traveller, make sure that the blade guard can close properly.
7. Other than drilling mounting holes through the base plate, **do not** modify any power tool in any way for use with this guide.

Set-Up

Each clamp includes a rubber washer that acts as a brake, allowing you to place the clamps at any location along the guide's length, where they will remain unless intentionally repositioned. The rubber washers, when compressed by the included screws, become broader, preventing sliding. Adjust the screws such that the clamps cannot slide down the track under their own weight, but may be moved easily by hand. Two spare rubber washers have been included should they ever require replacement.

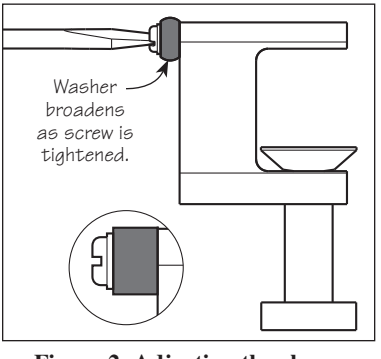


Figure 2: Adjusting the clamp brakes.

Main Guide

The main guide is 52″ long and comes with the two clamps. This length allows the guide to comfortably straddle the short (4′) side of standard-sized sheet material. Mark the cut line on the top of the sheet. Note that this does not have to be a continuous line; it need only be marked at the near and far end.

Slide the clamps into the central T-slot, one at each end of the beam and oriented so the open sides of the clamp frames face each other. Place the guide on top of the sheet, positioned so that it straddles the sheet and is adjacent to the marks (normally with the guide to the left of the marks), with the clamps overhanging each end. With your power tool unplugged and its base plate in contact with the near edge of the guide, adjust the guide so the tool will cut at the desired location, as illustrated in **Figure 3**. Slide the clamp until it contacts the edge of the sheet and tighten the clamp knob. Do the same at the far end.

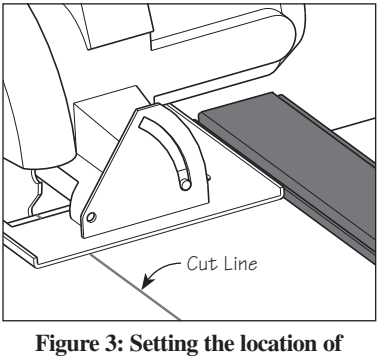


Figure 3: Setting the location of the guide with a circular saw.

For circular saws or jigsaws, you can run the power tool in either direction along the guide. For routers, because of the clockwise rotation of the bit, you should only run the tool around the guide in a counterclockwise direction as shown in **Figure 4**. The router will have a tendency to pull away from the guide should it be fed in the opposite (clockwise) direction.

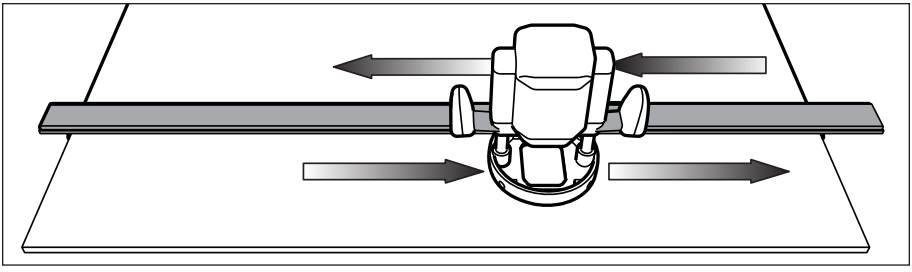


Figure 4: Direction to run a router.

Tip: *Recording the base plate-to-blade (or base plate-to-bit) offset distances of your tools will speed up the guide alignment procedure. This will eliminate having to awkwardly hold the power tool against the guide while aligning the cutter with the pencil mark on the workpiece. A handy pictorial record of these offsets can be affixed to your guide as shown in* ***Figure 5****. Diagrams for circular saws, jigsaws and routers are included on the last page of this manual.*

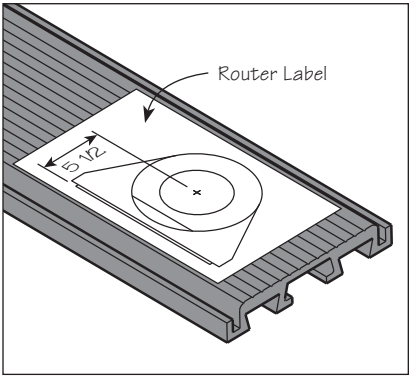


Figure 5: Example of personal power tool offset distances.

Tool Guide Extension

The optional tool guide extension increases the capacity of the main guide by 4 feet, giving a capacity of slightly more than 8 feet. The tool guide extension is easily connected to the main guide using the included links and brass knobs.

Slide the links into the matching slots in the main guide and thread both brass knobs into the holes in the main guide. With the ends of the guide contacting one another, firmly hand tighten both knobs.

To break the guide down into two sections again, you need only loosen the knobs until the guide can be pulled apart.

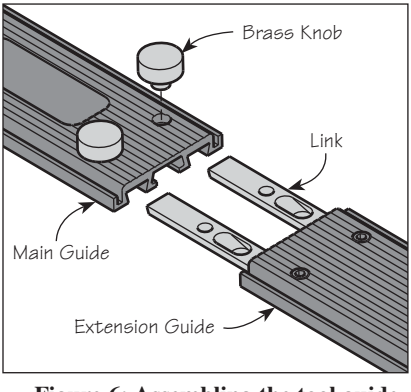
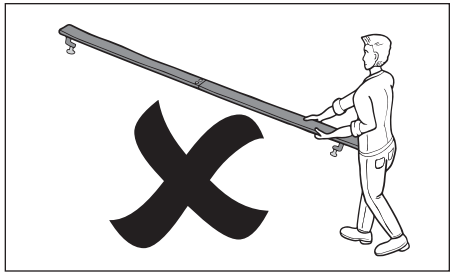
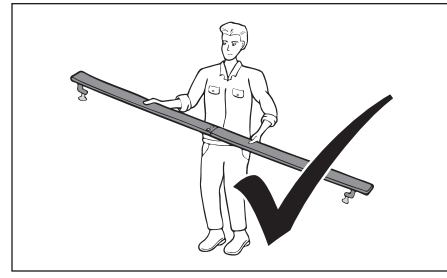


Figure 6: Assembling the tool guide extension.

Caution: *When using the tool guide with the extension, avoid lifting the guide from one end, as this can cause the links to break. Instead, lift the guide from the center and place it onto your bench or workpiece.*





Traveller

The traveller can greatly increase the speed, accuracy and safety of cuts made with any power tool. The 12″ traveller comes with four 1/4-20 threaded holes spaced at 3″ intervals.

To use the traveller you will need to make a board onto which the traveller and the power tool are mounted. Cut a 1/4″ thick sheet of plywood or hardboard, 12″ long. Its width should be about 1″ larger than the base of your power tool.

Place the traveller on top of one of the 12″ edges of the board as shown in **Figure 7**, and gently hand spin a 13/64" drill bit in each of the four holes to transfer the hole locations into the board.

Alternatively, mark four hole locations 3″ apart, 1/2″ in from the edge of the board as shown in **Figure 7**.

Drill 1/4″ clearance holes through the board at the four locations and countersink the underside so the heads of the screws do not protrude.

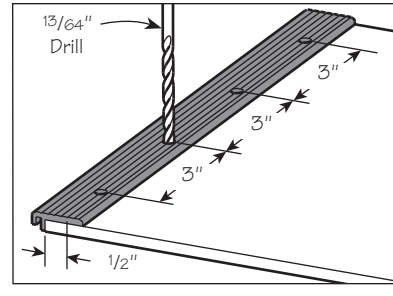


Figure 7: Marking the hole centers.

Place the power tool on the board, flush with the outer edge, and mark where the mounting holes are located and where the cutter protrudes. For circular saws, the traveller should be on the left side of the saw. This will ensure that the weight of the saw will be over the portion of the workpiece that does not get cut off. For routers and jigsaws, any orientation will work.

Drill and countersink the mounting holes and make the cut in the board for the saw blade or cutter to pass through. If you are creating a traveller for a router, and you are familiar with plunge cutting techniques, the cut in the board may be made this way. For a circular saw, the slot for the blade should be large enough to allow the blade guard to operate unimpeded.

Note: *Some base plates might not contain mounting holes, in which case you will have no choice but to drill your own.*

Affix the power tool to the board. You may need some extra hardware for this, particular to your power tool.

To use a tool with the traveller, insert the outermost leg of the traveller extrusion into the mating slot on the clamped guide, as shown on the front cover. Remember to account for the base plate-to-blade (or base plate-to-bit) offset distance. Here too, the offset distance diagrams may be helpful. Start your power tool and make the cut.

Included with your traveller is a 12″ length of low-friction UHMW tape. You can use this to line the bottom of the 1/4″ board such that it slides more smoothly along the workpiece. You may also use this to line the hook of the traveller such that it slides more smoothly along the guide.

When using the traveller in conjunction with a circular saw, the UHMW tape is most effective when lining the bottom of the 1/4″ thick board. The tape should be placed on the underside of the board between the traveller and saw blade such that it is as far away from the traveller as possible. The end of the tape should be wrapped around the leading edge of the board. Placement of the tape is illustrated in **Figure 8**.

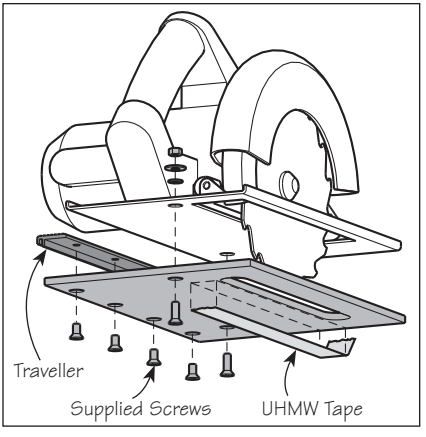


Figure 8: Mounting the traveller to a circular saw.

When routing, the UHMW tape is most effective when lining the traveller hook. Used in this way, the tape eliminates all play between the guide and traveller and results in very smooth operation.

To line the hook with the UHMW tape:

1. Remove the tape backing and stick it to the inner hook of the traveller as illustrated in **Figure 9**. Be sure that it is well adhered.
2. Fold the remaining tape over the hook and push the hook into the mating slot in the guide. Slide the traveller back and forth to ensure that the tape is firmly bonded.
3. Trim off the excess.

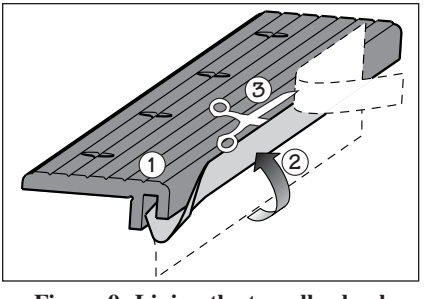


Figure 9: Lining the traveller hook with UHMW tape.

If you find that the traveller occasionally catches on the transition between the two rails, sand or file the tips of all four traveller hooks, as shown in **Figure 10**.

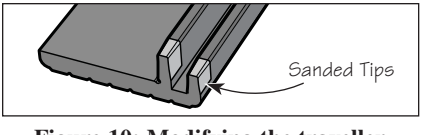


Figure 10: Modifying the traveller hooks.

Position Stops

The position stops are best used in conjunction with the traveller to create stopped dadoes or slots. Simply place your tool over the starting or ending point, hook a position stop onto a rail, slide it over until it touches the traveller and lock it using the brass knob. Repeat at the opposite end of the cut.

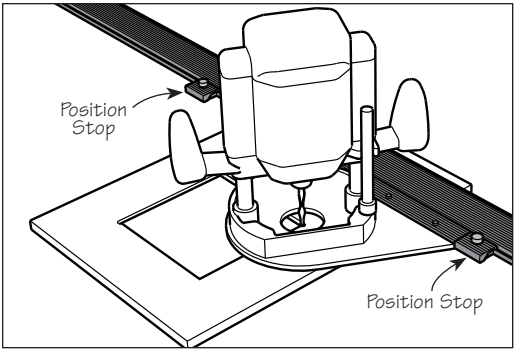


Figure 11: Using position stops.

Power Tool Offset Diagrams (Back Cover)

The diagrams on the back cover may be photocopied and stuck onto your guide or power tool such that the important dimensions are always at hand. Use the series of diagrams on the left if you are using your power tools without the traveller, or the series on the right if you are using the traveller.

Accessories

05J50.01 100″ Power Tool Guide
05J50.02 12″ Traveller
05J50.03 52″ Tool Guide
05J50.04 48″ Tool Guide Extension
05J50.09 Pair of 2″ Tool Guide Clamps
05J50.10 Tool Guide Position Stop
25U04.01 UHMW Tape, 1″ × 18′

Power tool offset diagrams, without traveller.

Power tool offset diagrams, with traveller.