

# Cutting the Studs

The normal way to cut the studding is to use Cutting Shears as shown in my manual on numerous pages. E.G.



With practice this method works fine, but it is time consuming and after a lot of cuts your wrists and fingers start to feel the pain. Further, you have to mark the cut line on both sides to get a smooth, equal cut.

This is the cheapest method of cutting the studs, but there is an alternative by using a “Cut-off-Saw”.

When you are making multiple cuts of the same length, a Cut-off-saw is a blessing.

I didn't include this in my manual earlier because I thought it was an unnecessary expense for someone trying to save money. But, when you look at the possible number of studs, the same length, then it is very worthwhile considering.

Shown below are couple of examples from Home Depot (RIDGID) and Harbor Freight (CHICAGO).



## 2 Horsepower 14" Industrial Cut-Off Saw

Chicago Electric Power Tools - Item#91938



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Powerful 14" cut-off saw makes quick work of metal and masonry

Only: ~~\$99.99~~

Availability: In stock

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This item may be available at your local Harbor Freight Tools Store

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Both have 14" cuts (diameter of cutting wheel), and both work fine. I personally have the RIDGID version as I do a lot of cutting and have always had great success with the RIDGID line of tools.

Now we have the saw, but that's only 10% of what I'm going to tell you about. First, you can't just hold the flimsy steel studding in the saw's clamp and expect to get a clean cut... It just don't happen that way....

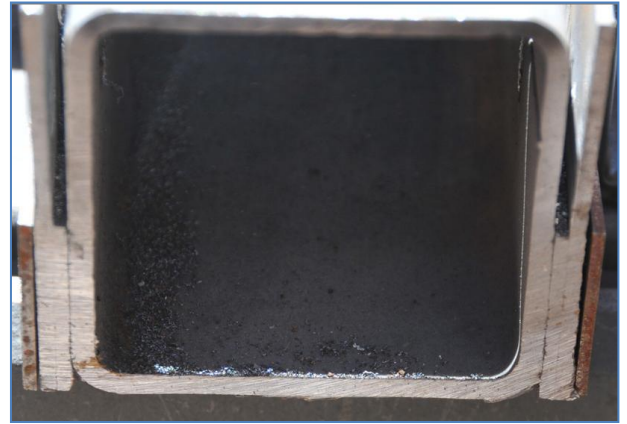
Because the studding is so soft and flimsy, if you attempt to use the saw blade on it, it will tear into various contorted shapes and possibly injure you in the process. In order to get a nice clean even cut, you have to make a jig – a metal “frame” that holds the steel studding for you, and allows a safe, clean cut.

This is not as complicated as it sounds, and you should be able to get one made for you at a local scrap steel place for about \$25. Luckily, the steel sizes you need are standard and nothing really has to be worked.

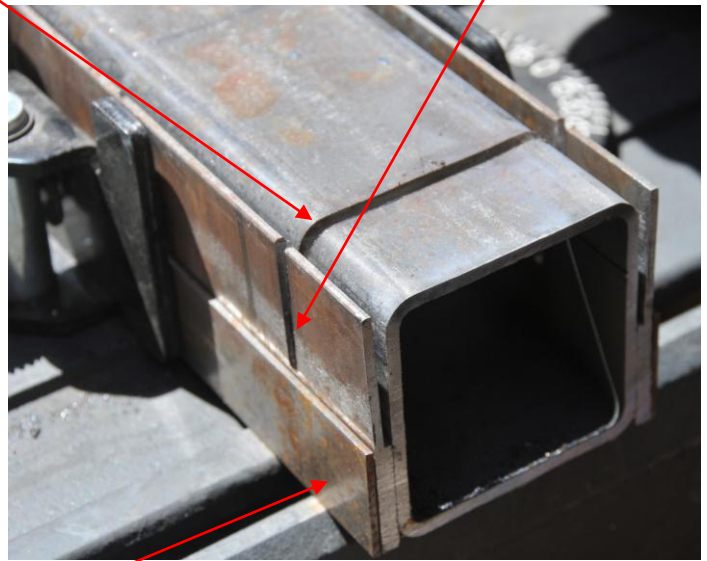
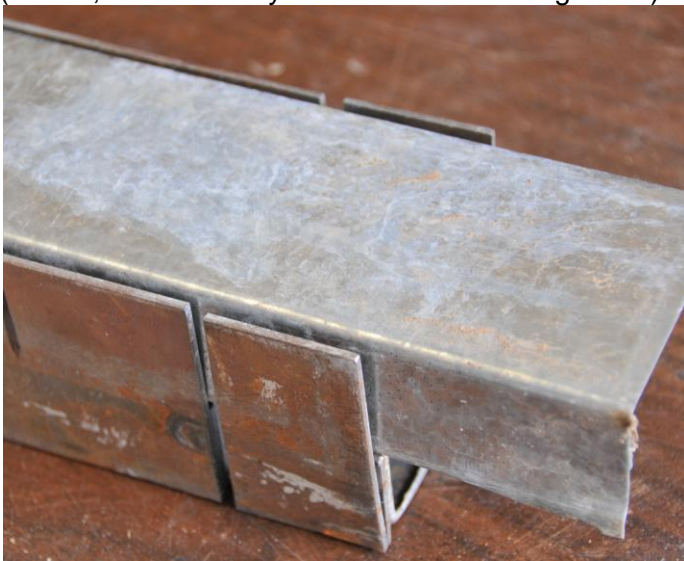
The photo to the right shows this made out of an 8" length of 2 1/2" box section, a couple of 2 1/2" x 8" x 1/8" flat plate and four 1" x 8" x 1/8" plate, then get them spot welded together. Look at the next page and the photos.



BLACK = 2 1/2" Box Section  
 RED = 2 1/2" steel plate  
 BLUE = 1" steel plate

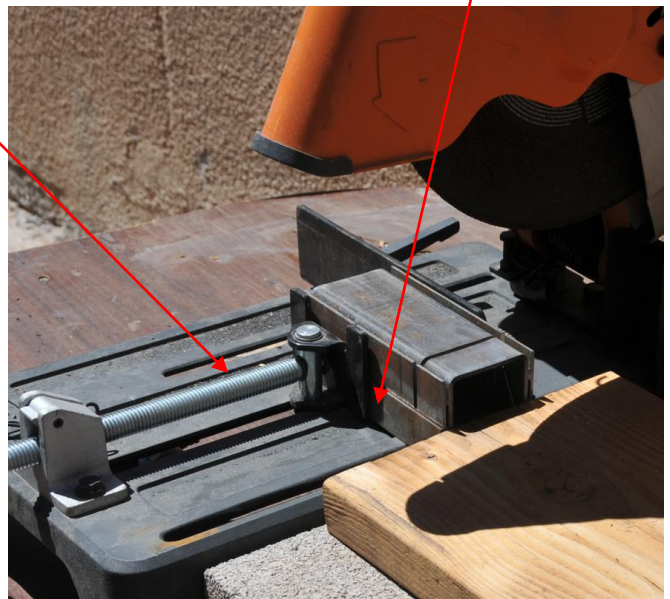
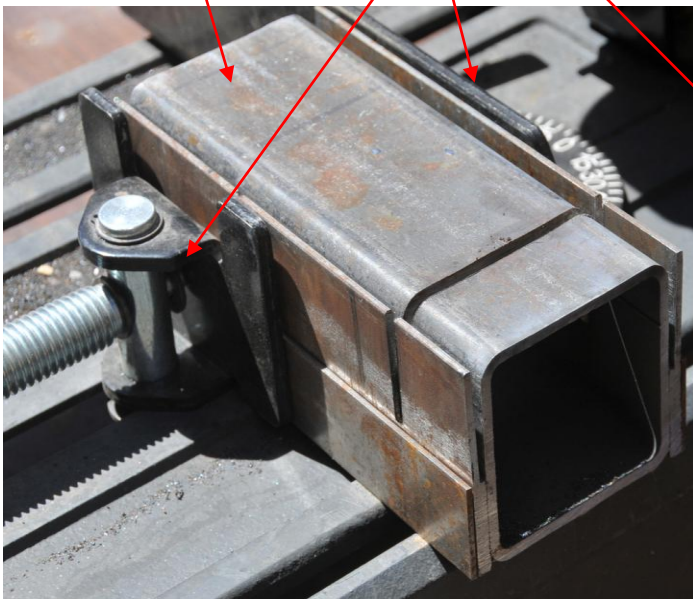


This "jig" allows the studding to sit in the grooves as shown below. Before we can do any cutting, we need to cut the guide in the jig. Note this only goes halfway down (Notice, it is obviously in line with the cutting blade)



We have the jig secured in the saw's vice

These 2 outside strips, prevent the clamp from squashing the larger plate against the box section and trapping the studding. Only the bottom of the vice is squeezing.





Now, when we lay the studding in the jig, it will be supported at either side of the cut-line. So, when we bring the cutting blade down, it will cut through the studding and into the groove cut in the jig. This will ensure we have a clean cut on both sides.



OK, so now we have a method of getting clean cuts of our studding, but how do we make it easy to cut multiple pieces the same length, i.e. 24 pieces all 36" long?

Go to the following page.....



What I do, is make up a cutting board. First you need a table, around 6' long and 2' 6" across. Any flat surface will do....

Look at the table I have below – it's seen better days....



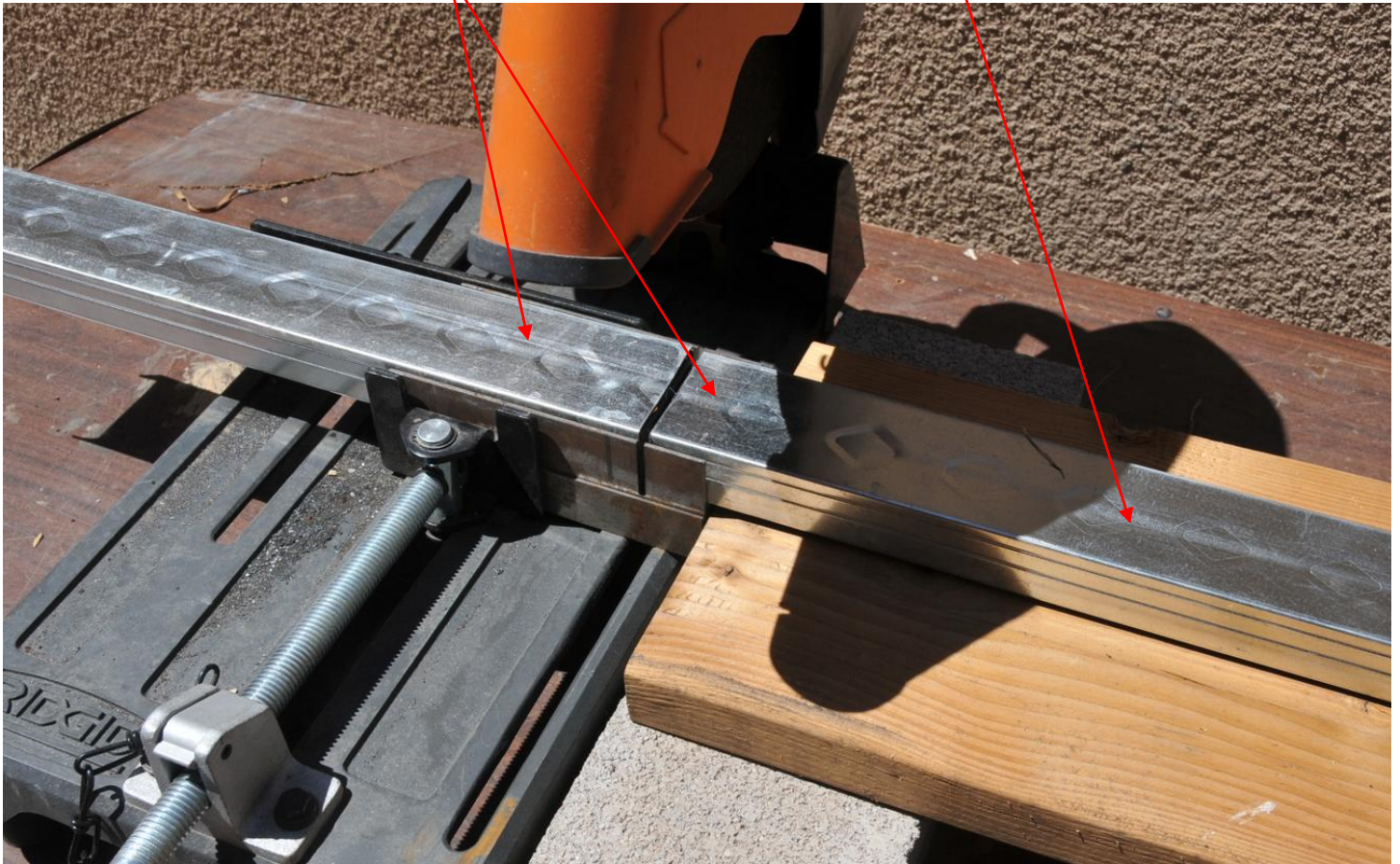
What I've done here is mount the saw at one end LEFT, then get a 8" wide (or whatever) 2" x say 5' long and support it on blocks or wood, to build its surface to the same height as the cutting jig





When I lay my studding in the jig, it is supported and won't hang over the edge, requiring your wife to hold it....

Also, when I've made my cut, neither piece falls away...

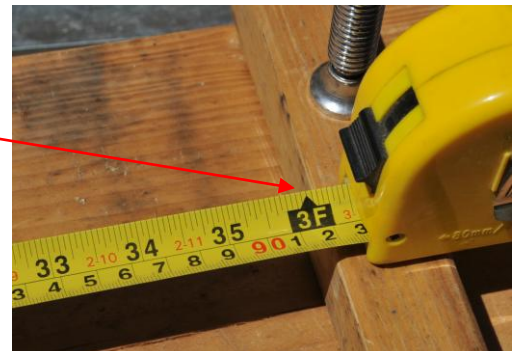
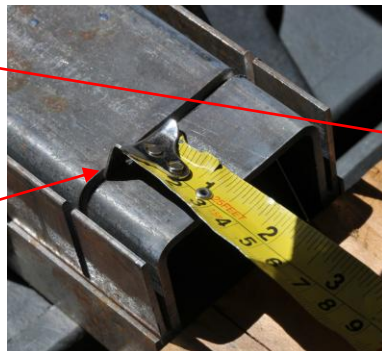


The second reason for placing this long plank here is for cutting multiple lengths the same...



Clamp the stopping strip to the base plank, then measure the correct length desired for the multiple pieces to you want to cut.

Make sure you "hook" the front end of the tape into the cutting groove.





Now we can lay a length of studding up against the stopping strip, drop it into the jig, and then cut a length exactly 36"...



Now repeat the process as many times as you require. Remember to be economical with your cutting !!

Plan out what number of different lengths you want, then plan how to cut the 10' lengths without waste.

**REMEMBER WHEN USING THIS SAW, WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES AND GLOVES. Also, try not to breath the fine dust from the cutting blade.**



I've tried to explain how to use the cut-off-saw and jig to help you make a faster, neater job. I cannot be held responsible for your operation of the equipment. If in doubt, seek the help and guidance from a professional or Licensed General Contractor.

Here below I've added a couple more photos to show the making of the jig..

Here I bent the side strips out slightly to make it easier to get the studding out from its "snug" fit.



Top view, jig held in clamp



Saw cutting through studding into guide groove.



Larger photo of jig construction....

