

# 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.

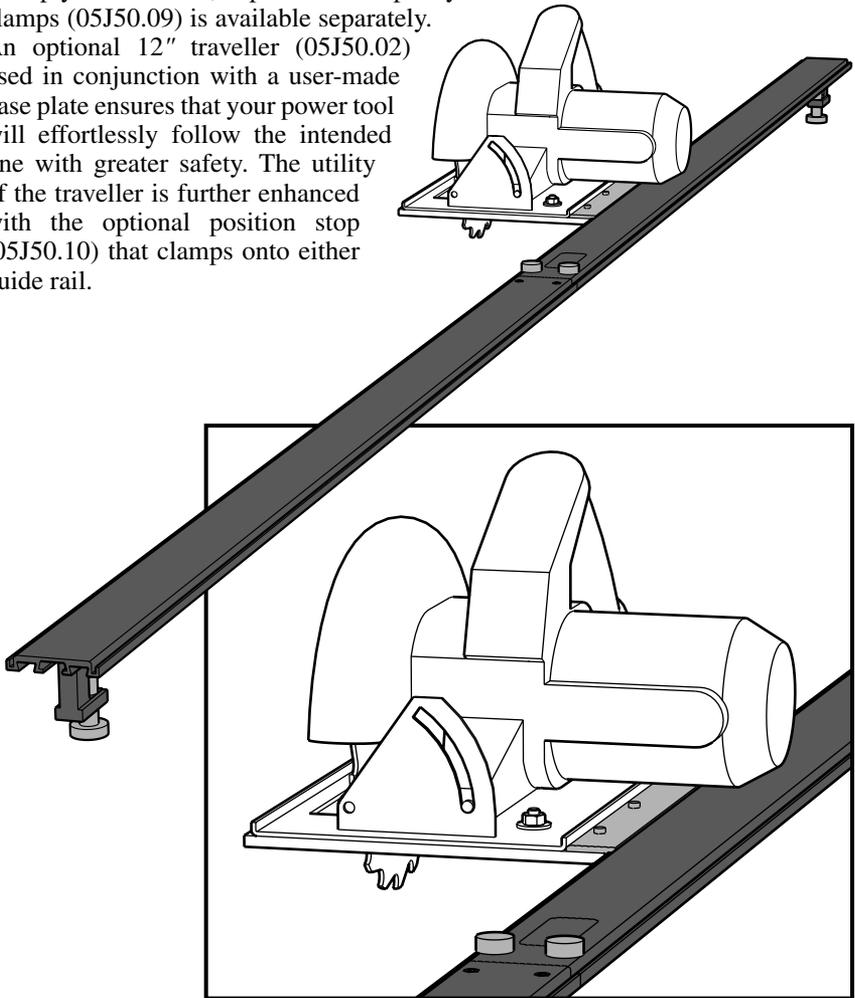


Figure 1: Veritas® Power Tool Guide.



## 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. Read the manual. Learn the tool's applications and limitations as well as the specific hazards related to the tool.
2. Use common sense. If an action appears to be unsafe, it likely is.
3. Use the correct power supply. Never use a power source for which this tool was not designed. It could cause serious injury. If the tool is equipped with a three-prong plug, it should be plugged into a three-hole electric receptacle. An adapter should be properly grounded.
4. Keep safety guards in place and in working order.
5. Wear proper eye protection. Everyday eyeglasses have only impact-resistant lenses; they are not safety glasses. Also use a face or dust mask if the cutting operation is dusty. Visitors should wear the same protection.
6. Wear hearing protection.
7. Wear proper apparel. Avoid wearing loose clothing, gloves, ties, rings and bracelets as these can get caught in moving parts.
8. Long hair should be tied back and secured.
9. Do **not** work under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication. Drugs, alcohol, medication and lack of sleep cause impaired judgment and coordination and should not be combined with power tool operation.
10. Use in an appropriate environment. Power tools should be used only in dry, clean and well-lit environments. Exposure to rain or use in the presence of flammable liquids or gases could result in damage or injury.
11. Keep power cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.
12. Remove adjusting keys and wrenches before use.
13. Keep hands away from moving parts until the tool has come to a complete stop and the power has been disconnected.
14. Keep workplace clean. Cluttered areas and benches invite accidents.
15. Do **not** force tool. It will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
16. Use the right tool. Do **not** force a small tool or attachment to do the job of a heavy-duty tool.
17. Do **not** use damaged tools. A damaged tool that does not operate correctly is a safety hazard and should be fixed before any further use.
18. **Always** disconnect the tool from the power source when changing bits, cutters, blades or belts, or when adjusting, cleaning or performing any other services.

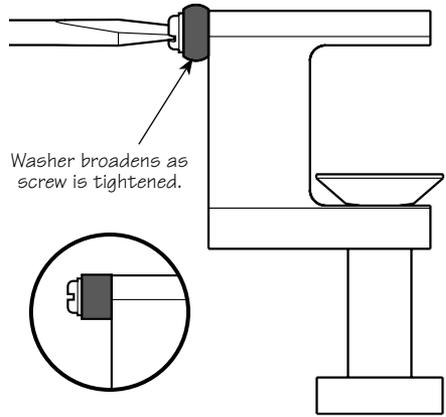


## Safety Rules

19. Practice proper maintenance. Keep all tools sharp, clean and well lubricated for the best and safest results. Sharp bits, cutters and blades minimize stalling, kickback, and burning. They perform better and safer than dull tools.
20. Repairs and service should be performed by a certified technician. Use only identical replacement parts.
21. Do **not** alter or misuse the tool. Stop any operation immediately if you notice anything abnormal.
22. Remove all nails from a workpiece before performing any operation on it. Wood-cutting blades and cutters can be destroyed if they hit embedded nails.
23. Use only blades or bits appropriate for the tool (with the correct size arbor/shank).
24. Handle blades and bits with care.
25. Ensure that depth, bevel and any other adjustments are tight.
26. Support large panels.
27. Maintain good balance.
28. Make sure the blade or bit is not in contact with the workpiece **before** the power is turned on. Wait until the tool attains full speed before proceeding.
29. Hold or clamp workpiece firmly against table.
30. Do **not** remove workpiece or cut-off pieces from tool during a cut while the cutter is moving.
31. Do **not** leave tool until it comes to a complete stop.
32. When power tools are not in use, they should be stored in a dry area, and locked so that they are out of the reach of children.
33. Never carry portable tools by the power cord.
34. Do **not** carry a plugged-in portable tool with finger on the switch.
35. Do **not** yank power cord to disconnect from receptacle.
36. When using portable tools on walls, floors or wherever live electrical wires may be encountered, do **not** touch any metal parts of the tool. Hold the tool only by its plastic handles to prevent electric shock, should you accidentally cut a live wire.
37. Do **not** operate electric tools in gaseous or explosive environments. The spark of the motor may cause the fumes to ignite.
38. **Routers:** Unless otherwise specified, always insert the shank of a bit as far as possible into the collet. Check to see if it has bottomed out, or if the radius in the corner where the shank meets the body is in contact with the chuck. In either case, raise the bit slightly to clear it so that the chuck can be tightened securely.
39. **Circular Saws:** Do **not** use if blade guard does not close briskly.
40. **Jigsaws:** Before using the tool on an actual workpiece, let it run for a while first. Watch for flutter that might be caused by poor installation or a poorly balanced blade.

## 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.

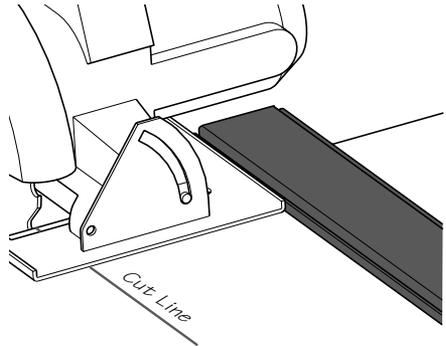


**Figure 2: Adjusting the clamp brakes.**

## Main Guide

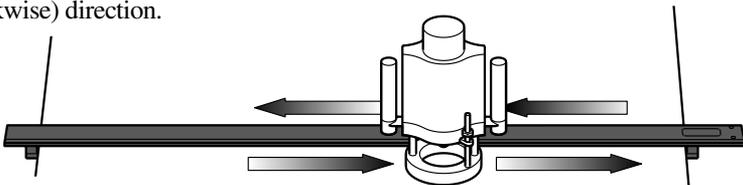
The main guide is 52" long and comes with the two clamps. This length allows the guide to comfortably straddle the short (4') side of standard-sized sheet material. Mark the cut line on the top of the sheet. Note that this does not have to be a continuous line; it need only be marked at the near and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



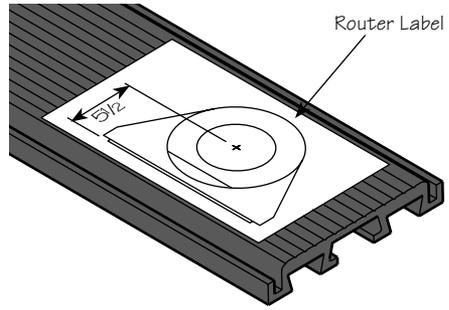
**Figure 3: Setting the location of the guide with a circular saw.**

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.**

**Hint:** 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.



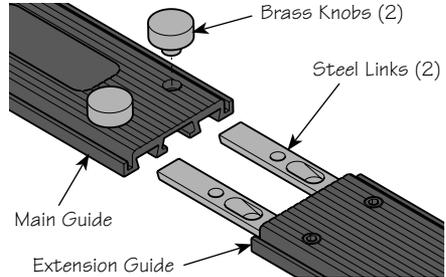
**Figure 5:** Example of personal power tool offset distances.

## 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 steel 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.



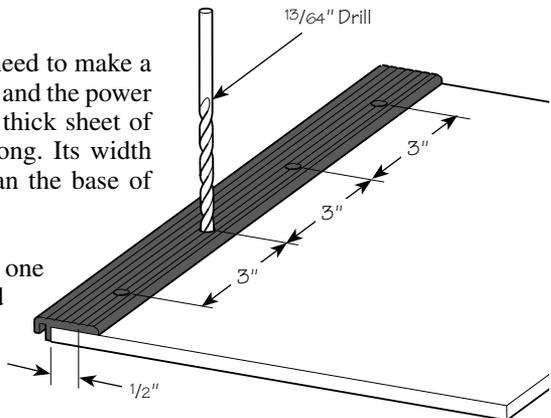
**Figure 6:** Assembling the tool guide extension.

## 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.



**Figure 7:** Marking the hole centers.

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

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.

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.

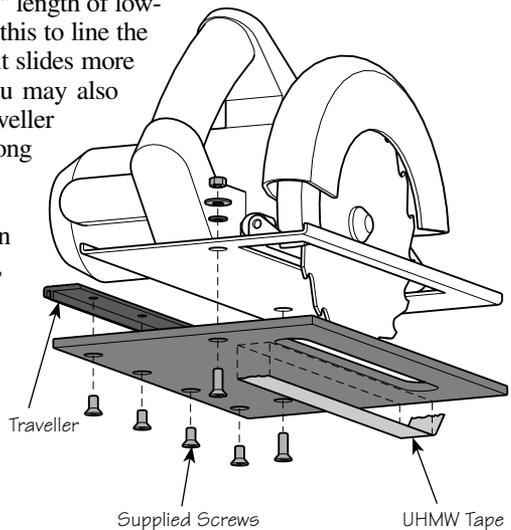
*Note: Some base plates might not contain mounting holes, in which case you will have no choice but to drill your own.*

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**.

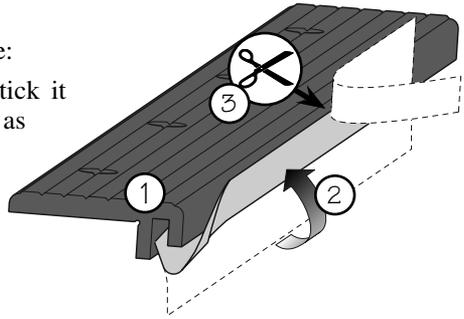


**Figure 8: Mounting the traveller to a circular saw.**

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:

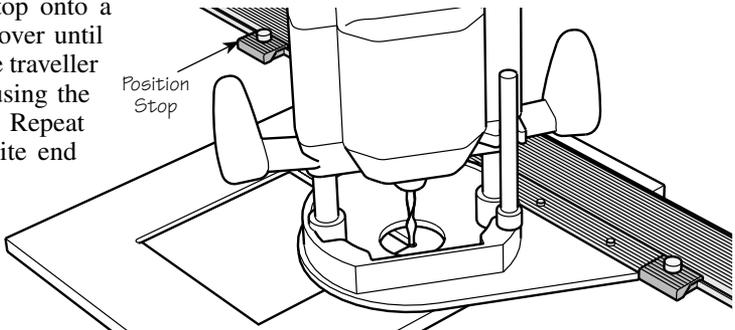
1. Remove the tape backing and stick it to the inner hook of the traveller as illustrated in **Figure 9**. Be sure that it is well adhered.
2. Fold the remaining tape over the hook and push the hook into the mating slot in the guide. Slide the traveller back and forth to ensure that the tape is firmly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



**Figure 9: Lining the traveller hook with UHMW tape.**

## Position Stops

The position stops are best used in conjunction with the traveller to create stopped dados 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 10: Using position stops.**

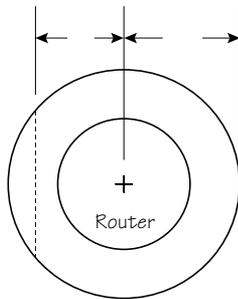
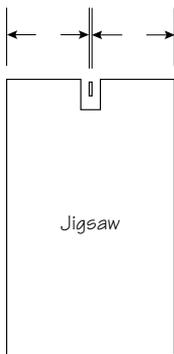
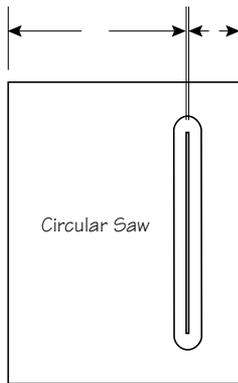
## Power Tool Offset Diagrams (Back Cover)

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.

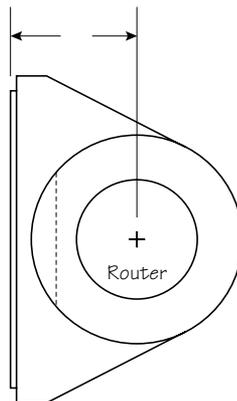
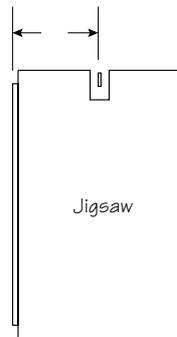
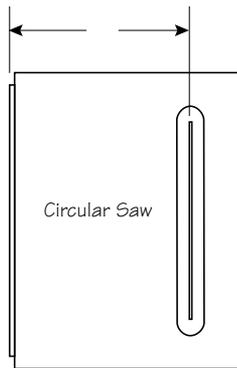
## Power Tool Guide Accessories

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" x 18'

**Power tool offset diagrams, without traveller.**



**Power tool offset diagrams, with traveller.**



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