

The making of a set of router skis

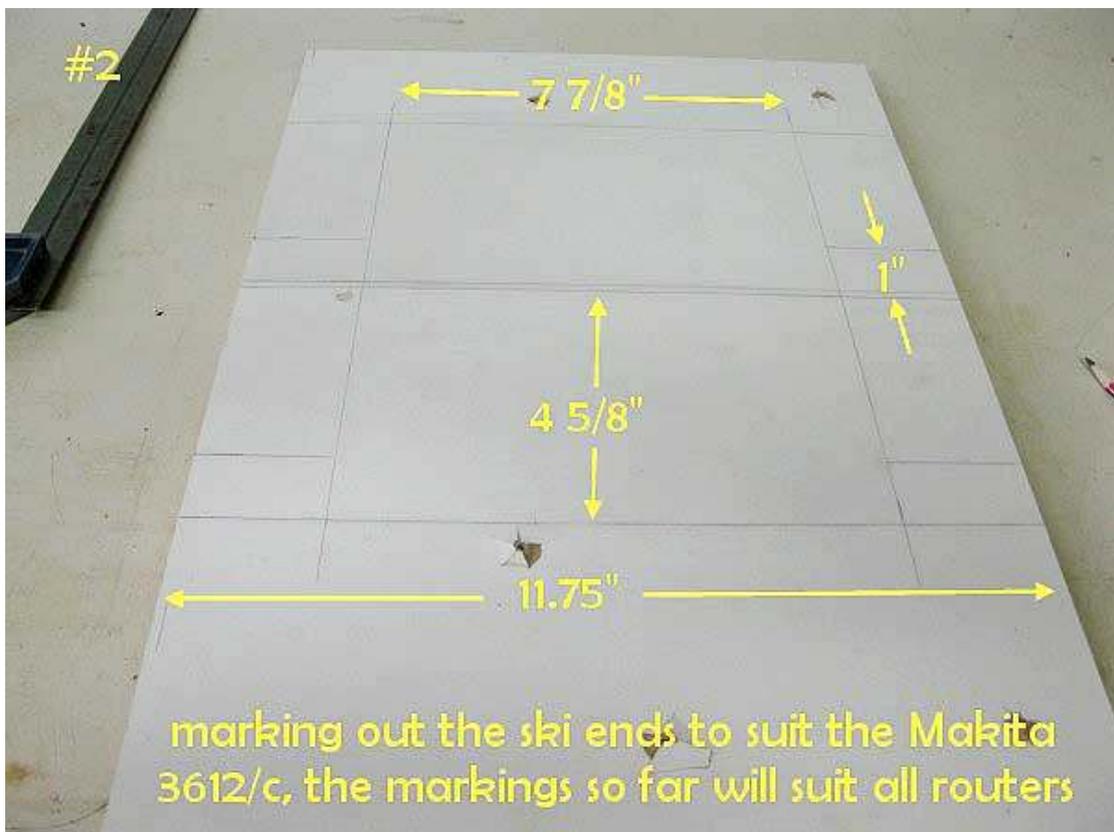
By harrysin (Harry Sinclair)

Many of my projects include the use of a ski mounted router. Whilst, like many other tools, it isn't used for every job, when it is used it not only makes the operation easier than other methods but often it is the only way of performing a particular operation. This set of skis is designed for the Makita 3612/c & 3600br routers but can of course be made to suit your own router. There is nothing critical about the shape, the two important measurements are the spacing and width of the slots to suit the particular router.

The making of the rods will be the subject of another project. Since I've been promoting router skis for the past few years, many people have made them, often producing their own designs. I certainly didn't invent router skis, they've been around for many years, but like template guides, little if anything has been published about them, hence my efforts to show people that there is more to routing than hanging it under a table, which does of course have it's place. One major benefit of ski routing is the mechanical advantage it gives in accurately controlling movement of the router,

bearing in mind that whilst the router can be slid along the rods and locked, in use it is controlled by the end cheeks, not it's own handles. I guarantee that all new-comers to routing who follow my tutorials will soon become competent routologists.



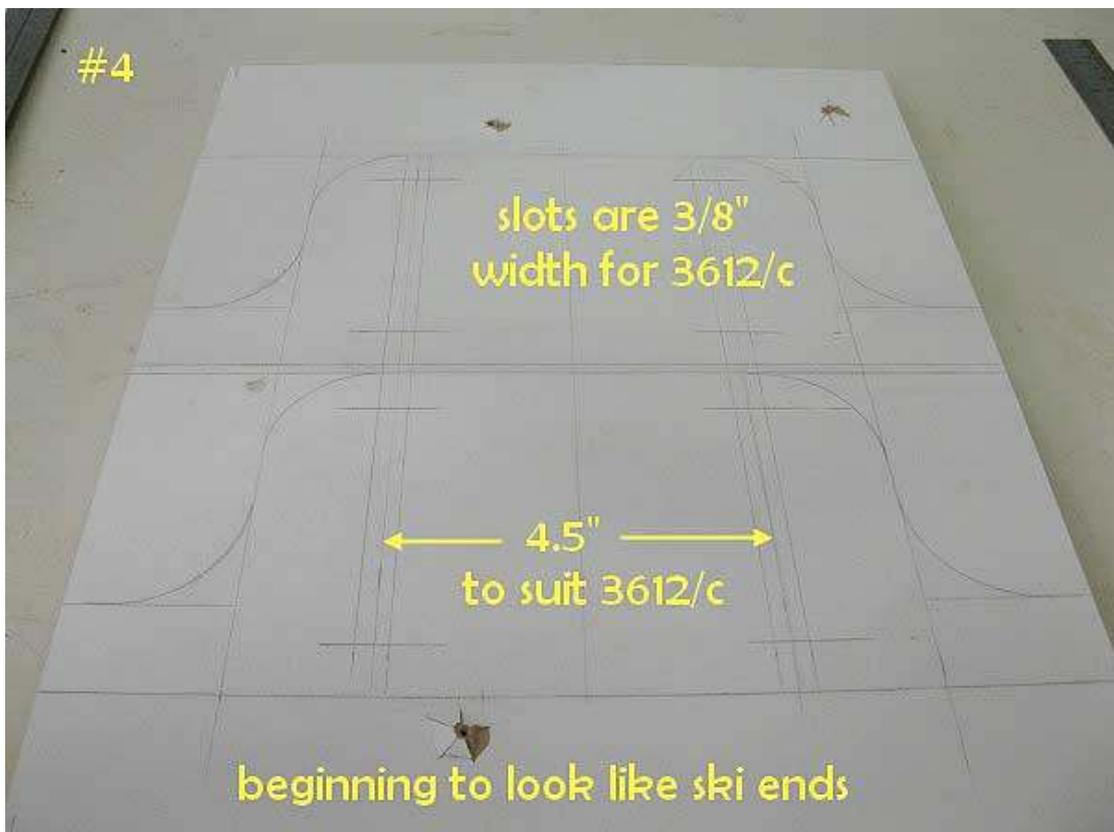


#3



marking the radii, nothing critical here!

#4

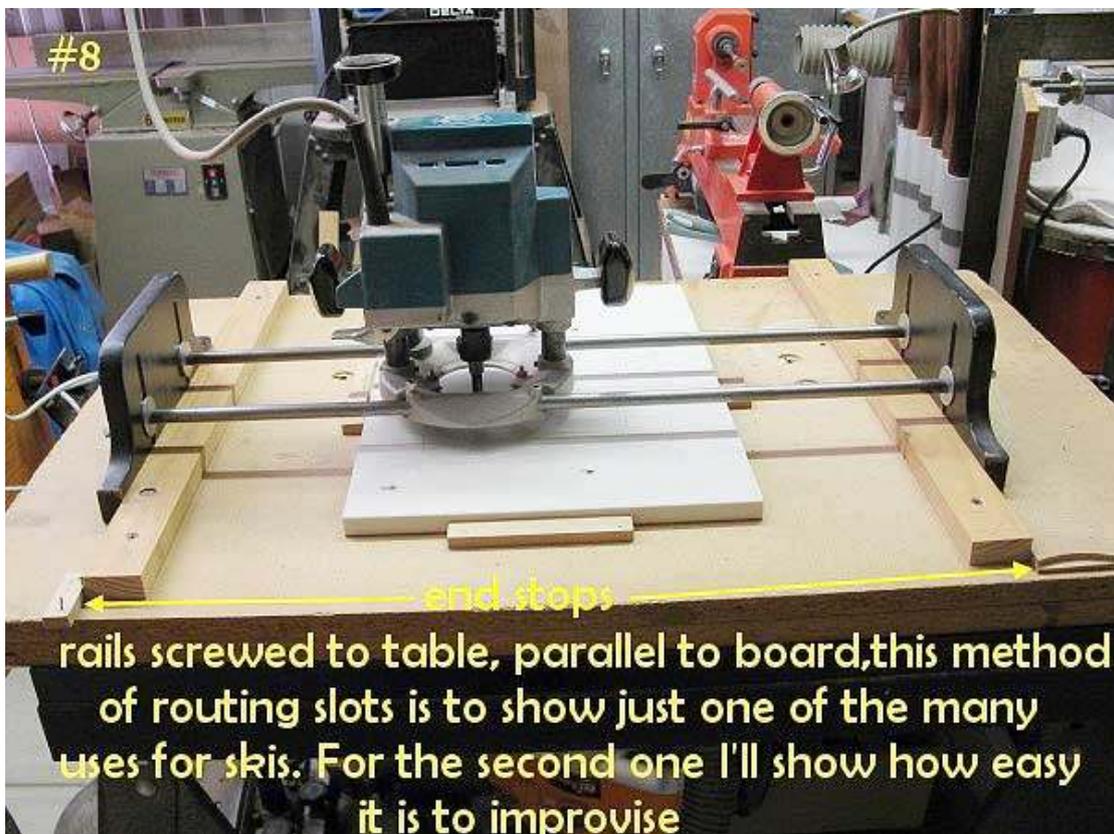


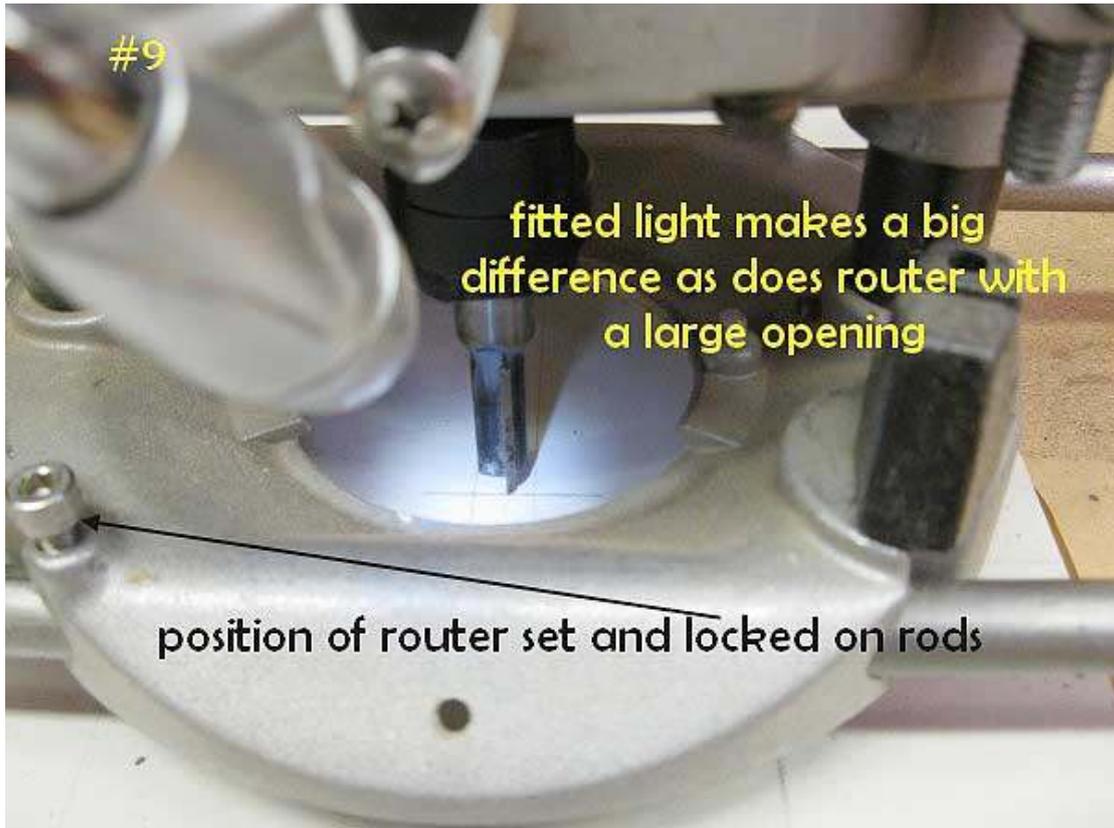
slots are 3/8"
width for 3612/c

4.5"
to suit 3612/c

beginning to look like ski ends







#9

fitted light makes a big difference as does router with a large opening

position of router set and locked on rods



#10

setting depth of cut with an off-cut from board being used

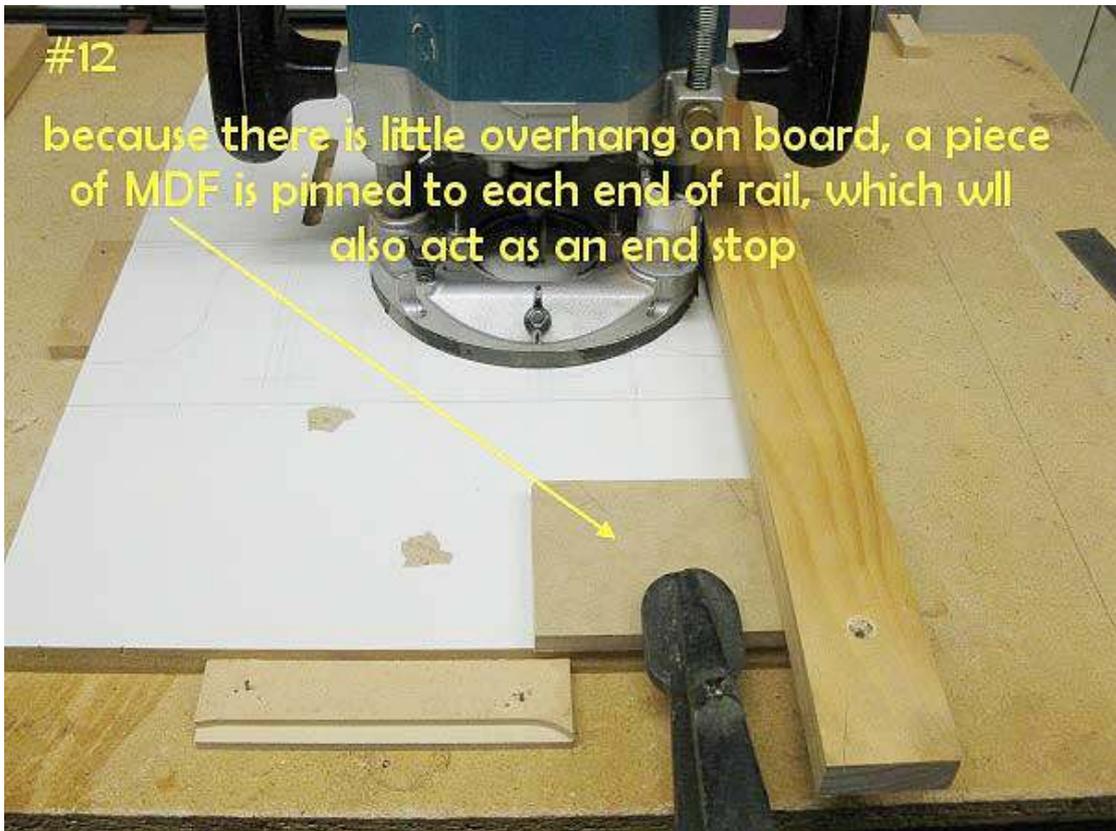
#11

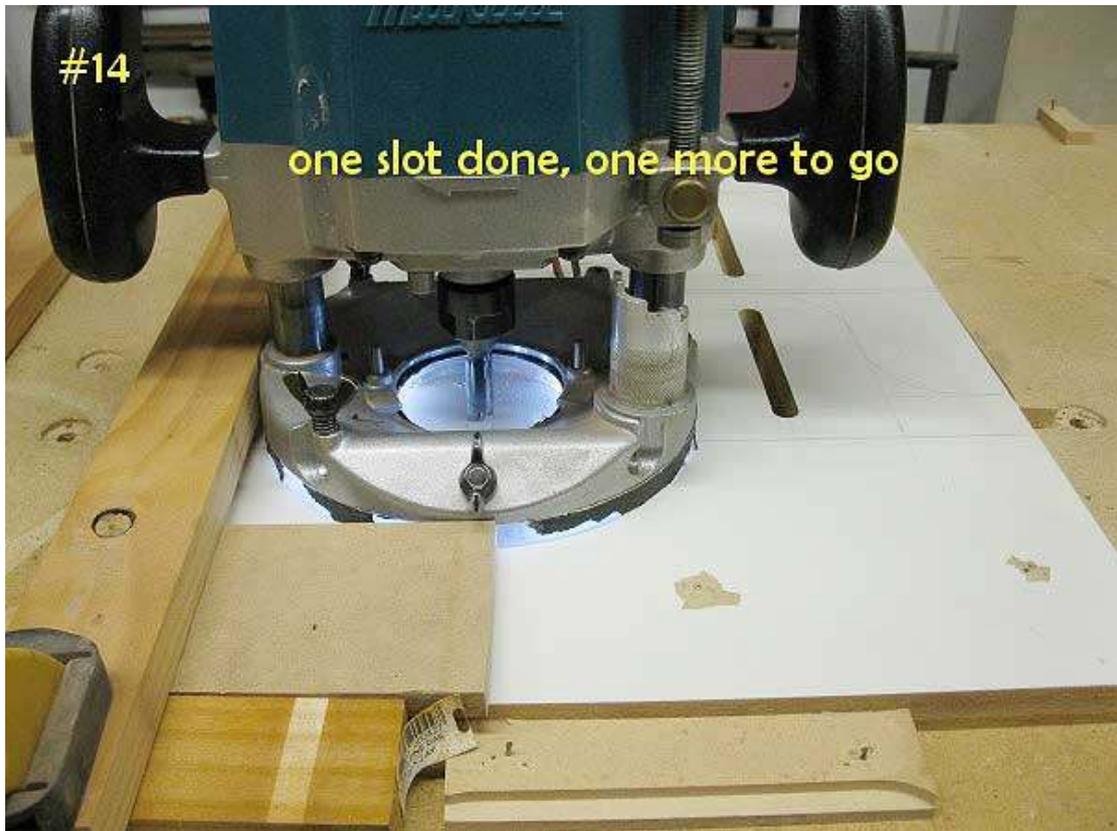
one done, one to go
starting to look like ski ends



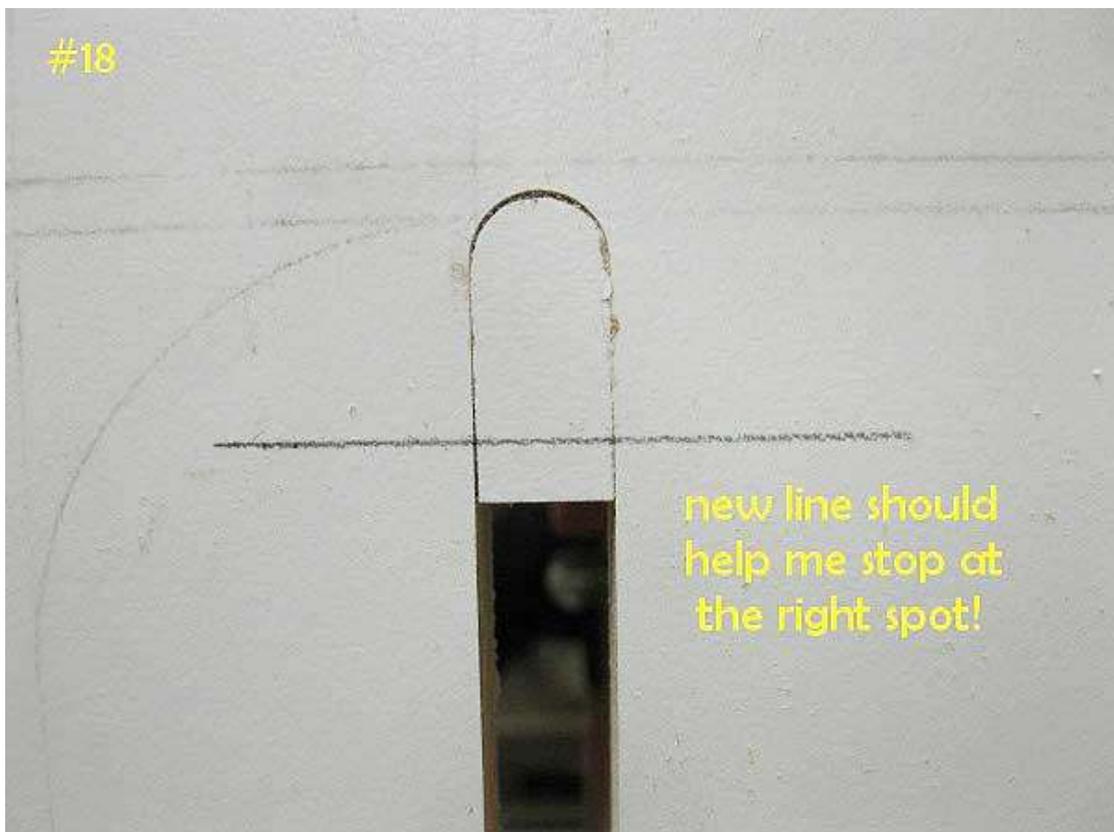
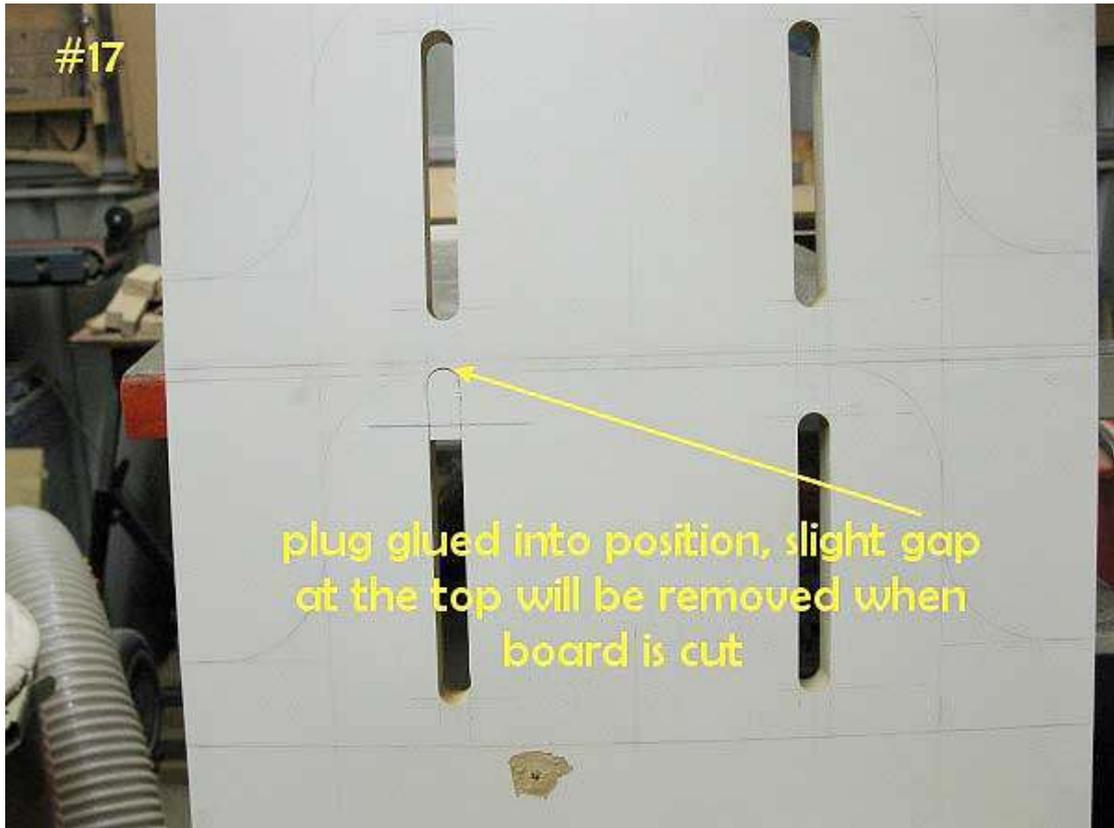
#12

because there is little overhang on board, a piece of MDF is pinned to each end of rail, which will also act as an end stop





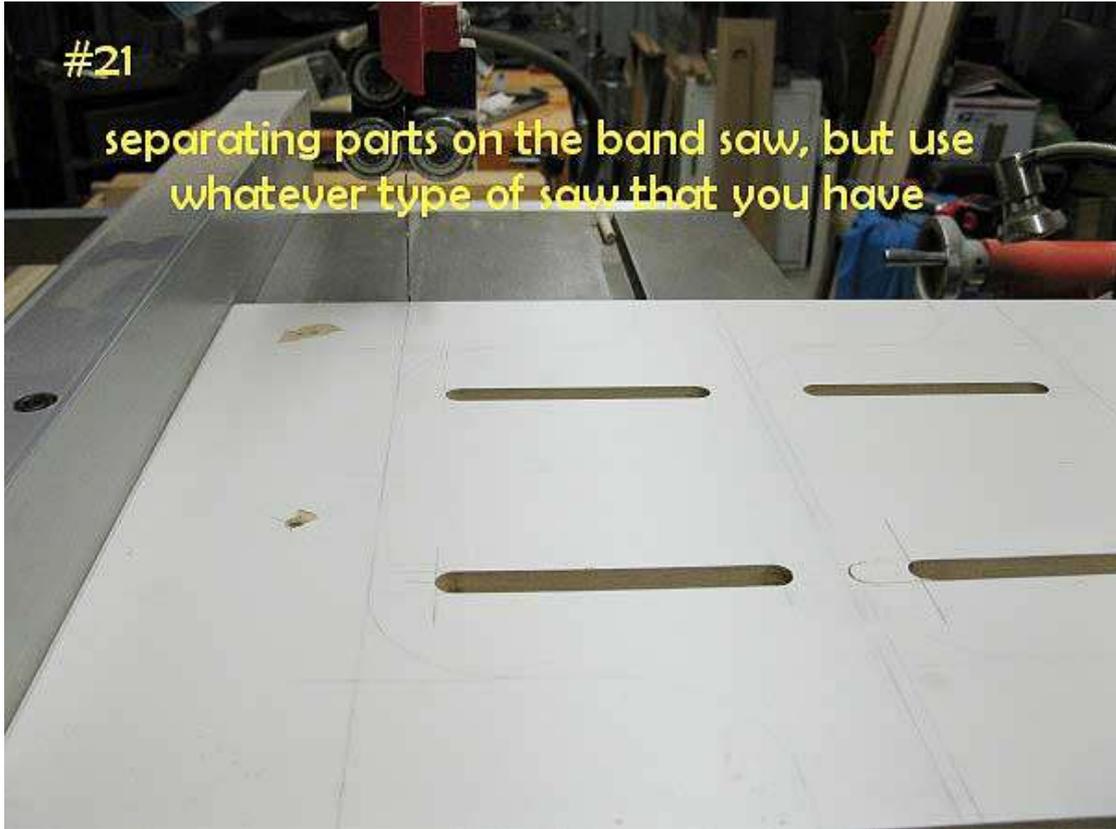






#21

separating parts on the band saw, but use whatever type of saw that you have



#22

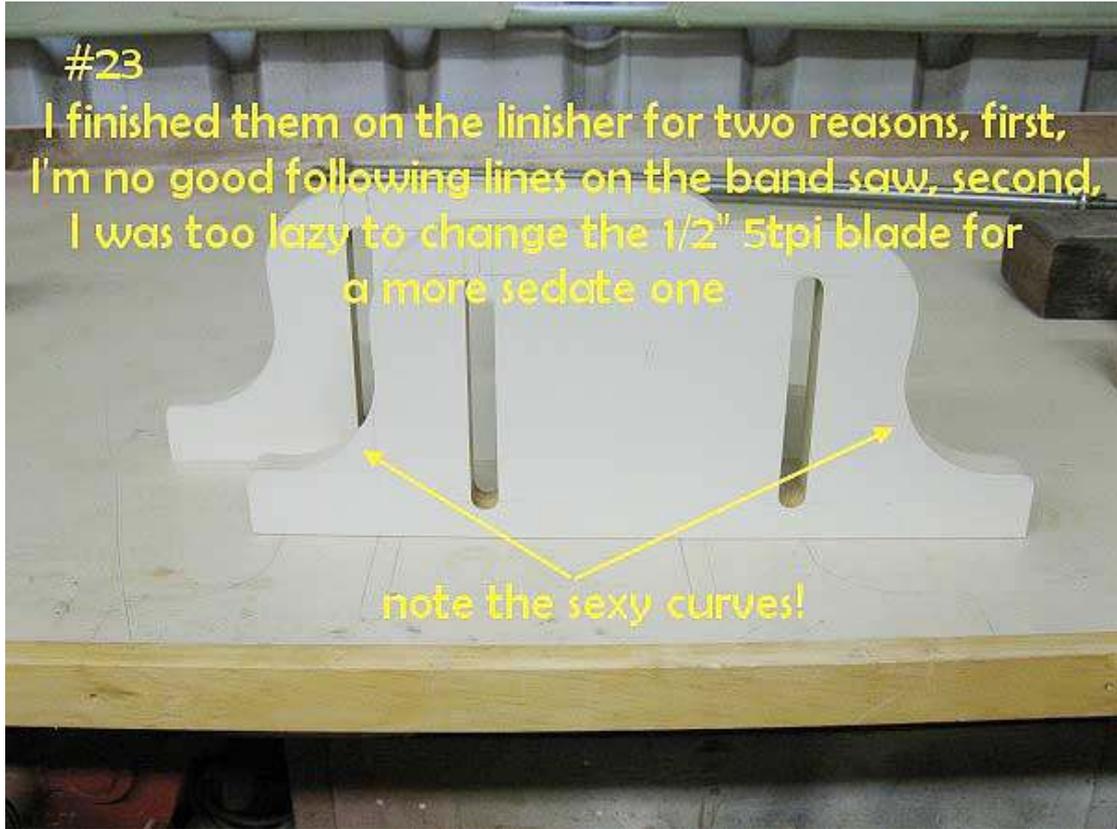
ready to shape on the band saw
but a jig saw is just as easy



#23

I finished them on the linisher for two reasons, first, I'm no good following lines on the band saw, second, I was too lazy to change the 1/2" 5tpi blade for a more sedate one

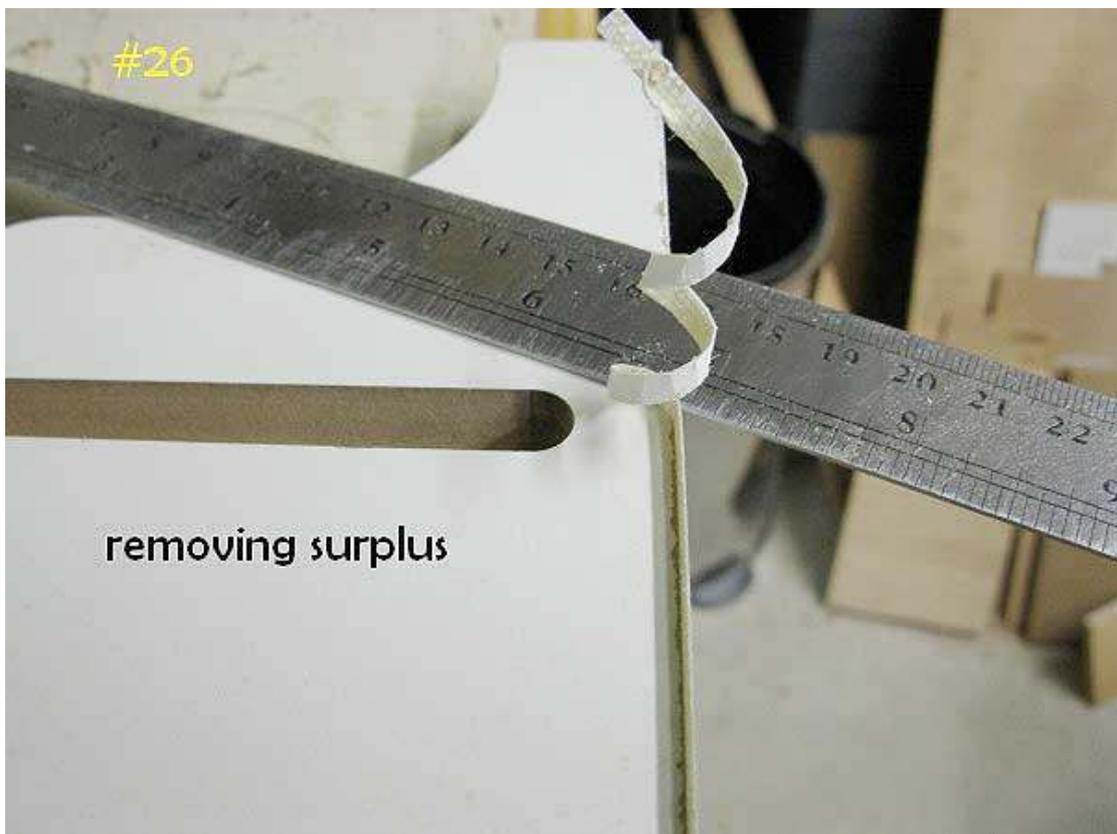
note the sexy curves!

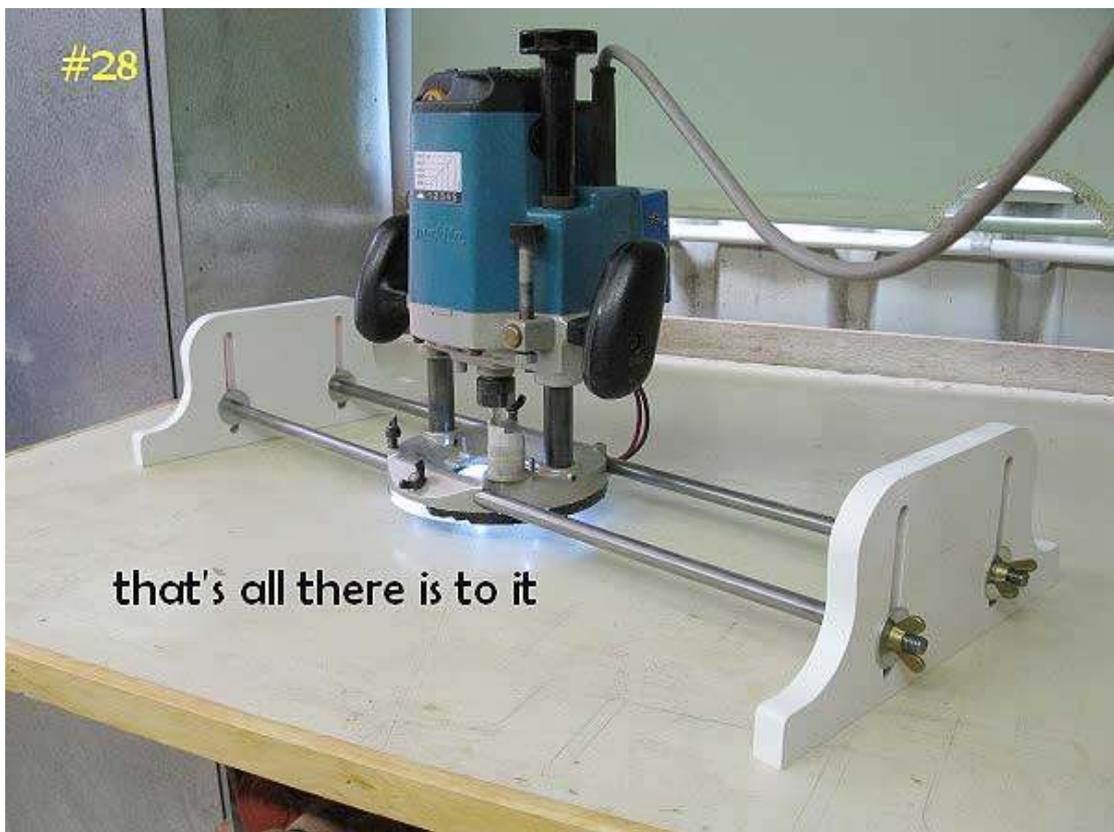


#24

how the sexy curves were made







The rods and lighted base will follow soon

When I first posted this project on a forum, it was pointed out to me that I was using skis to make skis! Of course anyone attempting to make them would not have skis. So here are some photographs showing an alternative method to rout the slots. In any case, in my experience woodworkers generally are pretty resourceful and will no doubt come up with their own method.









That my friends is the end of this project but I'll soon have a pdf ready showing the making of the ski rods