

Installing the DeWalt Sliding Table on the Delta Unisaw

By Bobby Crumpley

The following is a simple photo essay of how I installed the DeWalt DW7461 sliding table onto my Delta Unisaw. My Unisaw is a 1972 model, but I'm fairly certain that this will work on both newer and older models as might also work on the clones from Asia. Also, my fence is the Delta Unifence, so some details will probably have to be a little different for a Biesemeyer or other fence. I apologize for the poor picture quality, but the pictures should be clear enough to illustrate what I'm trying to describe in the text. Also, before I go any further, I would like to give credit for this idea to Art Silva. He posted pictures of this same modification on Ellis Valentine's www.woodcentral.com web site and inspired me to try it.

Let's get started.

First, I think that it will be helpful to read through the DeWalt installation manual to familiarize yourself with their procedure, as it is basically what we'll be doing here. The only materials needed are a piece of 1/4" steel plate and some bolts. This will cost about \$8.00 at Lowe's for 4" X 12" piece, but will be substantially cheaper at a steel supply dealer. The three bolts for attachment to the side of the DeWalt DW746 saw table are metric, so they will have to be replaced with standard thread bolts, 7/16-24 X 1". These are flat head bolts with either a Torx or Allen drive and are designed for flush installation. I doubt that you'll be able to find these at a home center, so you'll need to go to a bolt supply house to buy them. Also, two 3/8-24 X 1" bolts are needed for the back rail, depending on what fence you're using.

Remove the left cast iron extension from the saw and install the support rail. Also, it will be necessary to remove the blade guard support rod.



Cut four mounting hangers from the steel plate to mount the front and rear support bracket. There are some hangers that are included with the sliding table, but the holes don't line up, so I made the new hangers a little wider. Drill a 7/16" hole in the top area of the hanger, offset to the side.



Mount the new hangers on the front and rear of the saw. The hole that you drilled will be on the upper left on the front of the saw, the upper right on the rear of the saw. Don't snug up the bolts yet since the hangers will have to be swung out of the way in order to get the support brackets in place. Install the support brackets in position behind the hangers with the tongue from the support rail going through the slot in the support bracket. Once they are positioned properly and leveled, mark the holes on the hangers with a Sharpie through the support brackets. Remove everything and drill the bottom holes.



On my particular saw, there was a problem with clearance between the rear of the saw and the rear support bracket, not allowing it to fully engage the tongue on the support rail.



If you encounter this with your saw, you'll have a few options. Sliding the saw table all the way to the rear might give you the needed clearance, though it didn't for me. Instead, I elected to remove some of the metal from the support bracket. I have a friend with a Bridgeport milling machine in his garage and he did this for me by cutting a 'rabbet' in the top of the support bracket. This could be done easily with a grinder and it doesn't need to be pretty since it'll never be seen. Also, I had to grind out a little notch on the support bracket for clearance of a mounting boss on the bottom of the saw table. It now fit like it should.



The only other snag that I encountered was interference from the front support bracket lower mounting bolts with the fence rail. Countersinking the lower holes on the front hangers and using the supplied flat head bolts easily solved this.



At this point I installed the fence rail and marked where it would need to be cut off.



All that's left to do now is to set the sliding table into place and align it per the instructions in the DeWalt manual.



Hopefully this will show how easy that this really is to do. I think that you will really be in for a treat if you haven't experienced how a sliding table improves your saw. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at crumpley@prodigy.net. Also, if you come up ways to improve this, be sure to share it.

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