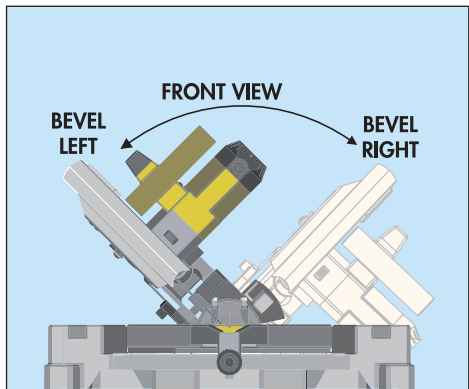




MITER SAW 4-STEP TUNE-UP

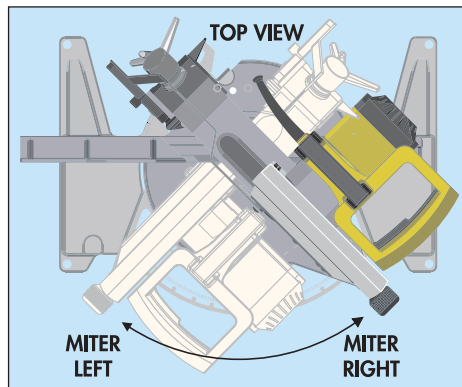
Whether you're trimming boards to length, cutting miter joints, or making tricky compound angle cuts, a miter saw is ideally suited to the task. But like most power tools in your shop, the pre-set stops and angle scales rarely give you the dead-on accuracy you need. An owner's manual will guide you through some of the basic adjustments, but these will only get you *close* to an accurate setup. As with all tools, the proof is in the performance. The only way to get your saw tuned to perfection is to make a series of test cuts, and then do some *fine* tuning based on those results.

On the following page we'll walk you through the process of using test cuts to check the 45° and 90° settings for both miters *and* bevels. That will make it easy to dial in your miter saw for perfect cuts.



MITERS

To check the miter settings, you'll need to rotate the turn-table on your saw to 0° and also 45° to the left and right.



BEVELS

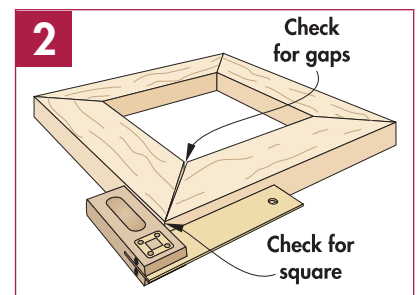
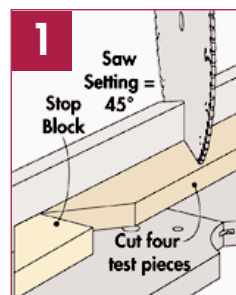
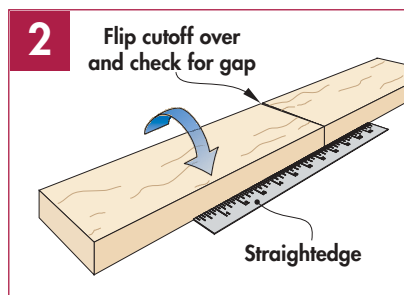
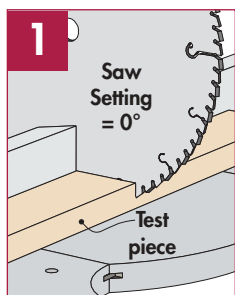
To check the bevel adjustments, you'll need to tilt the head of the saw to the left and right.

Miter Adjustments

1 SQUARE BLADE TO FENCE
 With the turntable set at 0°, check to see if blade is square to the fence. If it's not, adjust the saw according to the owner's manual. To check the setup, make a 90° crosscut in a wide test piece (Fig. 1). Then flip one of the cutoffs over, butt the ends together, and align the edges with straightedge (Fig. 2). If there's a gap, readjust the saw, make another test cut, and check the setting again. Continue like this until the pieces fit tightly together.



2 45° MITER SETTING
 Next, rotate the turntable to 45° and check whether the blade is actually 45° to the fence (see Photo). After making any necessary adjustments, miter four test pieces to identical lengths (Fig. 1). Then fit the pieces together to form a frame (Fig. 2). If there are gaps, readjust the setting, and make additional test cuts until you're satisfied with the fit. Finally, repeat the process for the opposite 45° setting.



Bevel Adjustments

3 SQUARE BLADE TO TABLE
 To ensure accurate bevel cuts, start by unlocking the knob that lets you tilt the arm of the saw. Then square the blade to the table (see Photo) and tighten the knob. To make it easy to return to this setting, adjust the built-in stop on the saw and then crosscut another test piece. For this test cut, set the piece on edge (Fig. 1). Here again, flip one cutoff over and butt the ends together to check for a gap (Fig. 2).



4 45° BEVEL SETTING
 Tilt the arm of the saw so the blade is set at 45° to the table (see Photo) and adjust the 45° stop on the saw. Then cut a set of four identical-length test pieces. Notice that here, the pieces are standing on edge (Fig. 1). This produces a longer cut, which will emphasize any error in the setup. As before, assemble the test pieces into a frame (Fig. 2), check for gaps, and readjust the saw if necessary.

