Add a Dust Collection port to the MLCS #9767 Horizontal "Flatbed" Router Table by MLCS Customer Howard Winkler and edited by MLCS

PARTS NEEDED: Some wood, glue, a Closet Flange with a 4" O/D (available from any plumbing supply or home center), four #8 wood screws 3/4" long to attach the closet flange.

The basic idea of this project is to close off a space between the ROUTER TABLE TOP and the ROUTER TABLE BASE and then to close the variable space between the ROUTER MOUNTING PLATE and ROUTER TABLE BASE. Part T closes off the front opening and Part F closes off most of the rear of the table. See figure 1.

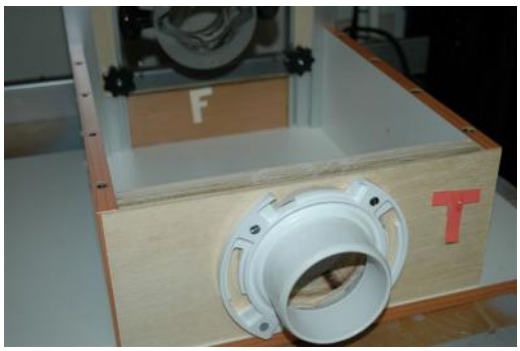

Figure 1

Figure 2

Let's get started making part T. It is made by gluing two 3/4" pieces of plywood together and cutting the length so as to allow the piece to just fit between the two VERTICAL TABLE SUPPORTS. Add to these two pieces another piece that is glued so as to prevent Part T from being pulled under the TABLE TOP. See figure 2. The height of this wood sandwich will be exactly that of the VERTICAL TABLE SUPPORTS. The Closet Flange that is screwed onto Part T will probably have to be "modified" so as not to protrude above or below the height of part T. See figure 3. After making the appropriate modification, center the Closet Flange on part T and trace the part that will be cut out. Cut it out and then screw the Closet Flange in place. See NOTE below.

Figure 3

Figure 4

Note: To facilitate the attachment of a 4” dust collection hose, I took a rasp and tapered the OD of the flange. You might want to do this prior to attaching it to part T.

Note: Part T is held in place only by the close fit of its’ construction. If you want it held in place more positively, use the MLCS alternate mounting method. This method uses rare earth magnets and mounting cleats to allow easy removal of Part T. Drill two recessed holes 3/4” from the edge on the back side of each end of Part T so that you can epoxy the rare earth magnets into the back of Part T. The magnets should sit just proud of the surface. Next create two cleats out of a piece of 1” x 2” stock. These cleats will mount to the inside of the VERTICAL TABLE SUPPORTS. A piece of flat metal bar should be attached to the front of the cleat to give the magnets something to “grab” onto. Attach the cleats in position to hold Part T in place using two 1-1/4” #6 wood screws.

Part F is a piece of wood cut to just fit between the ALUMINUM COLUMNS. It is then glued to a longer piece to prevent it from being pulled under the TABLE TOP when the vacuum is on. See figures 4, 5 and 6. The height of Part F is variable and will depend upon how low you will need to adjust the router. The thickness of Part F is determined by the thickness of Part M (if you are using Part M), remember, they must slide passed each other. See figure 7.

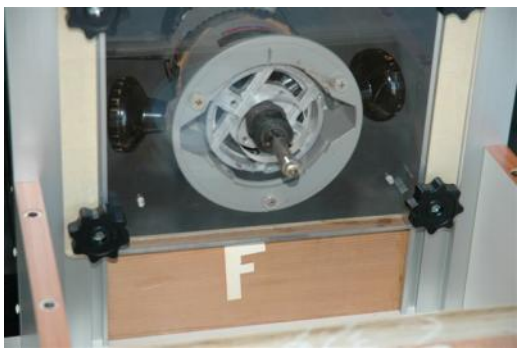

Figure 5

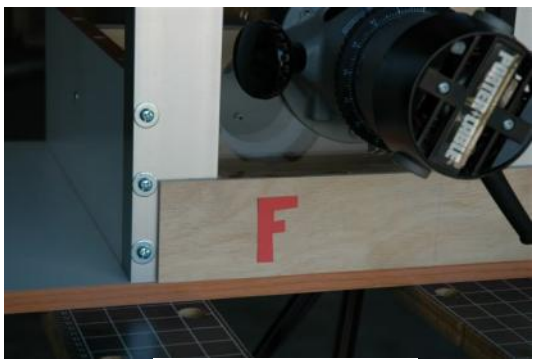

Figure 6

Figure 7

After putting Part T in place, replace the ROUTER TABLE TOP, attach the dust collection system and turn it on. Put Part F in place to check the suction, and then decide whether you will need to make Part M; most likely you won't need to.

The very good news is that a dust collection system using a 4" hose probably has more than enough suction to work well even if the rear gap between the ROUTER MOUNTING PLATE and TABLE BOTTOM is left wide open. The simplest way to close most of the gap is to just make one or two Parts F of different heights and not bother making Part M. Try this method before making Part M.

Now some information about Part M.

While writing this "HOW TO" article I realized that several of the dimensions of Parts M and F will be dependent upon the router base used. The idea of the two pieces (F & M) is that Part M be able to slide passed Part F thereby keeping the gap between the bottom of the ROUTER MOUNTING PLATE and the ROUTER TABLE BASE closed. The gap will vary from 7/8" to 4-1/4". See figure 7 showing Part M sliding passed Part F.

Note: Because the dust collection hose will be attached to the front side of the router table, MLCS would like to add this safety advice. Be careful to rout the dust collection hose so that it does not become a safety hazard. Position the hose so that you do not trip over it while working. Make sure the hose has a grounding wire and it is grounded to avoid getting shocked from static discharge while the dust collector is operating.

MLCS Ltd would like to thank Howard Winkler for his suggestion and instructions on **How to add a dust collection port to the #9767 Horizontal "Flatbed" Router Table.**