

March 2000, No.23

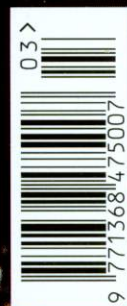
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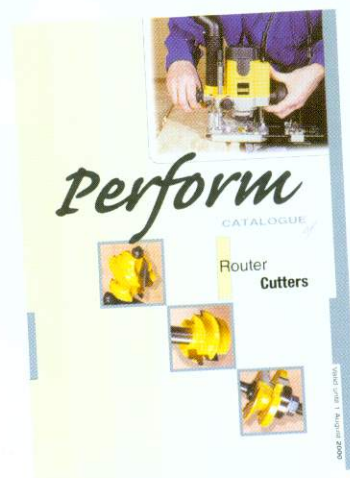
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The Router Also Rises

There are times in every man's life when he finds himself confronted by a fork in the road ahead. Five years ago a decade as a business and film industry editor lay behind me. Eighties boom had sloped into Nineties bust and all that was left of the publishing good times had ridden themselves out. I came to realise that my taste for journalism and journalists had faded. I turned to my hands for salvation and embarked on a new career in wood. An apprenticeship at a local timber yard eventually led to designing and making my own furniture. And as somebody once said, "They were the best of times, they were the worst of times."

Life marched on until - unexpectedly - last December I found myself at a new fork in the road. Behind me, five hard yet pleasing years as my own boss trading as The Woodman of Wessex. Time also spent watching my young daughter Ellie grow, seeing her close up take on the world around her. Then a friend called and said that they had seen this job advertised which had my name written all over it. This company wanted to find someone who was part journalist and part woodman. Crazy.

At the interview I saw great things in GMC's approach to publishing and an energy in their commitment to the future that re-kindled the flame that journalism had once ignited within me. I wanted to play a part in this company's expansion, and bring my experience to the collective pot, and in particular to *The Router*.

Well, I got the job. And before I had time to tell my wife, I was handed a stack of back issues, 22 of my new title, along with 104 of her stablemates and a dozen of the competition. I humped them all down to Cornwall on holiday and took them apart, page by page.

On my first official day at my desk I knew what needed to be done. The time had come to consolidate *The Router's* strengths, discard any weak elements, and refresh those parts in need of a cold Heineken. There can be no

denying the title its position as a market leader. The collective corporate shoulder was well behind Alan Goodsell, the launch editor, and Paul Richardson, the managing editor, and they returned the compliment by producing a first-rate magazine and then taking it to the top. For that they deserve recognition. The way I see things now, my job is to take the next step in the publication's life, and to emphatically stamp its authority on the industry. There will be changes, be certain of that. But everything that makes *The Router* what it is will remain and be built upon in the coming months.

New editorial sections will appear, and to facilitate that, new contributors will swell the ranks of the much-loved regulars. The look of the magazine will get a fresh lick of paint, and a new cohesion and clarity which should see it through the coming years of growth. Later on in the year we will publish a reader survey which will give you a comprehensive opportunity to let us know how we are doing. But you need not hold back your opinions until then. *The Router* has always been a magazine in touch with its readership and it has always been understood that the title is a two-way discussion. Both Dave Campbell, the new deputy editor, and I will be glad to hear your thoughts now. And let me reiterate the cry which both Alan and Paul have put out before: we are always on the look out for fresh ideas and new contributors to bring into the GMC fraternity, so keep on calling and writing, and sending in your features, projects and technical articles. Who knows, tomorrow you may reach that fork in the road ahead, and one of the ways forward may be contributing to the pages of this publication.

Carlo Jolly, Editor



The Router contents

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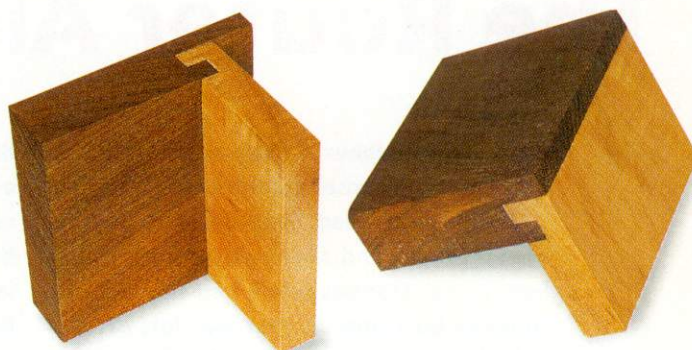
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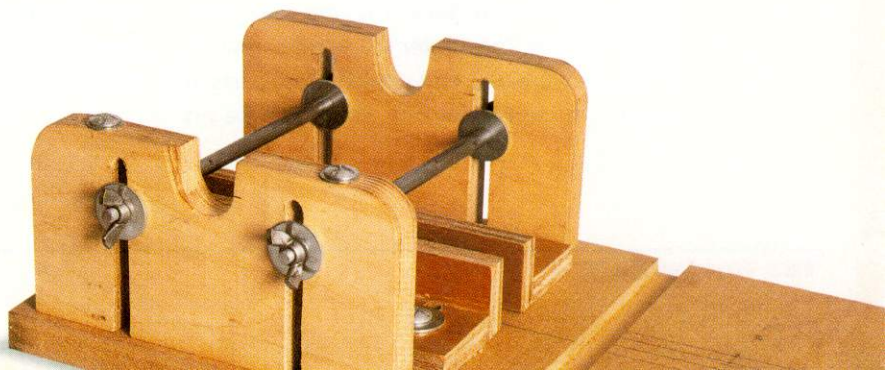
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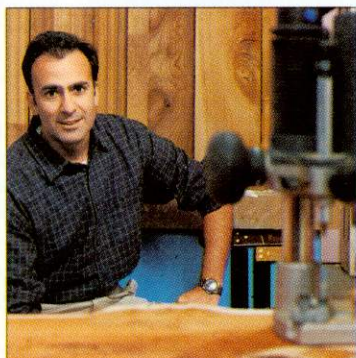
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Cover photography by
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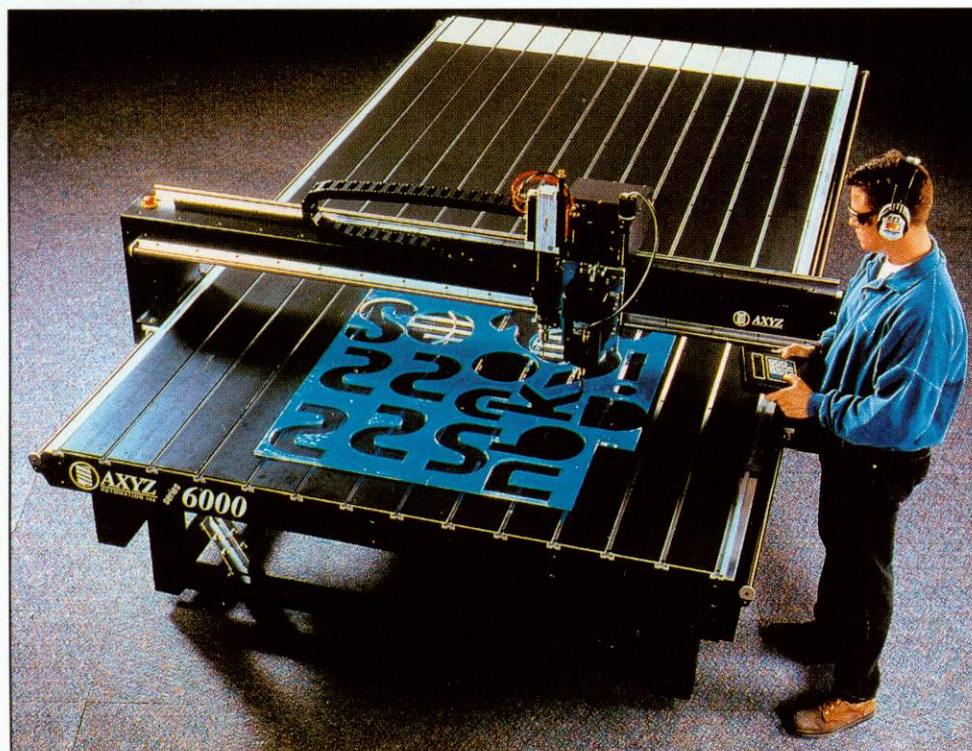
High profile

Titman's new spindle profile cutter

Titman Tip Tools have just unveiled a major new range of Spindle/Profile tooling. Two years in development, this is a new departure for one of the UK's leading tungsten carbide router cutter manufacturers. The new cutters complement Titman's existing range of industrial and DIY tooling and are backed up by Titman's twenty years' experience and after-sales service. The new tooling is made from UK-sourced steels and features grades of tungsten carbide which has been specially prepared for Titman. With a network of 800 distributors the new tooling should be easy to find, but further information on the entire Titman range can be found at their website at www.titman.co.uk



The power of the press



Advertising works! Since displaying their products in a woodworking magazine AXYZ Automation have supplied a CNC router to an Irish plastics company. The 6000 series machine is being used to cut perspex, acrylic, foamex, polycarbonate, lexan and darvic, and slashes cutting times that used to take an hour down to five minutes. Naturally this also allows the production of larger quantities. AXYZ Automation also supplies a variety of industries throughout Europe with specially adapted state-of-the-art routing equipment. AXYZ Automation is at Unit 3, The Saddlery, Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, West Midlands. Tel: 01384 358344, E-mail: sales@axyz.co.uk

The AXYZ 6000 series router

● Contact the Deputy Editor, Dave Campbell, with news and product information. Items should be sent to Dave c/o *The Router*, GMC Publications Ltd, 86 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1XN at least 10 weeks prior to publication



Dig this!

JCB, the big digger and earthmoving people, have recently launched a range of power tools and garden power products. Available since the beginning of the year, the JCB Powerproducts are aimed at both the serious DIY enthusiast and the professional tradesman. Ruggedly built, the range is designed to be premium quality and built to a high specification. Available through a wide range of dealers, ring 01788 547547 for information on the dealer nearest to you.

Tools by post

Screwfix Direct has launched its new Y2K (year 2000) catalogue, containing thousands of tools, screws and fixings. The 124-page full colour catalogue also contains at least 500 items which are now priced even lower than in their last tool-laden tome. Items are available ex-stock, with next day delivery, and can be ordered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via the www.screwfix.com website, or between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday, and up to 4pm on Saturdays, via a freephone or freefax number. For a free catalogue Freephone 0800 317004 or Freefax 0800 0562256. Sales assistance is on Freephone 0500 414141, and Screwfix Direct Limited are at Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil, BA22 8RT.

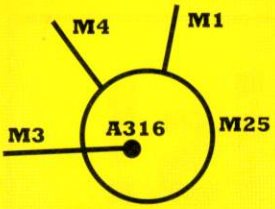


Gripping stuff

Leave one hand free with this nifty device!

Record Tools have just released their new QUICK CHANGE™ QUICK GRIP™ bar clamp spreader which incorporates two tools in one. This new tool, which comes with a lifetime warranty, provides users with a unique action, one-handed QUICK GRIP™ bar clamp, and includes the versatile QUICK CHANGE™ spreader which changes the bar clamp into a spreader. This can be done within seconds and without the need for tools. Manufactured from high-tech engineered resin material for greater strength and durability, the tool is light to handle and will also withstand temperatures up to 200 degrees F (100 degrees C). This new tool is available in six sizes - from 6in/150mm to 50in/1265mm for a number of applications. Other features include the pistol grip QUICK RELEASE™ trigger and a multi-position jaw with non-marring stay-on pads. Sales enquiries for Record Tools are on 0114 2519101.

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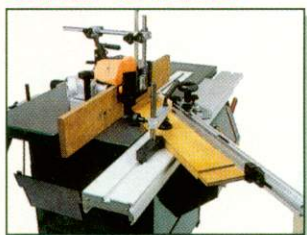
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Router tips

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Reducing templates

Having decided to make a three-sectioned pole, I realised that the three sections needed to be as a plug and socket connection, but of a sufficiently good fit that they could be dismantled and reconnected while maintaining a firm grip with absolutely no slack.

I was dealing with a 2in diameter pole, but the problem to overcome could apply to any template as a temporary measure.

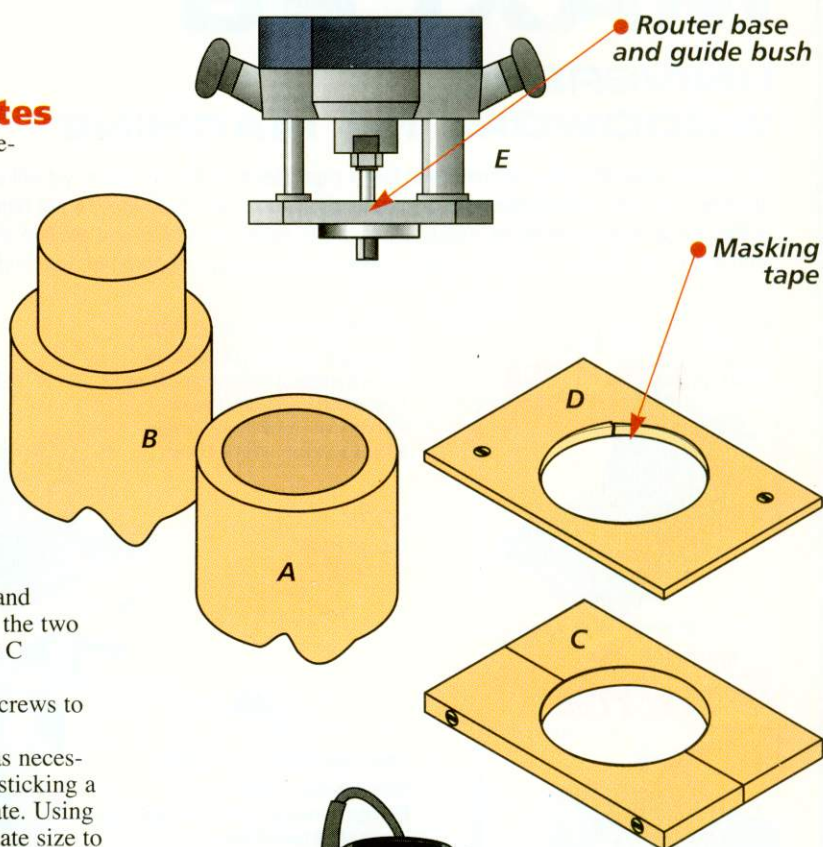
The pole plug B was turned first to a diameter of 1½in. A 1½in forstener bit drilled a hole into a scrap piece of wood (for testing purposes), and the plug A was offered up but turned out to be very slightly slack.

The clamp C was made from an offcut with a 2in hole and split across the middle. Two countersunk screws clamped the two halves onto pole A; held in the bench clamp with the vice C sitting astride the vice.

The template D was fixed with two countersunk woodscrews to the clamp C.

To overcome the slight slackness in fit of the plug it was necessary to reduce the size of the template. This was done by sticking a length of masking tape to the circumference of the template. Using two thicknesses of tape was sufficient to reduce the template size to give a nice tight fit, if it had been too tight then the tape could have been removed and just one thickness used. Diagram E shows the base of the router and the guidebush with the cutter in position.

Ray Everest, Coleford



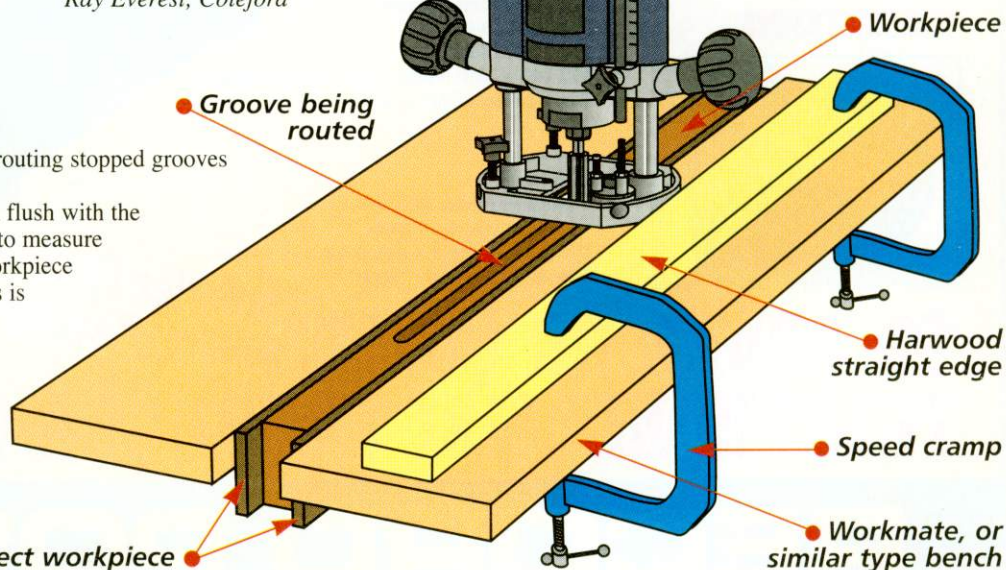
Stopped grooves

I have enclosed a drawing of a set up for routing stopped grooves along the edges of a workpiece.

A steel rule is used first, to set the work flush with the workmate top. The steel rule is then used to measure and set the straight edge parallel to the workpiece.

This method of routing stopped grooves is safer and more accurate than lowering the work onto the cutter, with the router inverted in a table.

A. Jackson, Preston



Scrap MDF or plywood, to protect workpiece

Guide rods

When the router is mounted or held in 'ski' type supports, the position of the guide rods can easily be marked by placing lip or spur type drills in place of the rods.

A piece of wood is then pressed sideways onto the drill points, giving the exact centre for drilling. The wood can be used on its own or reinforced with plates, or clamped to the metal skis to act as a template.

Martin Lyons, Manchester

Tips must not previously have been submitted or published elsewhere. All tips may be reproduced in a compilation booklet.

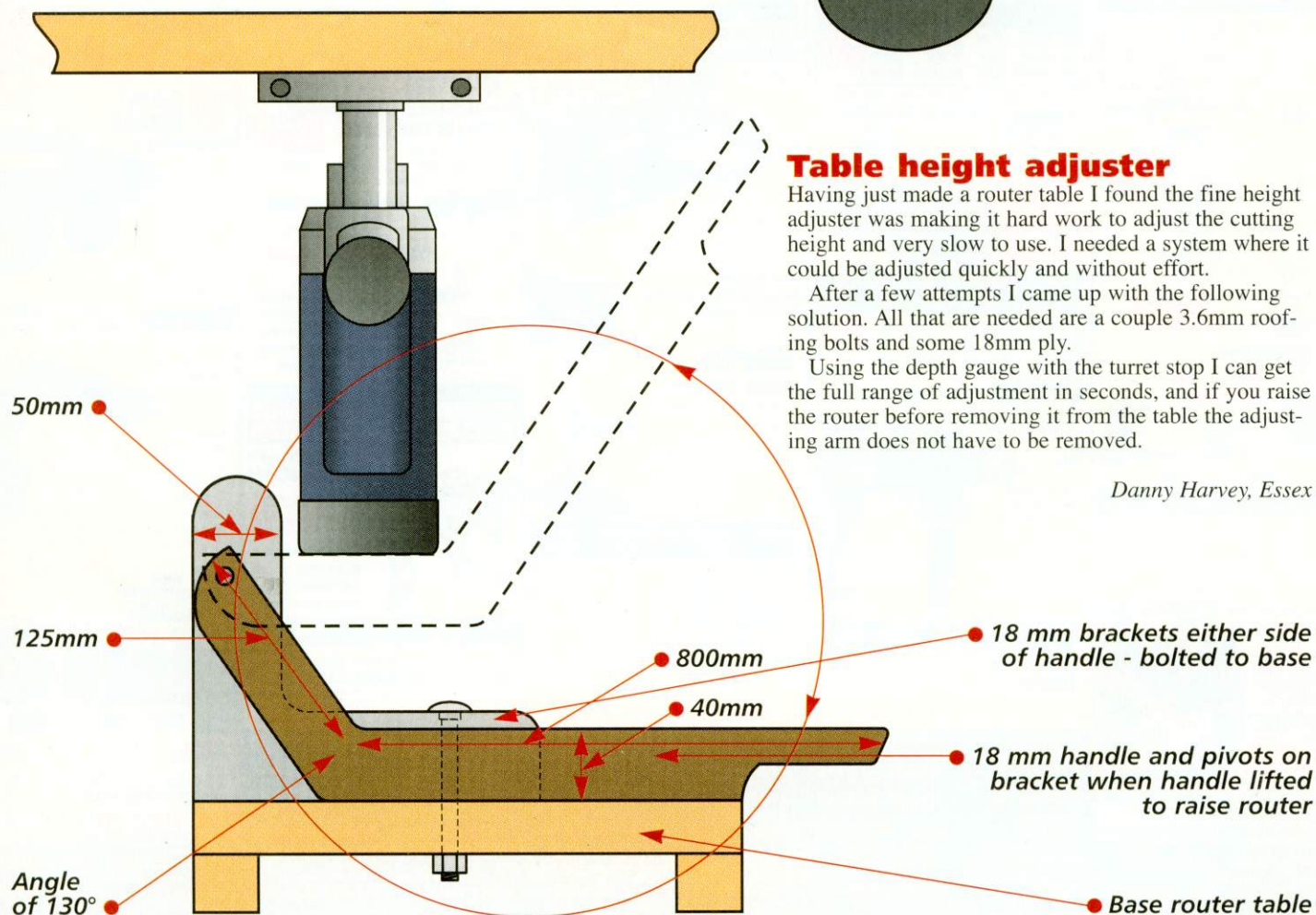
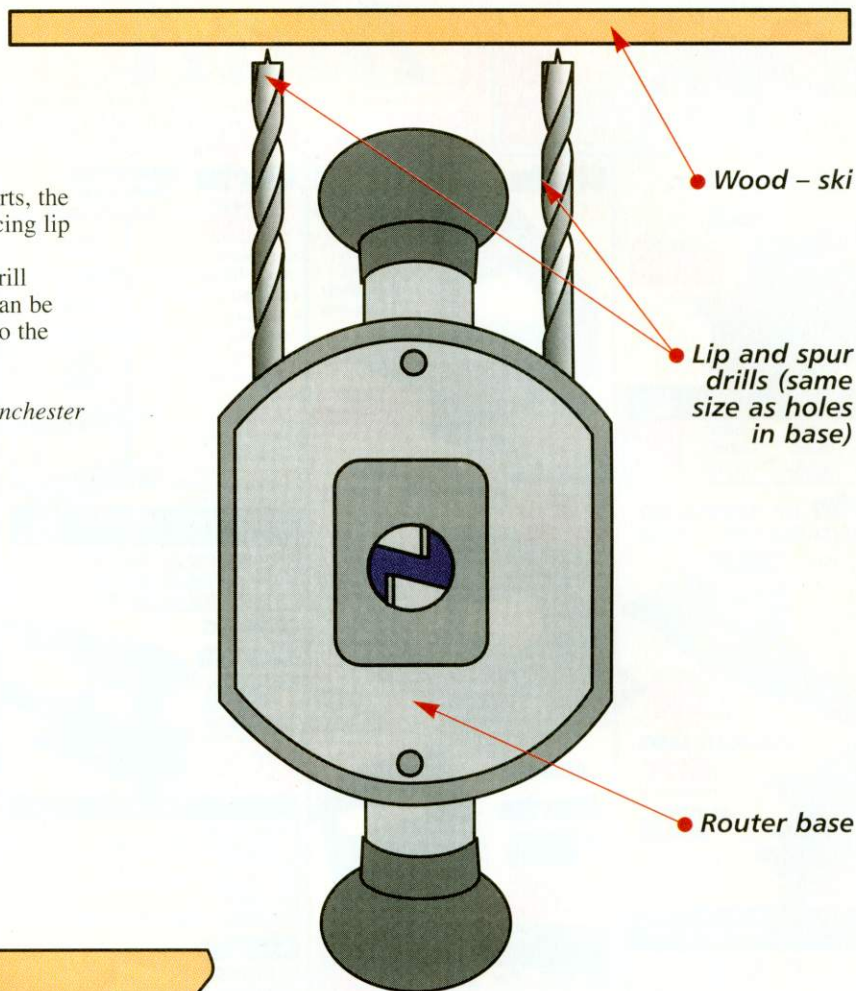


Table height adjuster

Having just made a router table I found the fine height adjuster was making it hard work to adjust the cutting height and very slow to use. I needed a system where it could be adjusted quickly and without effort.

After a few attempts I came up with the following solution. All that are needed are a couple 3.6mm roofing bolts and some 18mm ply.

Using the depth gauge with the turret stop I can get the full range of adjustment in seconds, and if you raise the router before removing it from the table the adjusting arm does not have to be removed.

Danny Harvey, Essex

Letters to *The* Router



The Router welcomes letters on anything to do with routing, and wants to know what you think about the projects featured in the magazine, along with your tips and technical points – so much so that we are offering £10 per letter published. In the meantime, crisp tenners are winging their way to this month's contributors

Write to us at: *The Router*, GMC Publications Ltd, 86 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1XN

Down under

I am a subscriber and a reader of *The Router*, and have always looked forward to each issue, as they always contain excellent articles. I need a router table, and here in New Zealand there is virtually nothing on the market, so I have decided to get one built.

In the latest issue there is a photo on page 89 of a router mounted over the top of the table. This idea appeals to me and I wondered if you would mind giving me your opinion as to which way of mounting the router is the better – underneath the table or over the top.

I guess that there are advantages and disadvantages of either way, but I would value your opinion on this matter.
P. Woolman, e-mail

Thank you for your kind remarks about the magazine, its nice to know so many readers enjoy it. Regarding mounting a router over or under a table, to be honest, unless you have someone like the Alan Goodsell's engineer father Jack to make up an overhead router system, I would advise sticking with a conventional table.

Certain operations such as moulding frames can be done more easily with the router overhead, but you need a really solid set-up, with a rising table (or movable router head) controlled with a foot pedal, as your hands will be full!

Further to that, I think making your own table is better and certainly more satisfying than buying a ready-made one which could be of poorer quality. You can make the table just as you want it to be! In issues 3 to 6 of *The Router* we featured a very nice homemade table, stand, and accessories in birch ply, made by Paul Richardson and Anthony Bailey. Various companies such as Axminster Tools or Trend can supply knobs, levers and insert plates for your table. Good luck.

The Router

Overhead plunging

Are you familiar with an overhead router set-up? It comes with a foot pedal that works in the same style as the old Rockwell Drill Press. I don't even know if it is a production item or is custom-made. However, what I do know is that I would like to find out where I can get hold of one. If you do know where I can get hold of one, or even just give me a lead, it would be most appreciated.

Elliot Brahms, Jersey City

Another inquiry about overhead routers! As you may have gathered they don't figure large on most router users horizons. Mainly they are used by industry because they are heavily built and rather expensive, however they do have certain advantages over conventional tables. They have a foot pedal to raise the table or lower the router and allow instant cutter access into the face of a workpiece making panel moulding and other operations very quick and efficient. However they need to be used with a bit of skill and care. I believe a US company called Onsrud still produce a pin-guided machine which is more compact and cheaper than a typical overhead machine. Unfortunately I cannot locate their details in any current American woodworking magazine. I gather from your letter you have no experience of these and possibly are looking at a budget solution, therefore you could consider fitting a router-mounting bracket to a radial arm saw, if you own one. Alternatively, certain drill stands such as the Bosch model will accept a lightweight router with a 43mm Euroneck collar size. These solutions are much more limited than a heavy-duty machine but they do allow clear vision of the work and are better for certain operations, but to be honest most of the time a normal table will suit you fine for most work.

The Router

Troubleshooting

Should you have any routing queries that have you flummoxed, please drop us a line explaining in detail what you are trying to achieve. We will then put it to our panel of experts who will do their best to solve the problem.

We will publish successful ones, and although we will do our best to reply to all queries we cannot guarantee that all that aren't published will receive a response.

Published letters will be edited to neatly fit the available space.

..... Diary Dates

March

9 to 12 National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Tel: 0121 7804141.

11 & 12 Show for the East of England woodworking and tool show at Ipswich Showground. The show will cover woodworking, carving and wood-turning. For further information on prices and advance ticket offers contact either: Roy Coe Woodturning on 01787 211539, e-mail roycoewoodturning@btinternet.com or East of England Exhibitions on 01787 21139, e-mail east_ex@btinternet.com

11 - 31 Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Bridport Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3NR Tel: 01308 427183 contact: Chris Huxley

23 Cabinetmaking - a talk by Robert Ingram at the Mytchett Centre, Mytchett, Nr. Frimley, Surrey, beginning at 7.30pm. Part of the programme of The Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey Fellowship of Woodworkers. Tel: 01252 542901 contact: Peter Guyett.

April

1 - 23 Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Bridport Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3NR Tel: 01308 427183 contact: Chris Huxley

14 & 15 Kity machinery - demonstration on all Kity machinery at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information tel: 01494 461376.

14 - 16 Yandles Show, Martock, Somerset. Tel 01935 82207

14 - 16 Midlands Woodworking and Woodturning exhibition, Warwickshire Exhibitions Centre, Lymington Spa. Contact Meridienne Exhibitions: 01926 614101

27 Photographing furniture - a talk and demonstration by Anthony Bailey at the Mytchett Centre, Mytchett, Nr. Frimley, Surrey, beginning at 7.30pm. Part of the programme of The Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey Fellowship of Woodworkers. Tel: 01252 542901, contact Peter Guyett.

May

6 - 7 Poolewood Spring Show, Pett Far, Nr Sittingbourne, Kent. Tel 01622 884651

13 Tormac, Veritas, Push Master - demonstration of all this machinery at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information tel: 01494 461376.

June

5 - 18 Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Cornwall Crafts Association, Trelowarren Gallery, Mawgan-in-Meneage, Helston, Cornwall TR11 4HN Tel: 01326 221567 contact: Jane Bragazzi or Rod Shaw-Sands



One of the exhibits at the "Everyone's a Winner" show at Wimborne on 8-16 October.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed here, readers are advised to check with the venue and/or the organisation listed, before setting off. Have fun at the shows, and if you see me at one, come and have a chat.

Dave Campbell

24 DeWalt - demonstrations, advice and challenges from 11am to 4pm at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information tel: 01494 461376.

July

22 Record Power - demonstrations of lathes, drills, saws, morticers etc. between 11am and 4pm at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information tel: 01494 461376.

August

1 - 28 Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Bankfield Museum, Ackroyd Park, Boothtown Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 6HG Tel: 01422 354823 contact: Dee Barns

September

1 to 3 Craft Supplies Great Autumn Show, Buxton, Derbys. Tel: 01298 871636.

2 DeWalt - demonstrations, advice and challenges from 11am to 4pm at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information Tel: 01494 461376.

8 - 9 Yandles Autumn Show, Martock, Somerset. More info on: 01935 82207

October

8 - 16 Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Walford Mill Craft Centre, Stone Lane, Wimborne BH21 1NL Tel: 01202 841400 contact: Christine Lawry

November

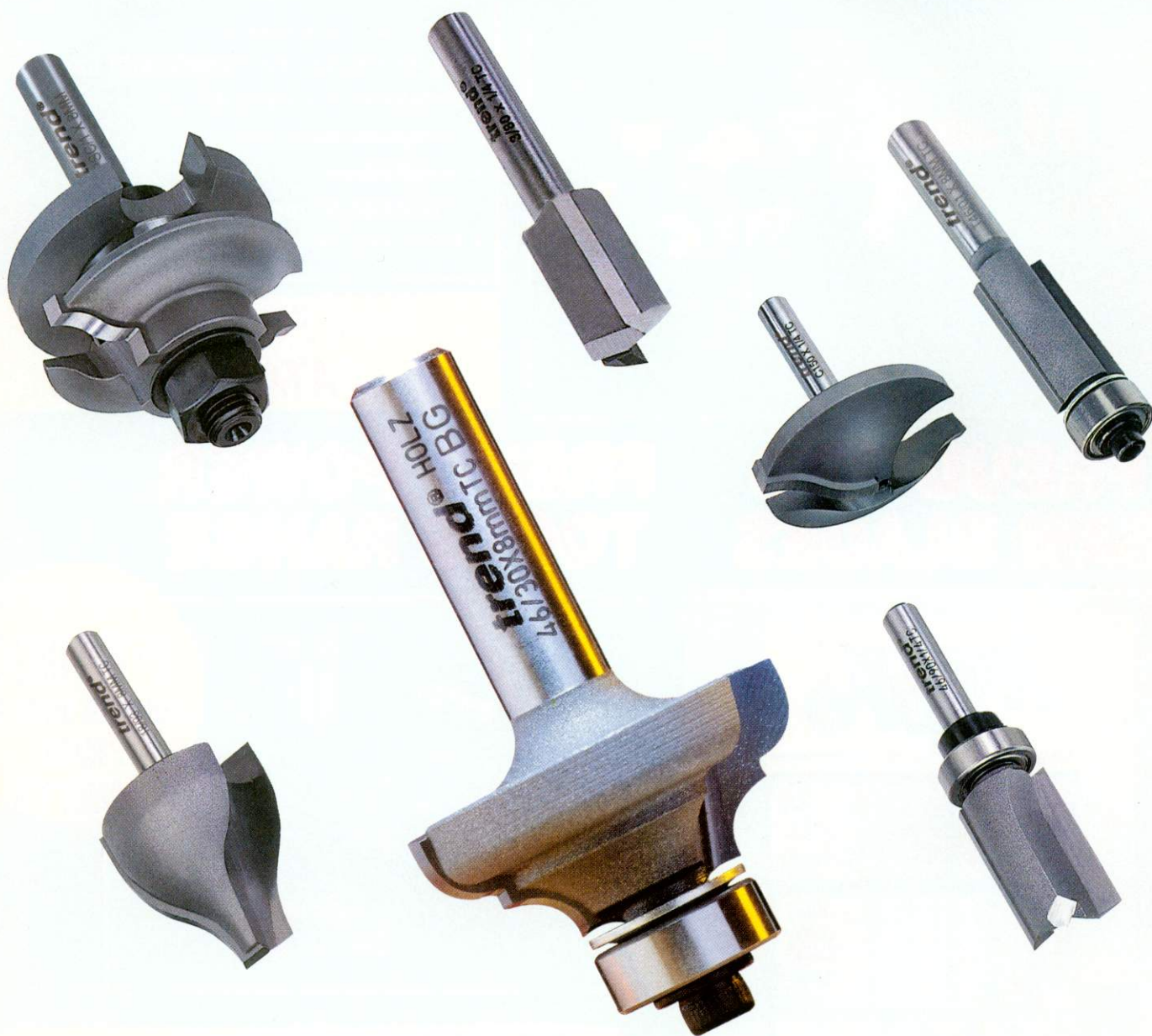
9 - 12 Axminster Power Tools Exhibition, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. For more information tel: 01460 66616

24 - 26 Northern Woodworking Show, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorks. Tel: 01934 420365

25 Trend Routing Day - router tables, lathes etc. between 11am and 4pm at Isaac Lord, 185 Desborough Road, High Wycombe. For further information tel: 01494 461376.

28 - 10 December Everyone's a winner The Devon Guild of Craftsmen touring exhibition, Burton Art Gallery & Museum, Kingsley Road, Bideford, Devon EX39 2QQ Tel: 01237 471455 contact: John Butler

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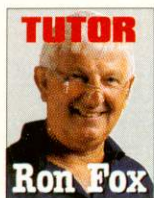
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Joint Venture



Photo 1
Selection of
corner joints
with the
equipment that
made them

The corner joint must be the most commonly used technique in woodwork. Boxes, chests, drawers, and cabinet carcasses generally consist of a rectangular arrangement of boards fixed at the corners – to say nothing of the many right-angled framing joints used in joinery. **Ron Fox** shows how

CORNER joints made with the router usually prompt thoughts of dovetails, mitres or comb configurations, but there are a number of simpler forms, most of which can be cut with a light or medium-duty router, basic cutters and the simplest of work aids. A router table will make many of the operations easier, but is not absolutely necessary here.

I shall describe some of these simple joints. Relevant cutters are reviewed on page 27 and the splined mitre joint was dealt with by Bob Wearing in TR18.

The joints are straightforward but require care and accuracy in setting the

depth of cut and the fence. A fine height adjuster on your router is a great help. If you are new to this form of routing I recommend making a number of practice joints in oddments of wood before embarking on a full-scale project.

We will begin with the simple rebate joint, and then see how this can be strengthened and improved. As with all corner joints, the main thing is that the ends of all the boards should be exactly square across both width and thickness. They should also be finished to a point where only light sanding is required after cutting the joint. Heavy sanding or planing will alter the fit of the parts.



Photo 2 Rebate being cut with a hand-held router and a simple jig. Note anti-breakout piece behind workpiece – Photo 2 shows the rebate being hand-cut in the end of a board using a $\frac{1}{8}$ in straight cutter and a simple jig.

"The joints are straightforward but require care and accuracy"

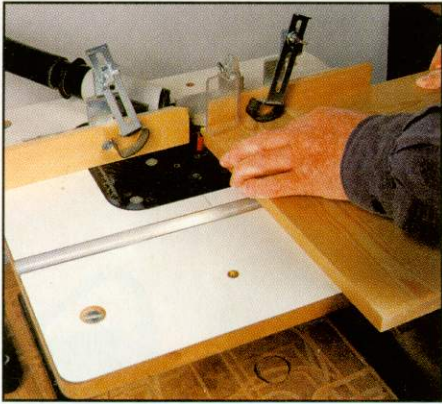


Photo 3 Cutting the groove of a rebate-and-groove joint



Photo 4 Cutting the rebate of a rebate-and-groove joint

The rebate joint

This joint is only one step up from the simple butt joint, but it locates the two boards more positively and provides a larger area for gluing. One board has its end rebated to about a third of its thickness, with the width of the rebate equal to the thickness of the other board. The glue is often reinforced with pins.

The rebate can be cut with the router freehand and a straightedge or side fence. Better still, use a housing jig. Think of the rebate as an open-sided housing.

Alternatively the rebate can be cut on the router table. This can be done using a mitre fence if your table has one, but if so take care to set the table fence exactly parallel to the mitre table slot.

If your table has no mitre fence, a very simple right-angle push board can be used. These boards are widely used in the USA, and are often called 'quick and dirty' mitre fences. This is the method I use.

The right-angle pusher overcomes the need to set the fence parallel to the mitre-fence slot and provides its own anti-breakout piece. Every so often the end is sawn off the board to present new material to the cutter. A home-made feather board can also be used to hold the work down on the table, and the pusher board will slide under this.

If the board is thicker than your nearest size cutter, the jig is eased to the left to widen the rebate. Note that if you have a Trend Craftsman or Bosch RT 60 table, with a sliding tenon push block, rebates can be cut with the board on end, but this becomes less practical as the width of the board increases.

I have used this joint for the drawers in my home-made router table. These could be described as 'good rough carpentry'. I used 25mm chipboard for the front and 15mm MDF for the sides and back. The sides were pinned and glued to the rebated front, then reinforced with dowels to withstand the strain of pulling and pushing the drawers open and shut.

The rebate joint is not really suited to cabinetwork but does provide a good jumping-off point to develop a better joint. The first step forward in this progression is the rebate-and-groove joint.

Rebate-and-groove

The rebate-and-groove joint improves on the simple joint by providing a

stronger glue line and better registration of the boards. It is used a lot in carcass and box construction. In fact, many of the boxes in which budget sets of cutters are packed are made with these corners.

The groove is usually half the thickness of the board, and the tongue is one-third the thickness of the board. These are rules of thumb and the actual sizes will be cut to conform to the actual diameter of your cutters as opposed to their nominal size. In our example the boards are 15mm thick finished size and the groove is cut with a rather worn $\frac{1}{8}$ in cutter.

Note that the joint is made so that there is a minute space between the end of the tongue and the bottom of the groove. This ensures a good fit and allows for the glue. Also, the groove board is very slightly proud of the tongue board, which is trimmed after gluing up.

As before, the joint can be made free-hand or on the router table. I prefer the router table if one is available. Note though that on the Bosch RT 60 table and the Trend MK I Craftsman table the mitre fence cannot be backed off very far and remain parallel to the mitre fence slot, so you are forced to use the right-angle push-board for the groove. This problem has been overcome in the new MK II version of the Trend table.

The groove is made first, and a test piece is used to check that it is the correct depth, and set in from the end of the board by the exact thickness of the second board. If you err, do so on the side of going a little too far in from the end of the groove board.

Any slight protrusion of the end grain can be trimmed flush after gluing, but it must be slight or the dimensions of the box will be affected. The rebate can be cut in the way described above.

If your router is a light or medium-duty model you may need to make several light passes. As before, use a piece of scrap to prevent breakout.

The rebate-and-groove joint can be made in quite thin material, and is excellent for the back of drawers where



Photo 5 The end of the finished joint being trimmed with a flush-trimming cutter

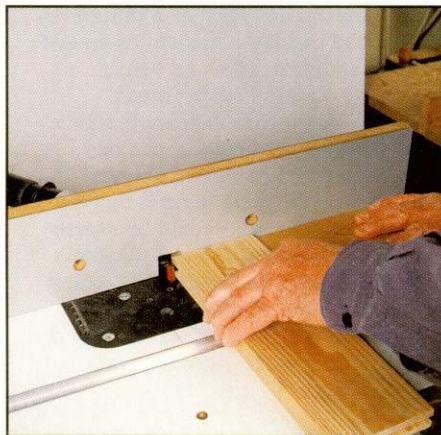


Photo 6 Cutting the groove in the drawer front for a locking corner joint



Photo 7 The second cut in the drawer front makes the groove for the side tongue

Figure 1 *The relate joint*

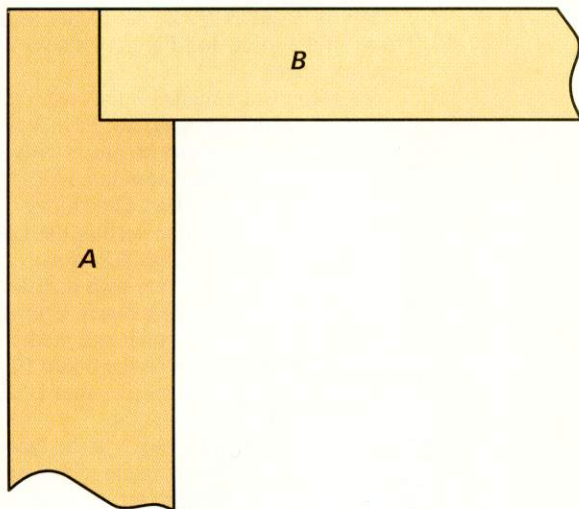


Figure 2 *The relate-and-groove joint*

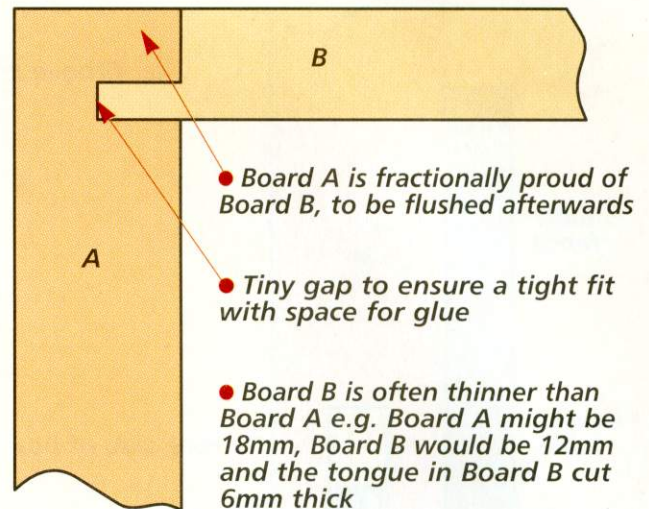


Figure 3a *Locking corner joint – flush front*

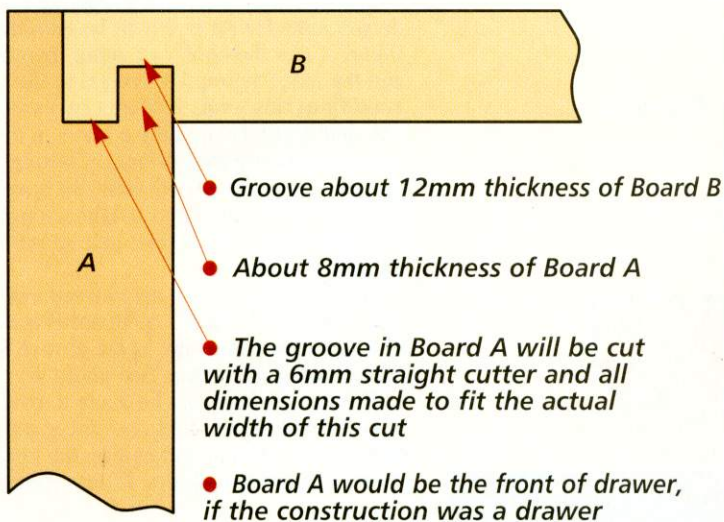
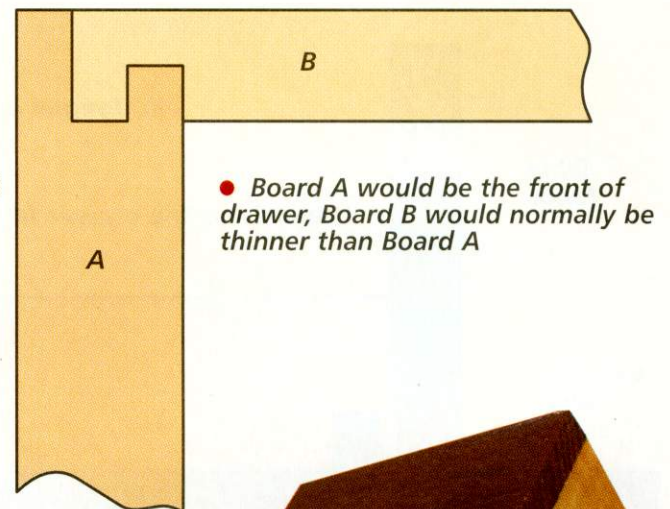


Figure 3b *Locking corner joint – overhanging e.g. front of drawer*



the fronts have been made with a basic dovetail jig such as the Titan or Trend.

The groove board constitutes the side of the drawer and the tongue board the back. This configuration gives sufficient mechanical strength to cope with use.

For the back of a drawer, the groove board could extend beyond the tongue board by 10mm or so, with its top corners chamfered to facilitate easy insertion into the carcass.

The rebate-and-groove joint is also useful for cupboard carcasses and similar constructions. The grooves are cut in the vertical pieces (the sides), and the rebates in the top and bottom.

Locking corner joint

A further development of the rebated joint is the locking corner joint. This goes under such names as 'half-blind lap joint' and looks quite complicated, but is

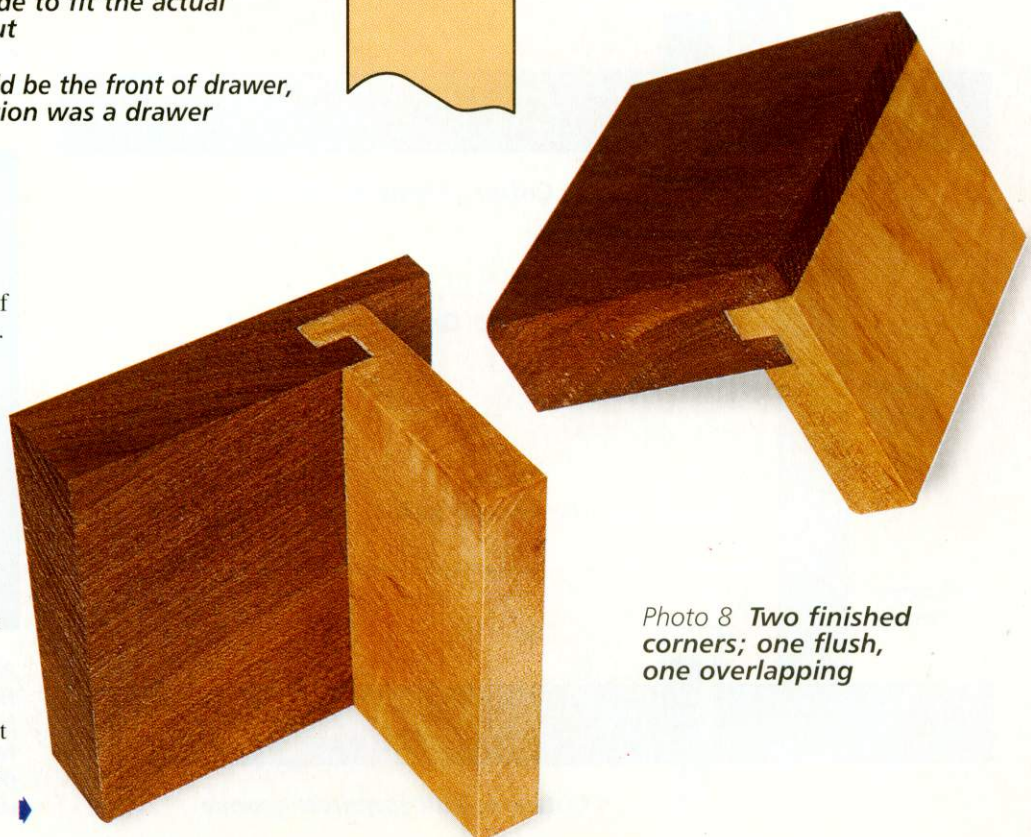
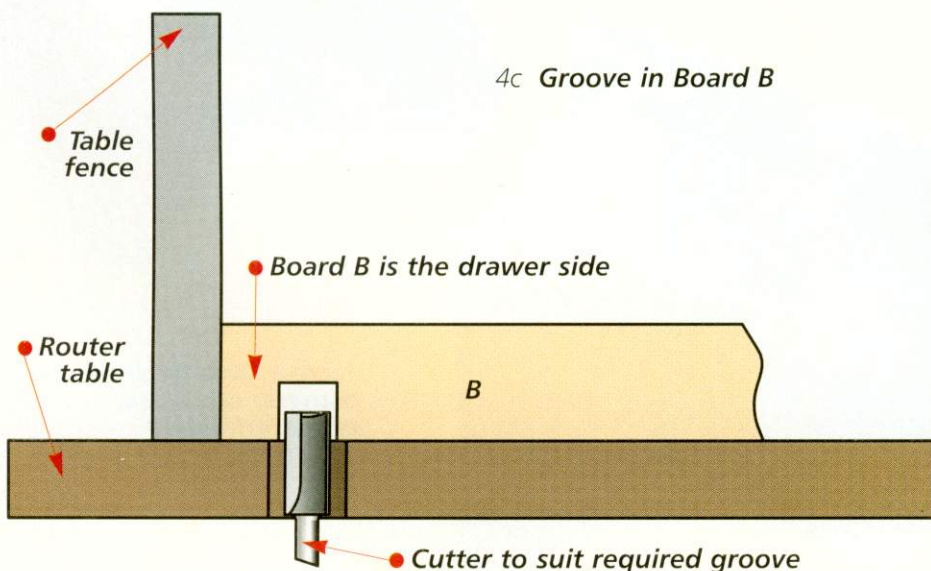
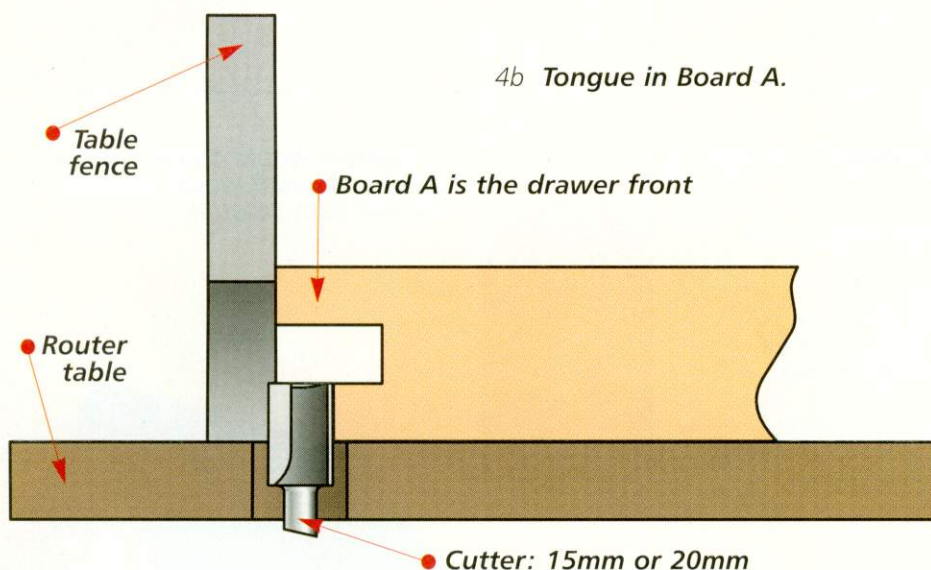
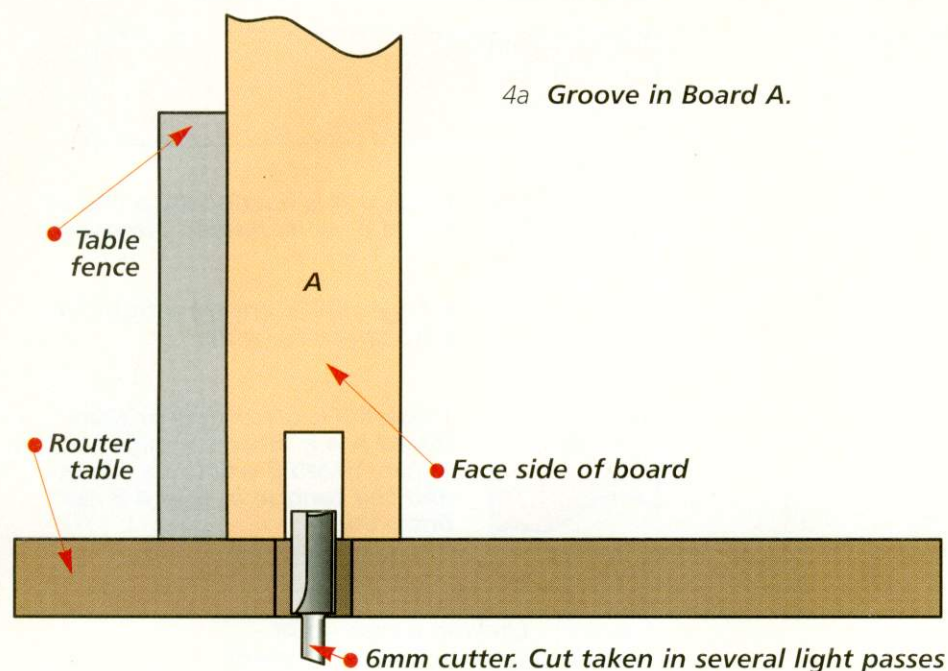


Photo 8 *Two finished corners; one flush, one overlapping*

Figure 4 Sequence of cuts for locking corner joint



straightforward to make with standard cutters and a router table.

Figure 3 shows the layout of two variations of the joint, and Figure 4 shows the cutting stages.

All the cuts are made on the router table where possible. If you do not have a table, the cut in Figure 4a can be made with a slotter of suitable thickness in a hand-held router with the board flat. The slotter could, of course, also be used in the table. With a vertical cut, a high false fence attached to the table fence with double-sided tape makes the task easier. Cuts 4b and 4c are less troublesome and made with a straight cutter with the board flat on the table. An upcut spiral cutter is an even better choice for the job.

The first cut is the groove in the face board, Board A. This is made with a narrow cutter and the board set vertically against the table fence. The second cut forms the short tongue in the drawer front and is made with the board flat on the table and the same cutter, moving the back fence if required.

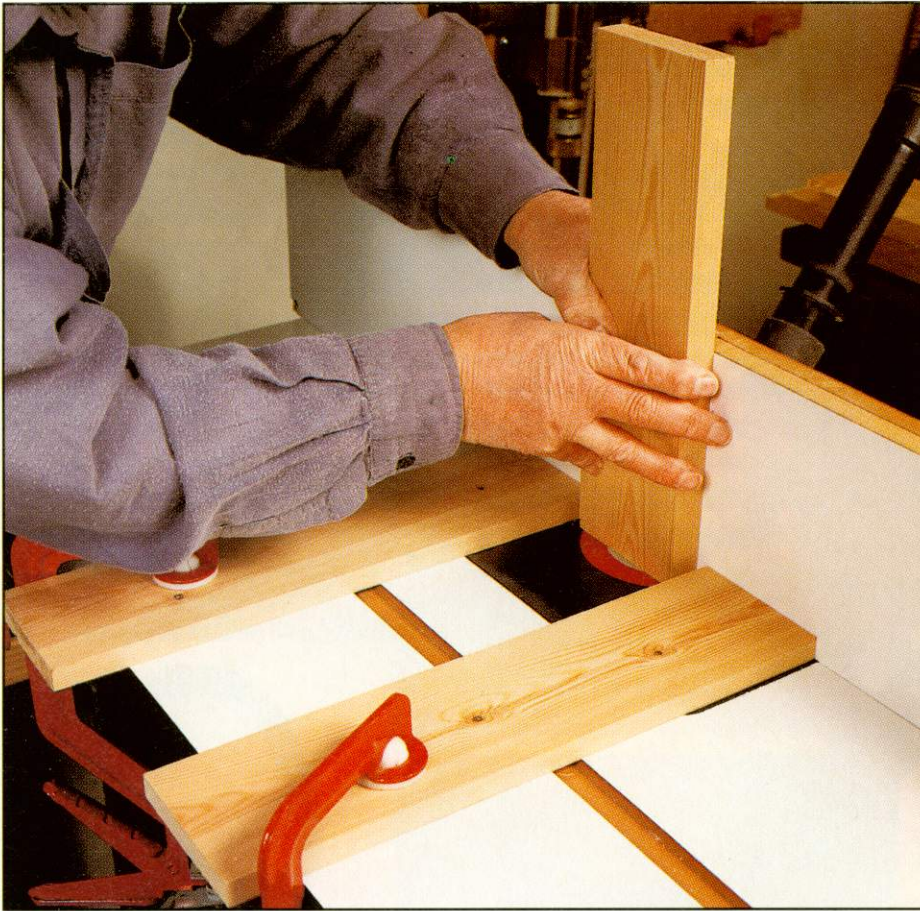
The third cut makes the groove in the drawer side, Board B. It will be seen from Figure 4 that the choice of cutter diameter and the fence setting are critical to the good fit of this joint. Test cuts are essential, and if you have many corners in the same thickness boards to make, setting pieces (i.e. pieces cut off your test boards once the fence and cutter height settings are satisfactory) are a great help in setting up next time.

Photos 6 and 7 show the two separate cuts required for Board A. Board B is cut in exactly the same way as the groove of a rebate-and-groove joint. See photo 4.

The drawer front can be made to overhang by making the first cut - the groove in Board A - deeper and cutting the tongue shorter. Board B will now fit into Board A



Photo 9 The end grain of the first board being slotted for a biscuit joint on my home-made table. Note the use of a safety push block and the two boards used to set the limits of the cut



slotter face down on the router table, while the other board is held vertically against the fence with its face outwards. The latter is not a particularly user-friendly operation and some sort of vertical holding device is worth fabricating if you have many corners to make. The great advantage is that the same cutter setting is used for both boards. A pair of boards clamped to the table surface can be used to control the cuts, as demonstrated in photos 9 and 10.

Photo 9 shows the end grain of one board being slotted, and photo 10 shows the second board being slotted vertically against the table fence. Note the use of a safety push block and the two boards to set the limits of the cuts.

Photo 11 shows the two boards slotted, with a biscuit placed in one of the slots. Also shown in the photo is a more elaborate jig to hold the board vertical while it is being cut. For this, the reader is referred to Roy Sutton's book 'Jig Making for the Router'. ●

Photo 10 The second board being slotted vertically against the table fence

leaving the front of the drawer overlapping the sides, as in Figure 3b.

In the above description we have referred to 'drawers' throughout, but the flush version of the joint is equally suitable for boxes and carcasses, in which case the boards are more than likely to be of equal thickness.

The locking corner joint does not give the same mechanical strength to the front of a drawer that the half-blind dovetail provides, but with modern adhesives and a good fitting joint the drawer front is more than capable of withstanding heavy use.

Photo 8 shows the two versions: flush and overlapping.

The drawer front cutter, reviewed elsewhere in this issue, gives a joint very similar to the locking corner joint, but the latter only requires standard straight cutters.

Biscuit-jointed Corners

The biscuit jointer comes second only to the router as the power tool of the decade. Biscuit joints can be made with the router at far lower cost than with the dedicated biscuit jointer, but the router does not have the versatility of the dedicated machine, and corner joints are not its strong point. However much can be done with only a 4mm slotting cutter and we can justify including it as a 'simple' corner joint.

For biscuit jointed corner butt joints, the end-grain of one board is presented to the

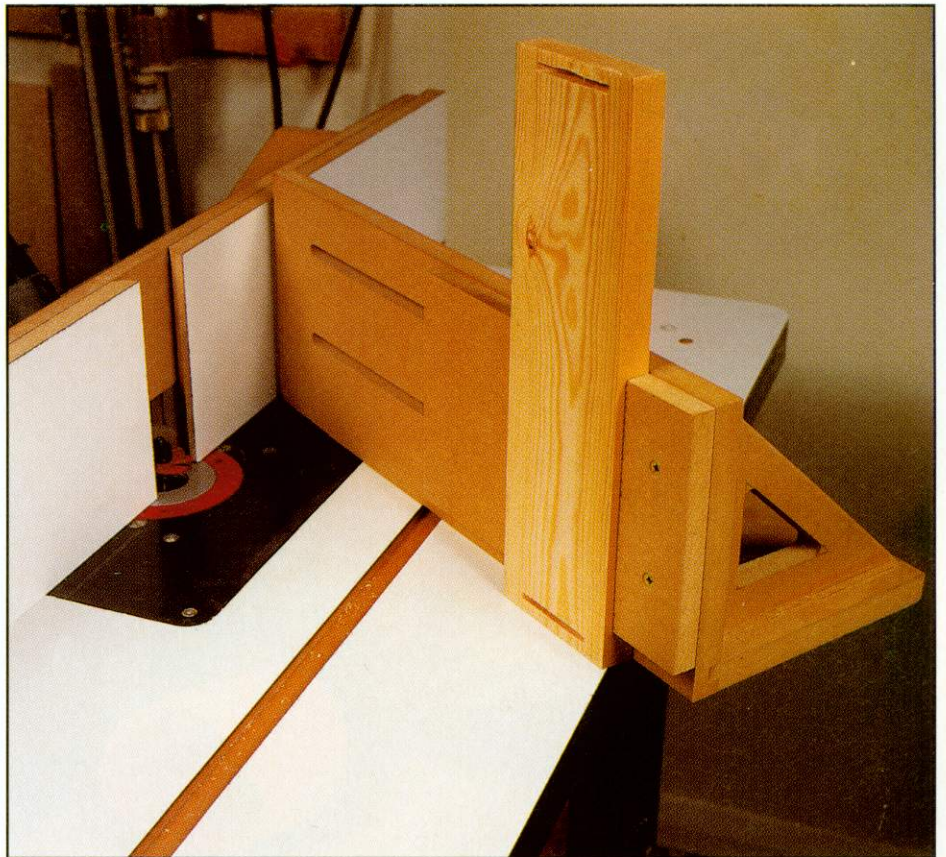


Photo 11 The two boards slotted, with a biscuit placed in one of the slots. Note also the boards limiting the cuts and the more elaborate jig for holding a workpiece in the vertical position

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Dressing it up

Router Project



Phillip Gullam puts together a medium-sized brown oak display cabinet for the kitchen

A FRIEND of mine was getting married, so I decided to make a kitchen display cabinet as a wedding gift. The kitchen was small, so I designed a piece that wasn't too large and overbearing for the confined area, but at the same time was not so small as to be insignificant.

Phillip Gullam's dresser has instant charm in brown oak

Design

I wanted to recreate a traditional cabinet, which would fit well within their 150-year-old ex-miner's cottage. I decided to use oak, and made several unsuccessful trips to the timber yard before I found some excellent planks of brown oak lurking under a stack of uninspiring timber.

The cabinet carcasses are made up of six frames. The joints are traditional mortice and tenon, with a simple bead on the inside edge.

Cutting

Carefully select the timber, as you want to choose the right figure and colour for the areas of the cabinet most on show. Some of the pieces are changed around once machined, so it is advisable to have a few good planks spare – they also prove useful for setting up on.

It is a good idea to plan out the whole job in advance, as there are quite a few



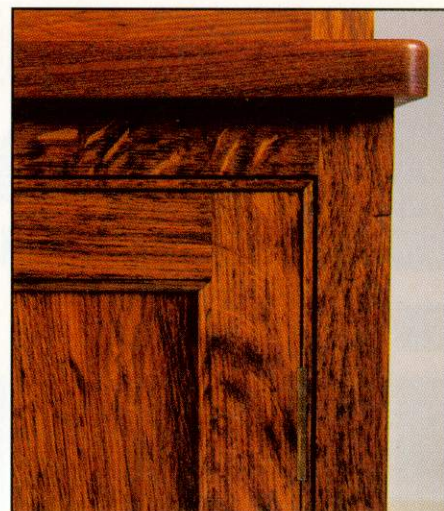
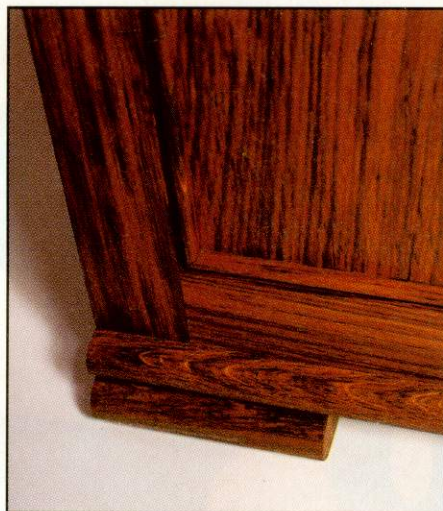


Fig 1
Mortise
cutting
sequence

Note beading on rails

Close-up of the bottom door

different stages which need to be completed before gluing-up.

When marking out the cutting list, note where the front and side frames join. They need to look like a piece of 50 by 50, so try to arrange the grain so that the joint doesn't stick out like a sore thumb. The bases, top and panels are quite wide and need jointing. They should be glued at the very start of the job so that they are ready when needed.

Once the timber is machined and marked out clearly, mark out and cut the mortises and tenons. When cutting the joint, remember that 8mm for the bead will be cut off the mortices.

Once the mortice and tenons have been cut, a 3.2mm radius bead is cut on the inside edges, except for the top front frame. This has a separate bead that is put on later. The best way to avoid damaging breakout when routing the bead is to set the cutter through a fence.

Mitres

Next, cut the mitres. These should be done with care, otherwise the finished frame will have tight joints but open mitres. I cut my beads on a guillotine, but they can be done equally as well with a mitre template.

Run an 8mm groove through the inside edge of the side frames for the panels. This is done on the cross rails to form the shoulder, but should be stopped on the stiles. Once again, setting the cutter through a fence will avoid breakout.

Where the side frames join onto the front frame, the stiles are biscuited and glued. Gluing them together at this stage of construction means you can get even pressure along the whole joint.

Panels

Next come the panels. They are just plain panels with a rebate to make them flush on the back of the frame. They should be

machined oversize at the start of the job, and made to their final dimension thickness once the groove has been cut in the rails.

The depth of the cut is 1 to 1.5mm more than the groove. The panels need to be 2mm less on the height, and 3mm less on the width. Set up the rebate cutter on one of the panels before cutting it to size.

Sand the panels before cutting the rebate as sanding afterwards can cause a sloppy fit. To stop the corners looking too heavy, machine a 20mm bevel, then carve a small scallop to neatly finish the ends. The scallop begins in line with the bead

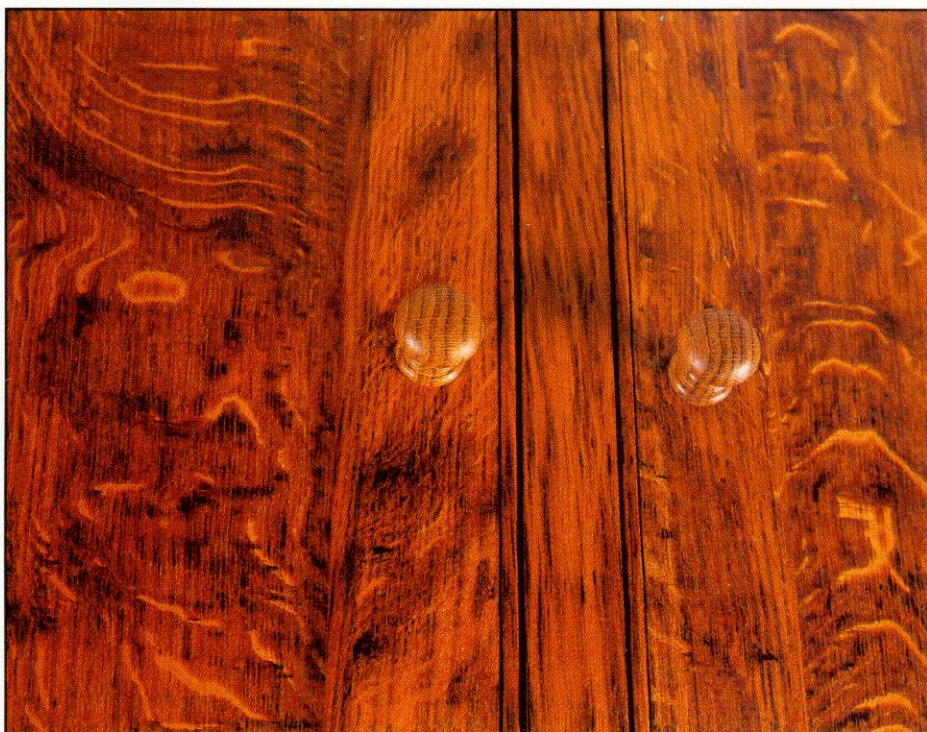
and is 25mm long. Then cut the depth of the bevel to stop any breakout when routing.

Once the bevel has been cut, use a $\frac{1}{2}$ in chisel to scallop down to the width of the bevel, but 3mm above it. The step should then be rounded-over using a sharp chisel.

The bottom doors are hinged with brass butt hinges which you can rebate out before gluing-up. I used a jig for this.

Cut a rebate in the back of the side frame stiles for the tongue and groove back. This is made about 1.5mm deeper than the tongue groove and half the thickness of the frame.

"The front of the shelf and frame also need to be biscuit jointed"



Handles and meeting stile detail



Note fielding on door panel

Before gluing-up I find it easier to joint the frames for the top and bottom shelves – I use biscuits for jointing.

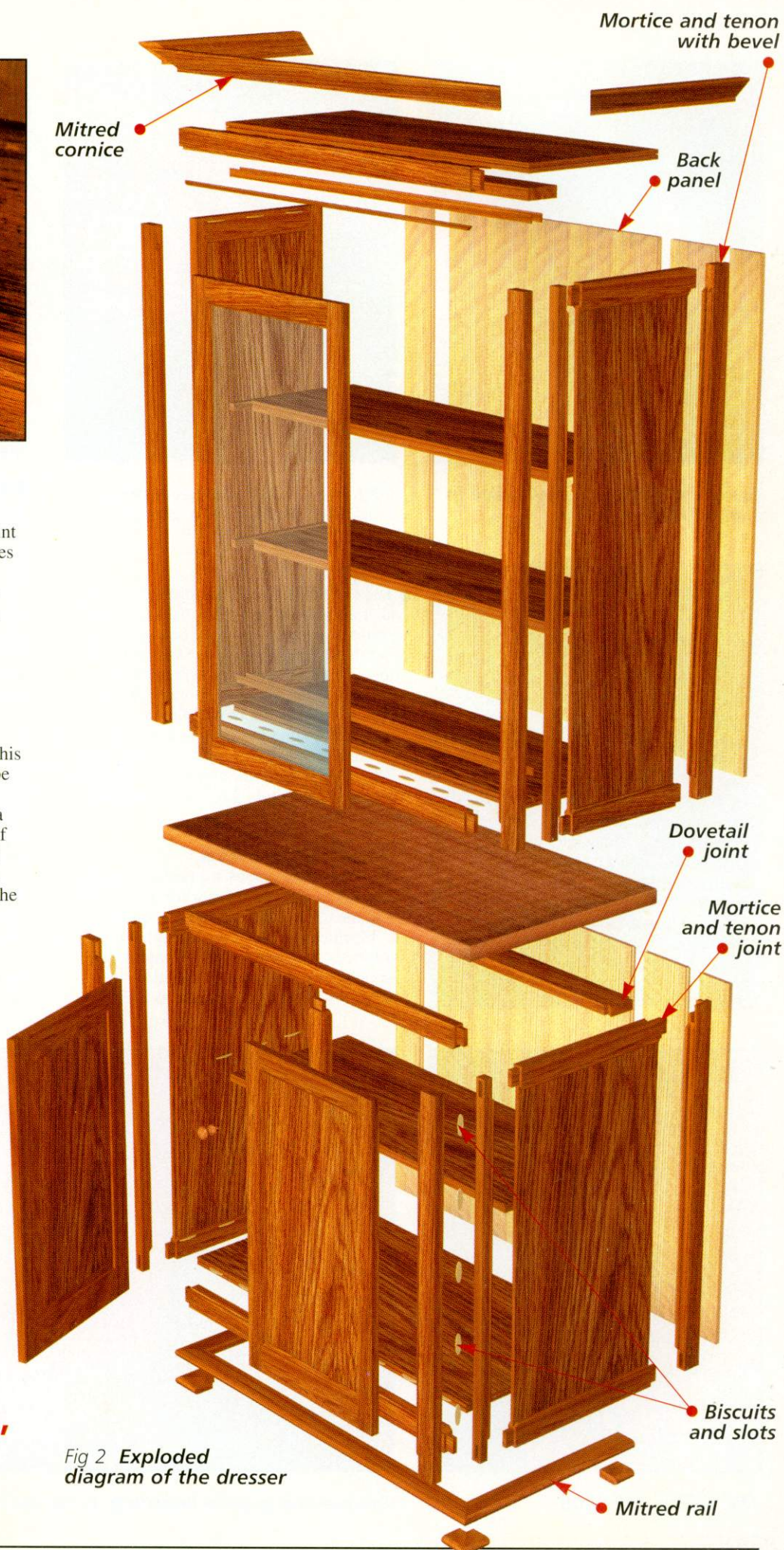
I find it easier to get in with a biscuit joiner and cut the grooves at this stage, before the panels are in. The beads and edges are then sanded, and the side frames glued. Once these are set, clean the insides.

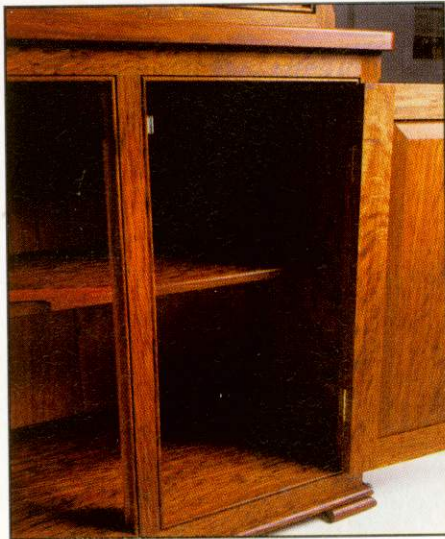
Base

Glue-up the front frame next. Doing it this way avoids the large frames having to be clamped on their sides. Cut the top and bottom shelves to length, and machine a groove both ends, so as to slide the shelf in on the biscuits. The front of the shelf and the frame also need to be biscuited. The base width is less the thickness of the rebate for the back.

Next, glue the base to the frames, cleaning off any excess glue. You now have the base to the dresser, but it will still be unstable at the top of the back. A rail needs to be put in to make the whole structure rigid. For this, use a piece of 70 by 22mm oak with a 60mm wide dovetail, 15mm long. The rail is also used for fixing the tongue and groove back.

"The joints are traditional mortice and tenon with a simple bead on the inside edge"





Glass sliding doors save space in a small kitchen

Feet

To stop the base looking too heavy, make small double bull nose feet. The first bull nose should go around the whole cabinet, and be 15mm bigger than the cabinet. The corners are mitred, then glued. The second bull nose comprises two corners and the back feet. The corners are two pieces, 70mm long, mitred together. Once the mitres are set, a 9mm roundover should be machined top and bottom. I find it best to do this on a router table and a fence. The pieces are then sanded and screwed in place.



Cornice, scallop and bevel detail make the piece a little special

Top

The top of the dresser is slightly different as it also has a top shelf – the same construction processes should be used for fixing these. The top shelf is flush with the top of the frame and the bottom shelf flush with the top of the bottom rail, as this is what the doors will slide onto.

Before gluing the shelves in, 3mm grooves need to be cut for the sliding doors. The bottom shelf has a groove cut in it for plates to sit within, then the top and bottom shelves are glued in.

Sliding doors

The dresser carcasses are nearly complete. The doors are scribed mortice and tenon. Cut the tenons and scribe on a tenoner.

Machine the stile profiles and cut the mortices. The panels for the base doors are plain on the face and raised on the back. As the dresser is made to fit in a

small space I wanted to keep the actual display area as prominent as possible, hence the sliding doors.

As they overlap, you only lose the width of a stile instead of two – not much, but enough to make a difference. The sliding doors also save having large glazed doors swinging out into a narrow kitchen.

With the doors glued-up, the base doors are fitted with a small gap around them of 1.5mm overall height and a fag-paper on the width. The top doors should be made 4mm shorter over the height, to allow for the rollers which they slide on.

It is important to get the width right for the sliding doors. Make up a full-size rod to ensure the sizes are correct. The right-hand door overlaps the left one by 50mm, so all that can be seen of the right-hand stile of the left door is the moulding.

Fitting doors

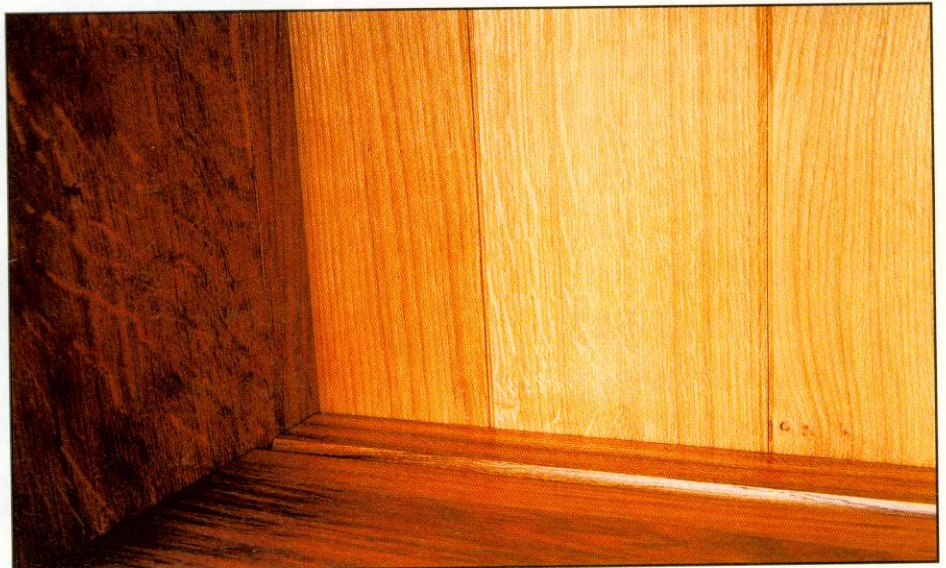
Rebate the doors after they have been glued-up for the glass, using a flush trim cutter with a bottom bearing following the groove made with the stile moulding. They are then given small rollers to help them slide more easily. Before they are fitted, the guides need to be made out of 3mm oak. The door should run smoothly along the guides – so make sure the fit is not too tight.

They are then fitted – held in place by beading which is fixed separately onto the frame. The upright piece is wider as the left door goes behind it. Once everything is fitted and finished, fix it in place permanently, except for the top piece, which is screwed in place so that, if necessary, the doors can be removed.

Once the doors are in place, mark the heights of the shelves. They are set so the distance between the shelves is equal when you look through the glass, but not when you open the door. The pulls in the doors are made using the same cutter as the plate grooves for the shelves.



The sliding door pull



Tongue and groove boarding in the back, from the inside

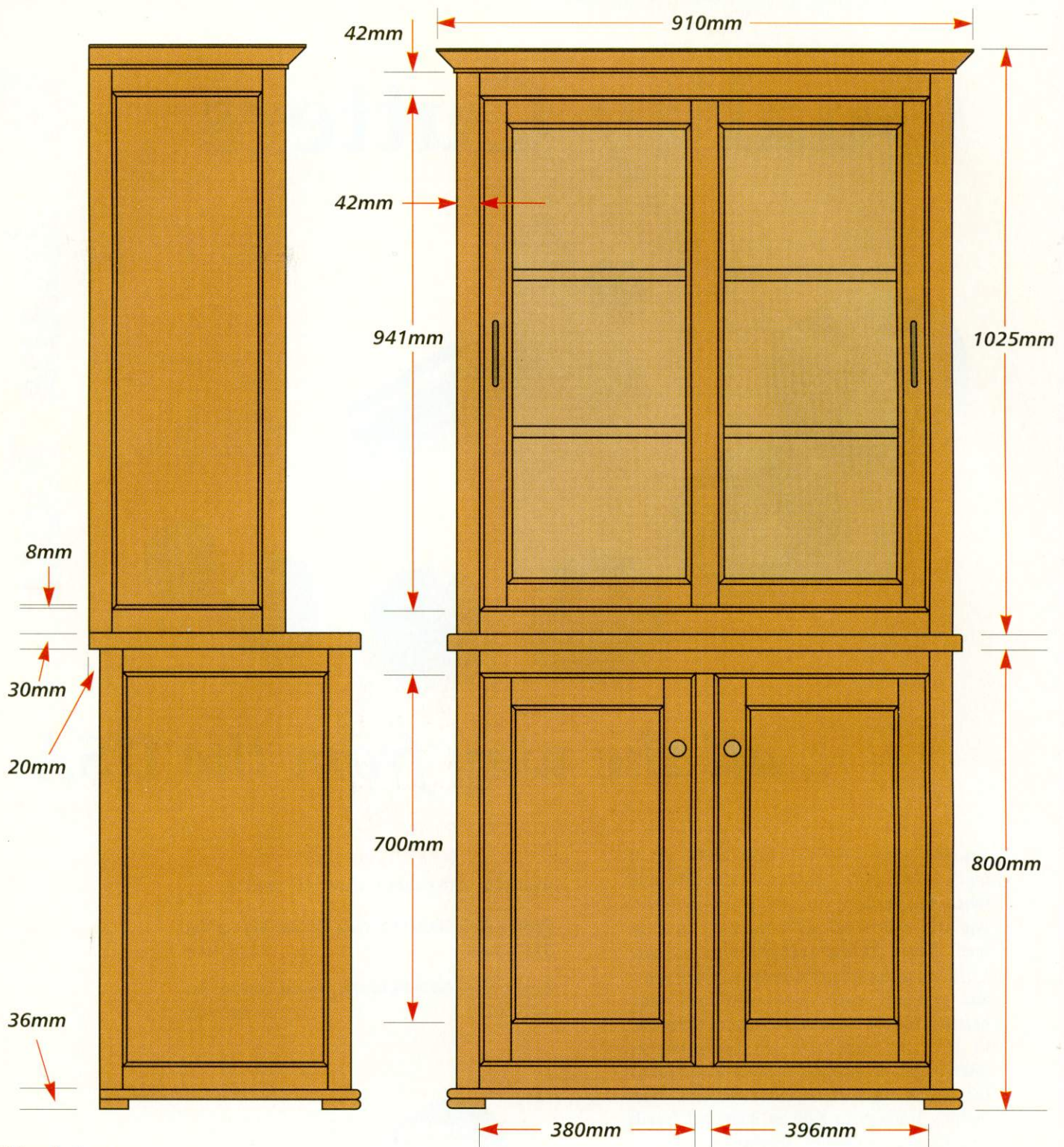


Fig 3 Front and side view of the dresser

Worktop

The shelves rest on the battens which are screwed and plugged to the side frames. It may sound obvious, but the shelf width has to be set just behind the innermost door.

The top of the dresser sits on an Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) worktop. It doesn't give you much working area but becomes a handy place to put mugs and glasses, ensuring nobody can open the doors and break a favourite.

The top is fixed down with shrinkage plates through the frame at the front. The backs are made up from 13mm thick oak tongue and groove boards, fixed in to allow for movement.

My friends were over the moon with the cabinet, and I must admit, I was quite smug – no wedding list to ponder over and a chance to use one of my favourite timbers. ●

Finishing

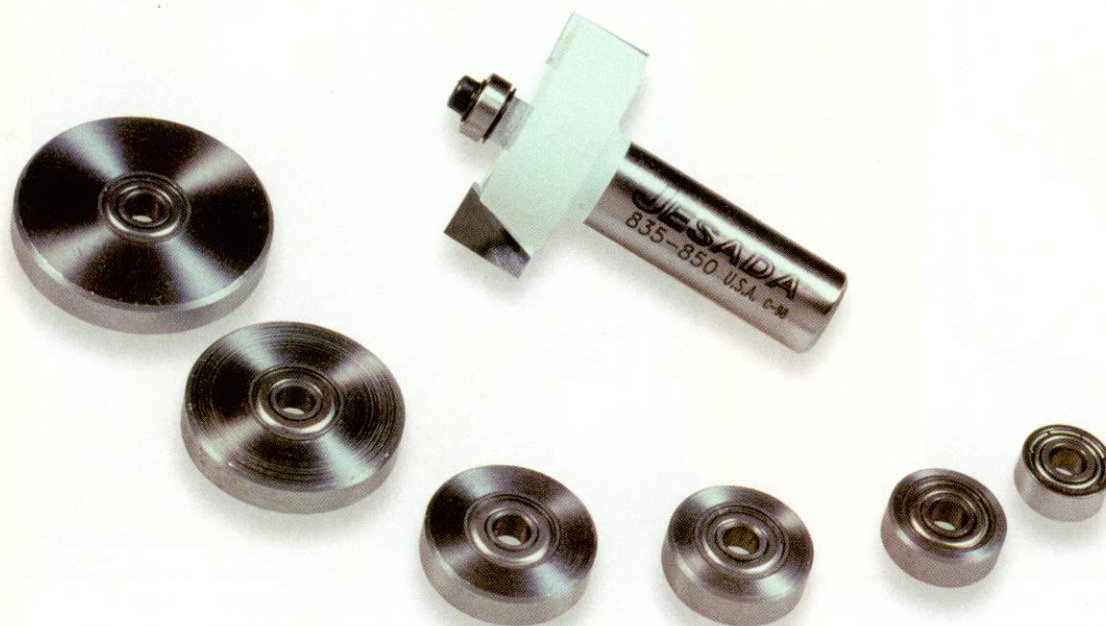
The cornice is made up out of 25mm timber. Before the feet are glazed and magnetic catches are fixed, the whole dresser has three coats of 50.50 linseed oil and white spirit.

The shelves have two coats of Danish oil to seal them – this stops boxes of cereal soaking up the linseed oil. The oil takes a couple of weeks to dry completely, then the doors are glazed using 4.4 toughened glass. Finally, the doors are hung and knobs and catches are fitted.

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Jesada Catalogue

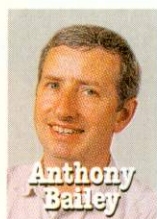
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The Trend corner mitre joint, plus cutter

IT'S been a little while since we looked at a group of cutters together, so we thought a good place to start would be corner joint cutters, as these are vital for carcass and drawer construction.

Because there are so many ways to create corner joints we have stuck to those cutters whose sole function is corner jointing. This isn't an exhaustive review of all the cutters on the market though it covers most of the popular ones. For a look at more basic corner jointing operations see Ron Fox's cutting article on page 15.

Freud

Freud's range of tooling is pretty extensive, and covers sawblades and spindle tooling as well as router cutters. They do one size of lock mitre cutters,

with a carbide height of 30mm, which allows a substantial material thickness to be machined-up easily.

An industrial grade cutter with thick TCT inserts, the catalogue claims it can be used in CNC machines as well as portable routers, and on a variety of manmade boards as well as softwood.

Although a cutter this size looks unnervingly large, it behaves well at the correct, lower running speed. Test cuts are essential, but it is no harder to get the final joint halves aligned than with any other jointing cutter.

The other cutter in the range that fits our review group is the drawer lock cutter. This is designed to allow the drawer front to oversail the sides, which means the back needs to be trimmed off.

Wealden

Wealden major on router cutters and have an extensive range, including a variety of sizes for each type. Their cutters are long-lasting and will take a lot of punishment.

They do several sizes of lock mitre cutter, from a 12 to 16mm one for stock, up to a massive 20 to 36mm cutter. All are 1/2in shanked and come in black finish, wax coated and supplied in their ubiquitous green plastic storage boxes.

There are two types of drawer corner lock cutters, 'A' and 'B'. 'A' is the simple Freud pattern, though the Wealden catalogue shows this cutter being used for both an overhanging and a flush front – no doubt the Freud cutter will do both too. ▶



The Freud lock mitre cutter



Wealden lock mitre and drawer lock cutters 'A' and 'B'



Using the Wealden drawer lock cutter 'B'

There are three cutters, one of which is the $\frac{1}{4}$ in shanked version for smaller stock, with a minimum 12mm thickness.

Type 'B' has a double lock profile, giving a longer glue line, and can be used flush or overhanging, with a minimum stock thickness of 19mm for the front and 10mm for the sides. One size is available, in $\frac{1}{4}$ in or $\frac{1}{2}$ in shanks.

Perform

These are 'new kids on the block' in the cutter market, sold by Axminster Power Tools. The Perform catalogue is comprehensive and offers all manner of useful and more unusual profiles.

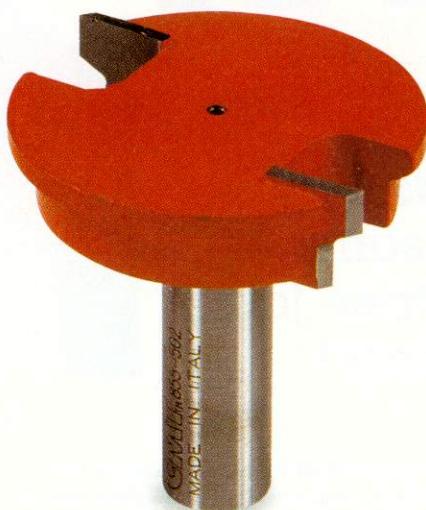
There is just one corner joint cutter, a mitre lock cutter available in three sizes, the smallest of which has a $\frac{1}{4}$ in shank. The largest one is not as big as the old Axminster one, but still useful for all standard work, and all are at good prices.

CMT

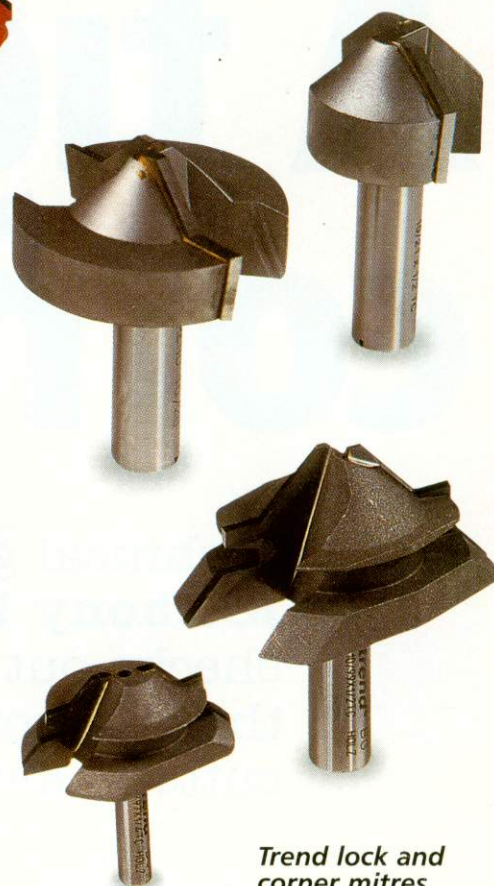
These are sold by The Woodcut Trading Company and can be found in their main catalogue. They are made by CMT Utensili



The Perform lock mitre cutter



The small CMT lock mitre and drawer lock cutters



Trend lock and corner mitres

of Italy, and have micrograin carbide tips.

The extensive CMT range features the standard lock mitre cutter in two sizes, the largest being able to machine 28mm stock.

Normally you would only use this cutter for corner joints, but it's also used for jointing flat boards. This is true of other lock mitre cutters too, though a more conventional board-jointing cutter may ultimately be better for this kind of work.

The CMT drawer lock cutter produces an overhanging effect for the drawer front if required, but the overhang at the back needs to be trimmed off flush.

Trend

Trend have stuck with an etched bare metal finish which I prefer, not least because the consistency of the brazing of the TCT inserts is quite evident. The cutter range is literally huge and they have two types of corner jointer. There's the standard lock mitre with a small version for 8 to 12mm stock, and the larger version for 15 to 25mm stock.

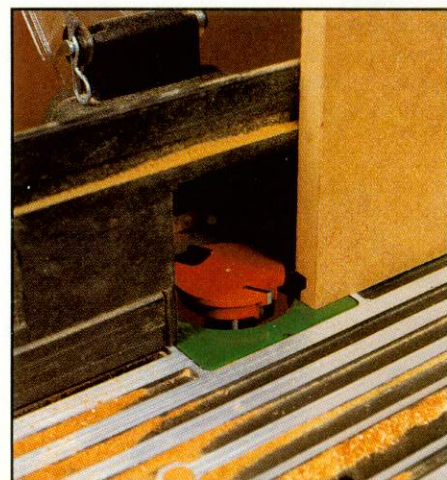
The mitre corner joint cutter allows a lapped mitre which covers endgrain neatly and can be glued and pinned-through for strength. Trend are alone in supplying a leaflet with the cutters, showing how to machine the joints using simple jigs.

The catalogue also mentions that the lock mitre cannot be resharpened as the

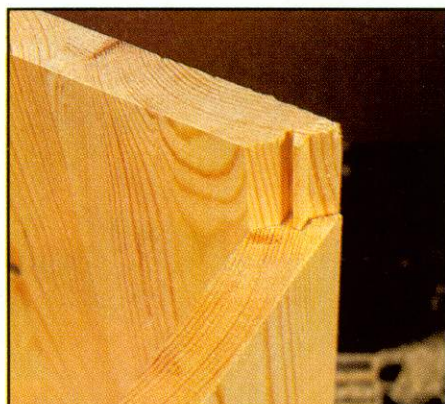
geometry changes, resulting in a poor joint fit. This is true of all lock mitre cutters, but they give a lot of mileage before this will become necessary.

Jesada

The same basic recipe as with other brands - the lock mitre in two sizes and a drawer lock cutter. They have the signature white PTFE coating and a virtual mirror finish



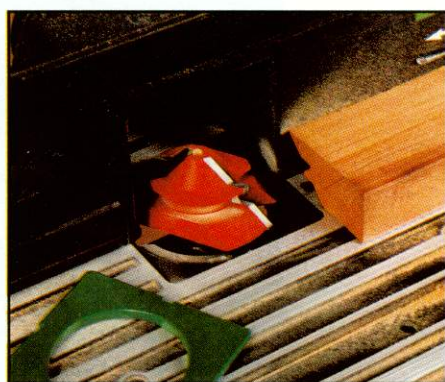
Machining-up a drawer joint with a meaty CMT cutter



The fit of the lock mitre joint, both neat and strong



Beware of damaging tear-out on cross-grain passes



Strictly too big for this table, with the Freud cutter fitted from above



Using a lock mitre to make up a wider board

Jesada lock mitre and drawer lock cutters. Note the white PTFE coating

on the TCT inserts, which will probably improve edge sharpness.

The catalogue advises using them in a router table. Personally, I don't think I'd like to try it any other way! As with all the cutters here, a carefully set-up table with a high sub-fence, good work-support and control are essential.

All these cutters are 1/2in shanked, which rules the smaller sizes out for anyone with a small router. The cut was as good as any other brand, though it is hard to tell with joint cutting if the extra-fine edges add a lot to the result.

In use

All these cutters perform well. The large lock mitres are rather imposing when running at speed (this should be medium, or No. 3 setting on electronic routers). They will need plenty of clearance to safely fit in a router table.

I removed my table insert plate and installed the Freud cutters from above, so the widest part sat in the insert recess above the cutter opening in the table. This

is unsatisfactory to say the least and should be wholeheartedly avoided.

However, the smaller lock mitres and drawer lock cutters should fit any standard table opening. Trend's notion of making up jigs to help with machining is good, since I have found machining that results in the tip of a mitred edge running on a router table can give a less-than-perfect cut. I also advise brushing glue onto the joint faces to ensure the joints close tightly.

Price list

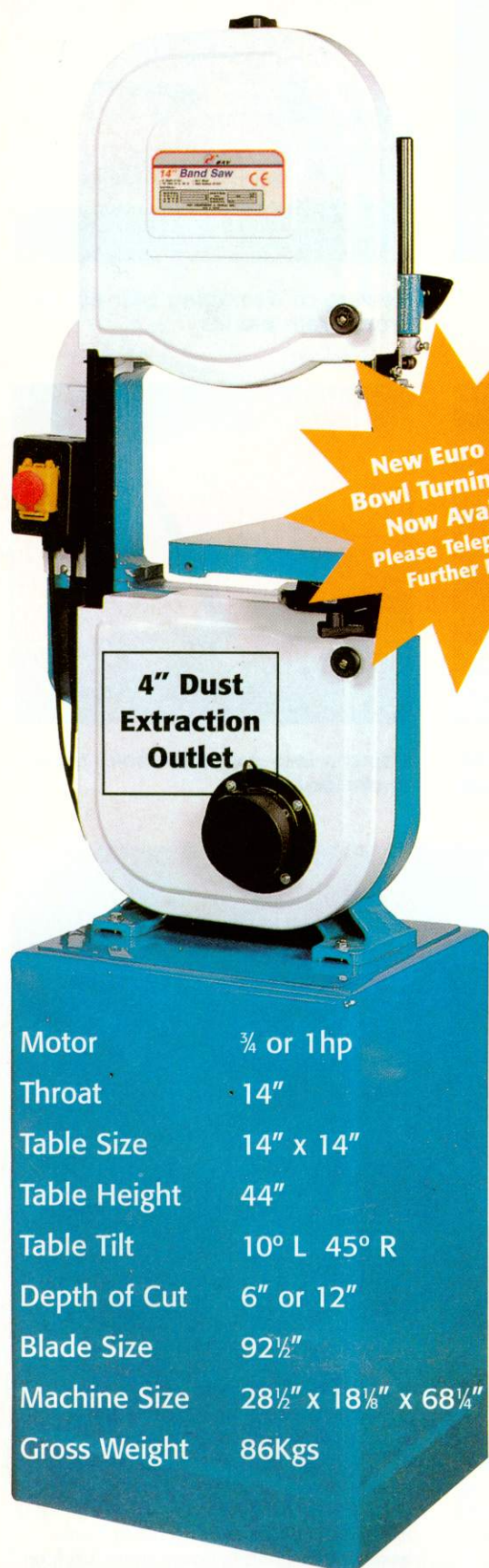
Freud	Lock mitre cutter	£93
Freud	Drawer lock cutter	£54
Wealden	Lock mitre cutter	£36 - £50
Wealden	Drawer lock type 'A'	£18 - £28
Wealden	Drawer lock type 'B'	£25
Perform	Mitre lock cutter	£29 - £42
CMT	Lock mitre cutter	£30 - £45
CMT	Drawer lock cutter	£26 - £35
Trend	Mitre lock cutter	£80 - £95
Trend	Mitre corner joint cutters	£70 - £90
Jesada	Mitre lock cutter	£30 - £48
Jesada	Drawer lock cutter	£45

The prices shown here are list, which can vary, so shop around before you buy. All prices include VAT.

Conclusion

If you need strong and discreet mitre joints or drawer joints, these cutters will definitely do the business. If you are relatively new to routing however, you should perhaps stick to the simpler jointing methods as outlined by Ron Fox in his basic corner jointing cover article back on page 15. Confidence and experience are really needed to use these specialist cutters to their maximum potential. ●

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Motor	¾ or 1hp
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Table Size	14" x 14"
Table Height	44"
Table Tilt	10° L 45° R
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Machine Size	28½" x 18½" x 68¼"
Gross Weight	86Kgs



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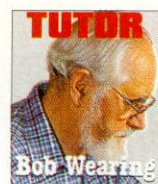
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Routing **aids**



Multiple mortices

Bob Wearing
has many ways
of morticing
with the router

THERE are several ways of morticing with the router, but this is one of the more permanent methods, and one of the best. Its success depends on using the Vanguard Router Rods, available from Vanguard Cutting Tools.



The basic woodwork

Bearers

I usually use good quality birch multi-ply, or, if you have objections to it, use MDF. The sizes shown are merely suggestions, but they suit the Bosch POF and the Elu MOF96 routers.

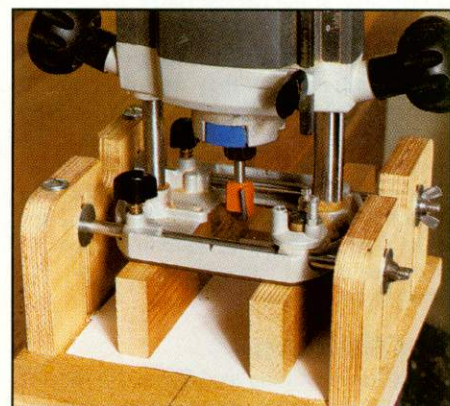
Prepare the baseplate to size and screw it to a block to be gripped in a vice. A square block permits the work to be fed in along or across the bench, whichever is more convenient for the job in hand.

Now prepare the bearers. The slots in

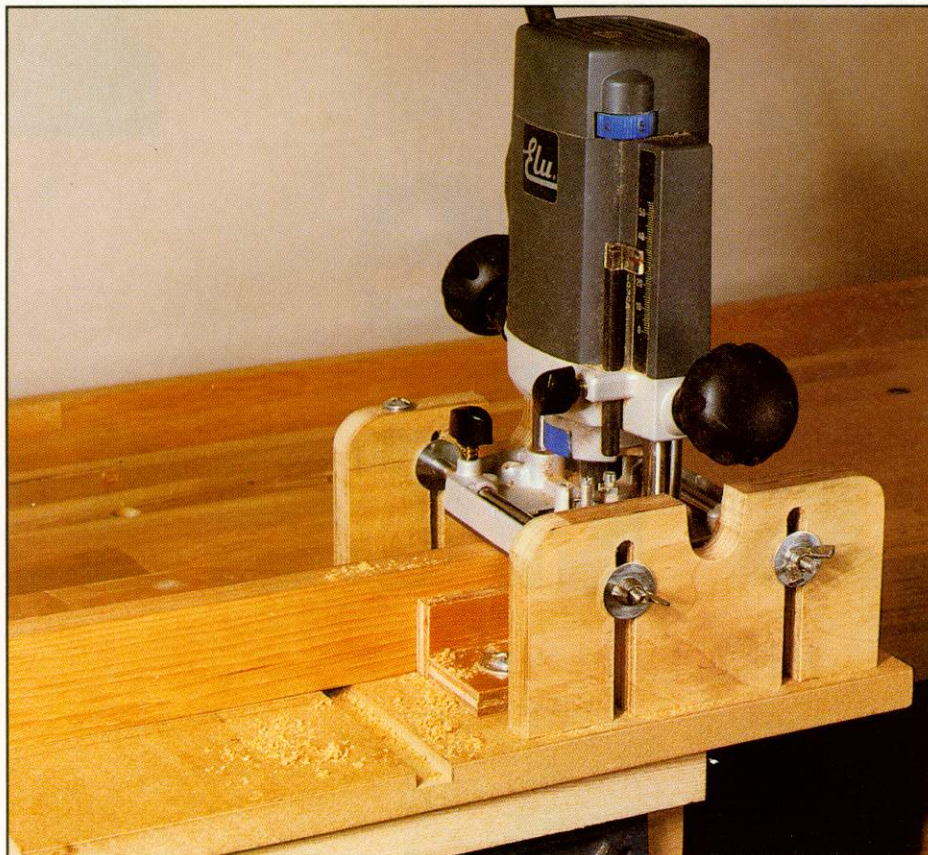
these can be sawn or routed. For M6 threads cut these to 7mm to give ease of working. Assemble the bearers on the router rods to mark their position on the baseboard.

One bearer is fixed. Glue and screw this securely in place. Drill the removable bearer to take long M6 roofing bolts. To permit slight adjustment, drill at $\frac{1}{8}$ in from the top, then 8mm most of the way from the base to connect.

To mark the centres of the holes on the baseboard, insert two 8mm dowel marker pins, assemble the bearers with the router rods in place and smartly tap with a hammer. To give easy movement when



Levelling up the router using parallel blocks



The optimum set-up for morticing using a middleweight Elu 96 will guarantee great results

setting up, at this stage slip in thin card washers under the inside washers on one bearer. The difference this makes to subsequent adjustments will be obvious.

Drill fine pilot holes on the marks, about $\frac{1}{16}$ in or less. On the underside, drill shallow cavities of $\frac{1}{8}$ in to take two M6 T-nuts. On the same centres, drill straight through at 8mm.

Never hammer in T-nuts as they are bound to go askew and the threads may be damaged. Instead, draw them in with a bolt, washer and wood block as shown.

Now assemble without the card washers. Check that the router bars will move freely up and down in the slots. Similarly bore and fit further T-nuts for the fences. Now prepare the fences, using good-quality $\frac{1}{2}$ in plywood with a solid wood fence. Gluing to edge plywood is not reliable at the best of times, so strengthen with two wood screws.

It is very important that the two fences are vertical, and that they will close together perfectly. The slots must naturally suit the T-nuts and should be made a trifle over-wide to give easy adjustment.

Assemble with 30mm M6 roofing bolts. If preferred, secure with plastic knobs, or make from wingnuts as shown. Screws will need more effort so they are less likely to be left slack.

Setting up

Set up for morticing as follows. Fit the bars onto the router, secure them in the fixed bearer, add the removable bearer and clamp. To fix the router height, slide in two identical workpieces with a slip of

stout paper under them. Slacken the wing-nuts and drop the router base onto them. Clamp firmly.

Roughly fit the two fences and insert the appropriate cutter, using the longest cutter available. The morticer is not for really heavy work, so the long series cutters will generally do. For deeper mortices use engineers' end cutting milling cutters.

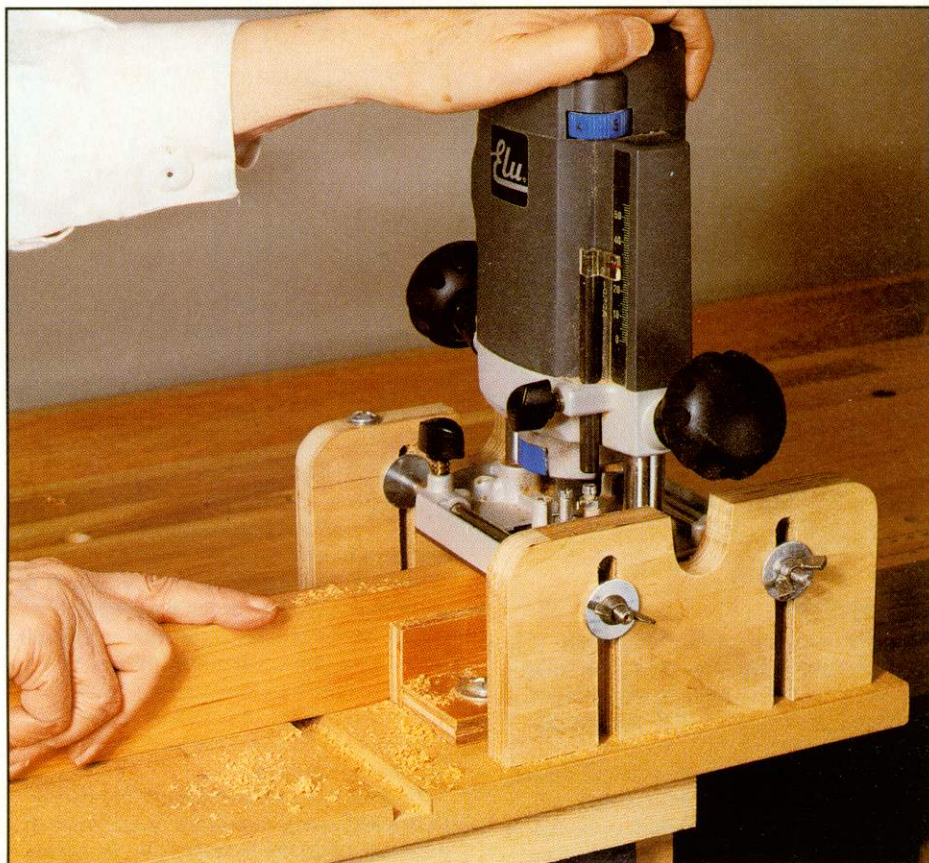
As these are only made parallel, light-weight routers will be restricted to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Wider mortices must be worked by taking two cuts at the timber.

Morticer skills

Set the router centrally on the rods, feed in a marked workpiece and plunge the router, not switched on, to grip it in the centre of the marked mortice. Bring up both fences and lock them in place finger tight. Any further small adjustments can be efficiently made by sliding the router up and down the bars.

Set the stop to the required depth. Plunge the router, making several cuts until full depth is reached. Take care not to burn, then cut a series of touching holes at full depth. Only then can the workpiece be moved along to remove the waste left between.

Obviously the standard router produces mortices with rounded ends. These can be chopped square with a hand chisel or, more commonly, the tenon ends can be rounded with a woodfile.



Safe morticing is certainly a two-handed job

An economical morticer to take Vanguard router rods

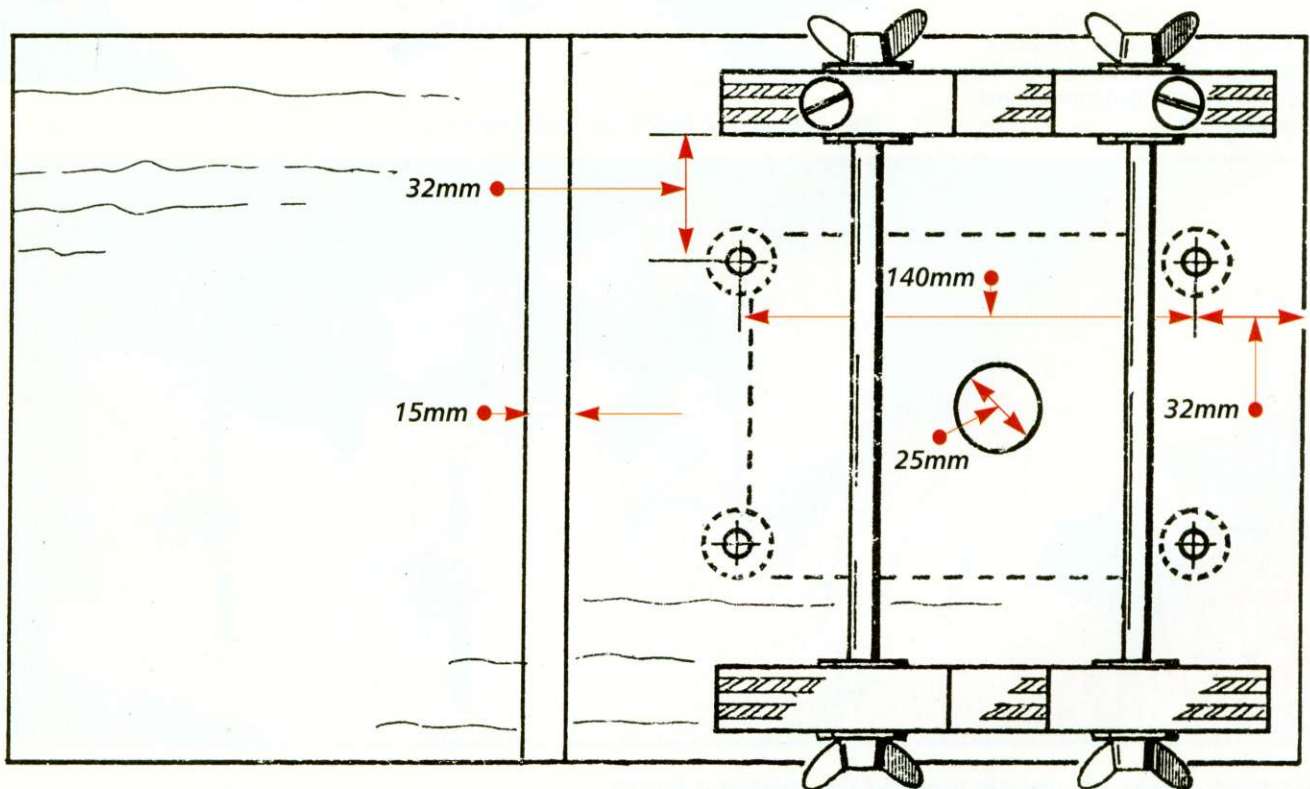
Side view

Multi-ply or MDF 180mm x 90mm x 20mm

Multi-ply or MDF 405mm x 200mm x 20mm

Multi-ply or MDF 100mm x 100mm x 25mm

Plan view



Cutting tenons

Using the same T-nuts, add a slotted length stop. The workpiece can be simply hand-held and fed across the cutter from left to right. The stop makes it impossible to cut too far.

For the best quality of jointing, saw the shoulders with a fine tenon saw. Deeply knife the shoulder line, then chisel a shallow groove in which to run the saw.

Better still, construct the simple cross-slide running in the groove on the baseplate. For this operation remove the fences. Drop the router and level it by inserting two workpieces.

Inset a workpiece, plunge the cutter to it and lock there. Remove the workpiece and increase the cut slightly. Using the cross-slide, feed in the workpiece against the rotation of the cutter, from left to right, starting at the end.

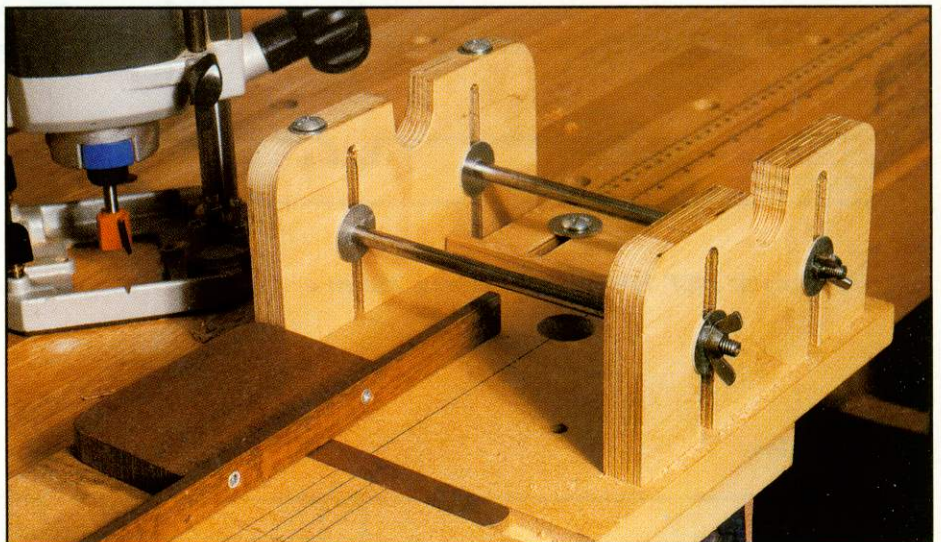
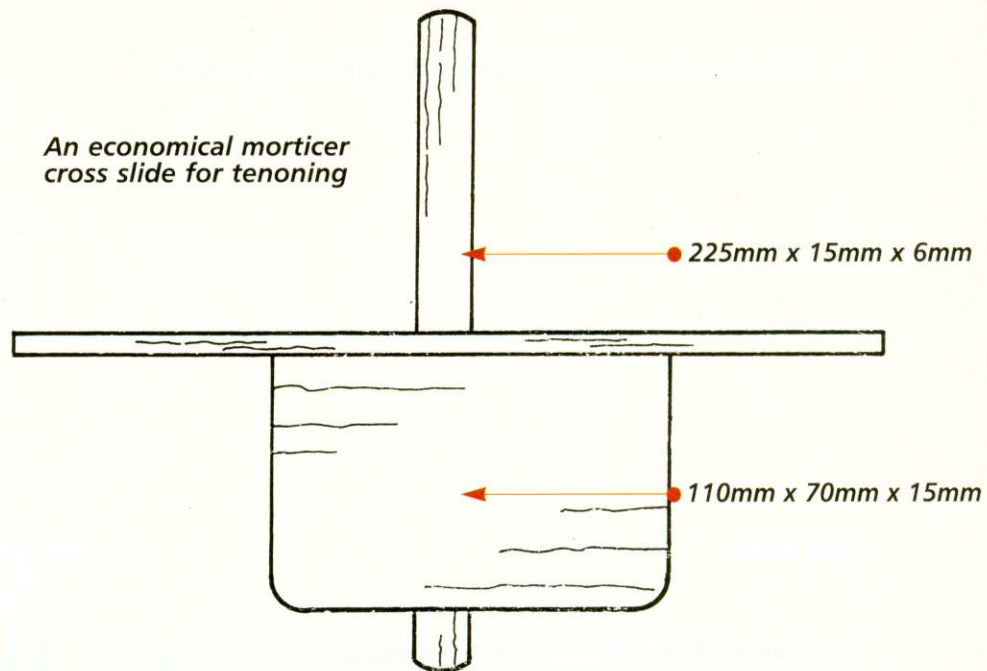
Check the tenon repeatedly in its mortice. If the tenon is not central, and most are, complete one side on all the components, then adjust and start on the other, continuing to test. End with a fine cut to give a good finish. With these sizes, tenons up to 2½in wide can be formed.

In fitting tenons to their mortices very fine adjustment is often needed. If the router has only a simple depth stop, here is a way of achieving it. After making a cut, halt the router in that position on the job and lock it there.

Now raise the depth stop, insert a piece of stout paper and drop the depth stop onto it. Lock there. Now remove the paper and plunge the router to that setting for the next cut. Half lap-joints can be formed in the same way.

To work as a thicknesser, to rebate or mould, simply reverse the morticing fences as seen in the photograph. If you have graduated from a basic router to something more advanced, why not keep the original as a dedicated mortice and tenon machine? ●

An economical morticer cross slide for tenoning



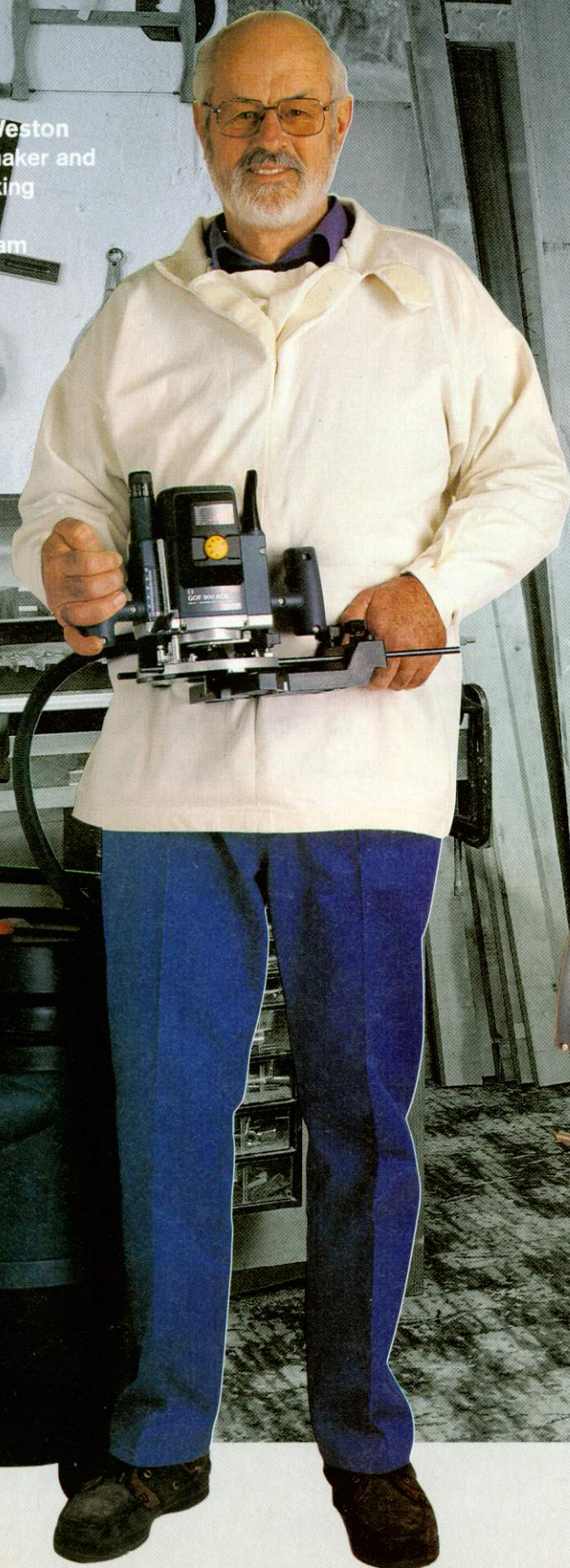
The set-up for forming small tenons



Bob Wearing shows his unique method for cutting a tenon

"Clean cut and a bit of a smoothie, not me ... my GOF 900 ACE!"

Ramon Weston
Cabinet maker and
woodworking
instructor
Chippenham



“ When you spend most of your day using power tools, you soon begin to appreciate the good ones. Take the Bosch GOF 900 ACE Router for example – it really works for me, saving time and effort.

The plunge lock lever is within easy reach of the handles which are mounted low down giving that all important optimum centre of gravity near the work piece.

Fine depth and parallel fence adjustment come as standard. The easy to use, handle mounted, on/off switch operates the powerful 'soft start' 900 watt motor with constant speed control, giving total control in a wide variety of cutter and material combinations.

I especially like two of the features which are unique to Bosch. The bayonet fit template bushes mean template guide bush change without the need for tools. Flexible rubber sleeves protect the smooth plunge action from the worst excesses of dust and dirt.

And there's more...3 stage turret stop, spindle lock, sturdy aluminium base plate, transparent safety shield, to name but a few.

The GOF 900 ACE also has an adaptor for connection to a vacuum cleaner. So when you next visit your Bosch dealer, why not ask about the GAS 12-50 RF dust extraction unit.

There's no doubt in my mind – Bosch routing systems are the clean cut choice for all woodworking professionals. **”**



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Lightweight contenders

THESE routers are intended for the DIY or amateur market rather than the professional. They are good machines to start with and the standard of engineering is pretty uniform, most importantly the motors are reliable. Professionals have been known to use them too, but only for lighter operations.

Ryobi RE-120

A simple box-shaped router formed from two case mouldings with integral handgrips. There is a safety off lock and switch trigger on the right hand hand-grip with a slightly awkward-to-reach speed control on the left-hand one.

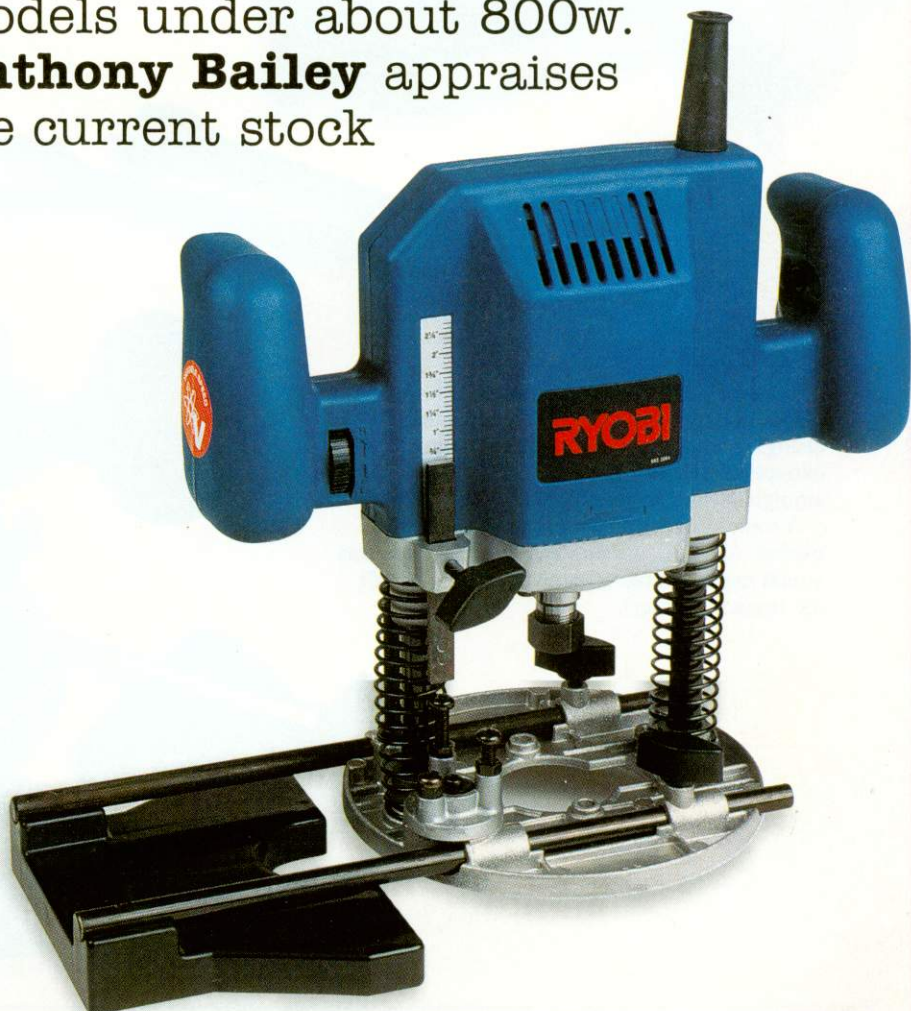
The plunge lock is stamped steel fitted to a long bolt which can fall out if you're not careful. The depth stop is a flat bar, the lock knob projects unnecessarily far from the body, and the Imperial scale is a step back. The three stage turret has sprung click stops and cutter changing uses a tommy bar and spanner. The cone collet is one of the smallest of any router. The plunge return springs are strong and fitted on the outside of the columns, and there is a bit of a snap when the router is unplunged. The nicely cast flat alloy base is circular and has a non-adjustable plunge return bolt. A guidebush just big enough for a 1/4in straight bit is supplied plus a bit to match. There are two fences, both with fixed rods; one has flat faces but no provision for extended facings, whilst the other has two points for working along irregular edges and bolt recesses for sub fences. The Ryobi is also available as a single speed model R-120.

On Test

The RE-120 has a very smooth motor with equally smooth speed changes. A nice machine to use with a good view of the working area and effective extraction. A nice little machine let down by one or two bits of cheap design. Fun to use though!



There are now more routers on the market than ever before. This includes the 'lightweight' category, a general term for models under about 800w. **Anthony Bailey** appraises the current stock



Sparky X52E

The Sparky X52E is the little brother of the X72E, both produced by Sparky GMBH of Berlin, Germany. It looks similar to various better-known routers on the market. The plunge springing is fairly smooth and the plunge lock lever is a bendy piece of contoured plastic at the rear. The depth rod acts on a very stiff-to-turn three-stage turret. The switch is a snappy rock-and-push-down type, and the speed wheel is on top of the housing. The baseplate has no dust traps and takes a black dustspout which has an impossibly small opening. The pipe is cranked as well, making extraction of large chippings difficult. The fence has fixed rods and screwed-on facings and there is a clip on scale for checking the fence to cutter setting. Two spanners are provided for cutter changing. The body can be unplugged Bosch or Black & Decker style for die grinding or mounting in a suitable stand. No extras are supplied with this model.



On Test

The motor wasn't too smooth at lower speeds, with a noticeable burring noise, but speed changing was OK. Quite a nice machine to use, extraction was alright with fine dust but struggles when larger chippings are produced.

A router in search of a proper place in the market, more advertising and a full kit of extras would make it more attractive (the name isn't too inspiring either).



Hitachi ZK2008

The ZK2008 is very light and compact with a well-rounded shape. Very smooth and strong plunge springing is locked by a quick twist locking grip knob. It has a recessed flip up-down switch, though no variable speed capabilities. The body is demountable having a standard collar size for fitting in a drill stand. The metric depth stop has lugs to stop it falling out, it rests on a cast bump on the base, and a depth turret isn't provided on this model. The base is well made but has plenty of dust traps, plus it takes a fence with fixed rods which can accept extra facings. There is no plastic facing on the alloy baseplate and it doesn't need it as it is quite smooth. A guidebush can be fitted. No trammel point or roller guides are supplied but the ZK2008 is the only one on test to come with a blow moulded case and five different sized HSS (High Speed Steel) straight cutters which are ideal for working softwood.

On Test

Dinky to handle, with a bit of a kick on start up and a very smooth motor – no extraction pipe though. A basic, good all-rounder and easy to handle. The case is universal for all the ZK range so finding the correct place to stow the router is not so easy, small parts may get lost in one of the openings so give the case a good shake!

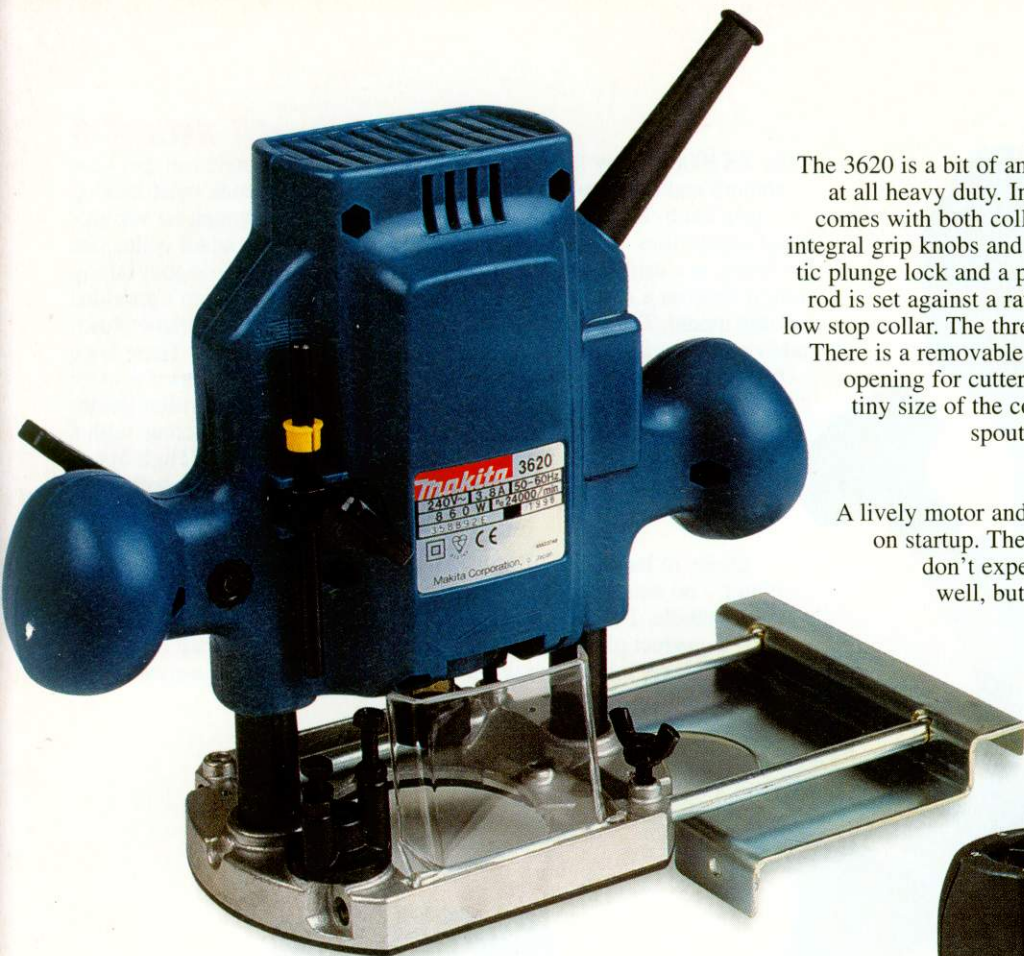
Black & Decker KW780E

This is the electronic version of the basic KW780 model. The motor case is tall so you need to let go of one grip knob in order to switch on or off, the speed thumbwheel is above that. The motor body can be removed by undoing a screw on the plunge casting. A small unsprung plunge lever locks the plunge depth. The depth rod is scaled in Imperial and is set against a plastic three stage turret which waggles a bit and is stiff to turn. Anti-vibration springs are fitted on all the knobs. The baseplate has one flat edge for running against a straightedge. It has a spindle lock and comes with 6mm, 6.35mm and 8mm collets. The baseplate has a shiny plastic facing and accepts a guide bush and extraction spout. The kit includes fence, roller guide, trammel point, guide bush, dust spout.

On Test

In the tradition of Black & Decker machines this has a high but even motor note and smells of the carbon motor brushes. Speed changing is even and there is plenty of power. Extraction works OK. Dodgy points – the plastic turret and the switch position, but comes with a good accessory kit.





Makita 3620

The 3620 is a bit of an orphan, being a $\frac{1}{2}$ in capacity router but not at all heavy duty. In fact it seems happier as a $\frac{1}{4}$ in machine and comes with both collet sizes. It has a two piece plastic case with integral grip knobs and a well rounded smooth shape. It has a plastic plunge lock and a positive click switch trigger. The plain depth rod is set against a rather discreet moulded scale with a little yellow stop collar. The three stage turret is substantial and works well. There is a removable dustshield on the base which has a massive opening for cutters, bearing in mind the power output and the tiny size of the collets. It comes with a fixed rod fence, dust-spout and two spanners, in a blow-moulded case.

On Test

A lively motor and very even running with only a limited kick on startup. The lack of extraction is a minus. Provided you don't expect too much from this router it should work well, but isn't a substitute for a heavy duty machine. Expect to replace collets regularly.

Black & Decker KW800 and KW800EK

These are new models from the Black & Decker stable. They both feature new motor body styling with a large orange on-off switch integrated into the body shape and an increase in power allowing bigger cuts and less straining of both cutters and motor. There is also an increased cut depth of 55mm bringing it more in line with other routers in its power class and they feature spindle locks for cutter changing. The EK version has variable speed and a kit case. The base and accessories are the same as the KW 780 routers.

On Test

We haven't had a chance to try these new machines out but they should perform similarly to the older models with the advantage of the power increase and greater plunge depth. The available power definitely puts these above the competing Bosch machines and give fair value for money.





Bosch POF 400A

The POF 400A is quite compact, the case being a two part plastic moulding with a squarish shape but comfortably rounded corners. The top is flat to allow inversion for cutter changing. The plunge springs are strong giving an immediate 'bounce back'. The cast alloy base has a smooth black enamel finish underneath allowing it to glide easily over the wood. It doesn't have a multi stage turret, using just a depth stop rod and a cast projection on the baseplate. Cutter changing needs a small tommy bar and a spanner, a 1/4in HSS cutter is supplied.

The fence is very rigid plastic and clamps neatly onto the top of the baseplate and slides over quite a decent amount, by turning it over and screwing the trammel point on you can do circle machining too. The dustspout is black plastic but it doesn't obscure too much of the work as the baseplate is already so thin. It has a clear plastic collar on top to help draw all the dust downwards. Two slight inconsistencies with the instruction manual are the 1/4in collet where it states 6mm (1/4in is the UK standard, 6mm is European). The other is the lack of a guide bush. A plastic version is shown in the manual and probably could be obtained to order.

On Test

The motor is very smooth and not very noisy considering this is a budget machine. It copes with all the less demanding work using smaller size cutters. In any case the base opening prevents the use of large ones. The single depth setting means repeated adjustments for multiple passes but this is a trade-off against the lower cost of this machine. A very nice router for the newcomer to routing, easy to use and well behaved. Try and avoid buying really cheap imported cutters though because they won't last long. Bosch have their own range of cutters which are usually sold alongside their routers.

Bosch POF 500A

Essentially like the POF 600ACE in styling but with less power and no electronic speed control. A good compromise between the POF 400A and the POF 600ACE if cost and performance are an equal consideration.

On Test

Very similar to the other two routers, the extra power over the POF 400A is noticeable on heavier cuts. This is a nice machine, but my personal choice would be the POF 600ACE described on the next page.





Bosch POF 600ACE

The most popular of all lightweight routers and with good reason.

It is well designed, though rather tall, but with plenty of power. The flick down switch is positive, and the variable speed thumb-wheel is easily adjusted on the top of the motor casing. The body is detachable to fit in the Bosch router stand and the handgrips make for easy control when working. The plunge action is very smooth and springy and there is a fixed scale on the base which the motor mounting aligns against for rudimentary depth setting.

At the rear is a depth rod which can be fine adjusted or quickly moved via a press-in button, with two plastic thumbwheels which allow for two cut depth settings rather than the usual turret underneath. The base is a very lightweight casting and accepts a fence with fixed rods which will take a clip-on scale for fence to cutter setting. There are threaded holes to take the black plastic dustspout which makes it possible to invert in a table. The kit that comes with it includes a dustspout, roller guide, sub base, trammel point and an extender for the edge of the baseplate for straight edge working, and a cutter.

On Test

A bright but very smooth motor note with even smoother speed changes. Extraction works fine. A router without vices and very pleasant to use. Liked by many professionals for secondary use.

Kress 6955

German Kress mainly make well engineered tools for the trade and the quality of 6955 router bears this out. The motor stands unusually tall partly because of the detachable plug-in mains lead – one of the few truly intelligent pieces of design to appear on a power tool. The on-off switch is a twist-to-lock band around the motor body with an orange press-to-off button; again rather different though it does mean taking one hand off a grip knob to use it. The motor is locked into a casting from which it can be detached, Bosch style. The casting has a very easy to press spindle lock button at the front. This acts against the lock button on the motor case which is used when the motor is separated from the base. Plunging is positive and smooth, one knob being the plunge twist lock. The depth rod is basic but it acts on a very precise three stage turret. The ELU style base incorporates a clear all-round dustshield which takes the add-on dustspout. The fence has fixed rods which are long, the plastic facings can be removed or turned over for certain operations. The blow-mould case has the usual confusing selection of recesses in which to fit the various router bits and pieces.

On Test

Although there was a kick on start-up the motor has a very fine note, more like a dental drill and seems to be of very good quality. Extraction was satisfactory. A nice machine, especially for the price. A well bred piece of kit.



AEG OFE 710

Similar in design to the Bosch, Kress etc. It is nicely turned out with a comfortably tapered motor casing which can be unlocked from the casting which carries the grip knobs. There is a discreet but easy to turn speed thumbwheel on top of the casing, but the on-off switch on the front needs firm pressure at the bottom to snap it on, a flick at the top returns it to off. The plunge lock lever is slightly flexible plastic, while the plunge action is smooth with a fairly quick return. The depth rod is rather basic and stamped with a metric scale. It acts on depth turret which is mounted on AEG's standard ELU pattern baseplate casting. The cutter opening is not huge, but it will accept an extraction pipe and guide bush. The fence is the standard fixed rod type – a fine adjuster could be fitted as the baseplate has a cutout shape to accept one. The base is covered with a smooth stick-on phenolic resin facing.

On Test

A nice clean smooth motor with very even speed changes. Plenty of power and efficient extraction make this an easy machine to use. A worthy addition to the AEG/ Atlas Copco lineup capable of a variety of different tasks and a pleasure to work with.

Overall conclusion

Don't expect miracles from these routers, but if you don't overtax them they will perform quite adequately. For example, make multiple passes at different cut depths to avoid straining both cutter and machine. Generally coming with various add-ons to increase their versatility, along with lots of nuts and bolts for attaching them. The Bosch models seem universally popular and are well designed, the Kress is a superbly crafted bit of kit but the others all work well too. Bosch are the market leaders for DIY routers and any

of their 'green tools' range performs well. The Bosch 600ACE, the Hitachi ZK2008, AEG OFE 710 and the Kress 6955 and the new Black & Deckers all seem like competent machines. The Kress is certainly excellent in its engineering standard. Don't forget to factor in the cost of a starter set of cutters. The cheap Chinese cutters currently available are not particularly long-lasting or even very safe so buy a well-known brand. Expect to pay £80 and up for a decent set. Lastly, the prices quoted don't accurately reflect what you can expect to pay in the shops. Many are discounted, so check around for the best buy. ●

Price list

Sparky X52E	£79.95
<i>(list £119 inc VAT)</i>	
Bosch POF 400A	£79.99
POF 500A	£84.99
POF 600ACE	£119.99
B&D KW780	£104.99
B&D 780E	£129.99
Kress FM6955	£119.99
Hitachi ZK2008	£143.35
Ryobi RE 120	£198.57
AEG OFE 710	£240.87
Makita 3620	£220.90
Sparky X72E	£89.95
B&D KW800	£79.99
KW800EK	£ 99.99



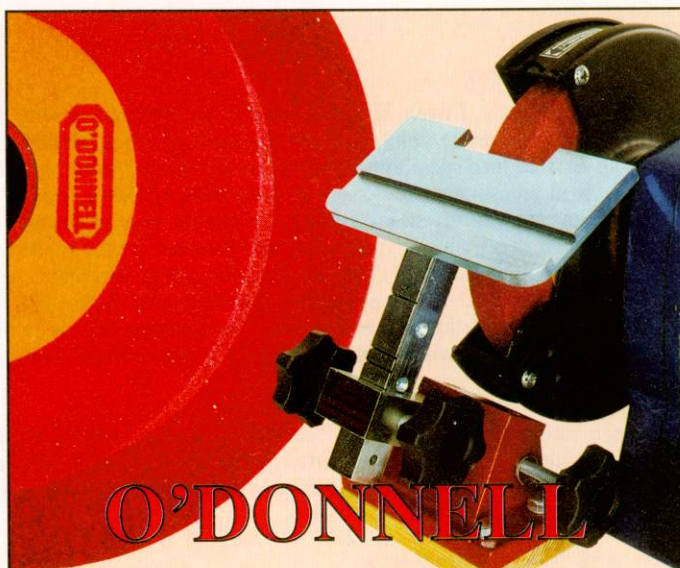
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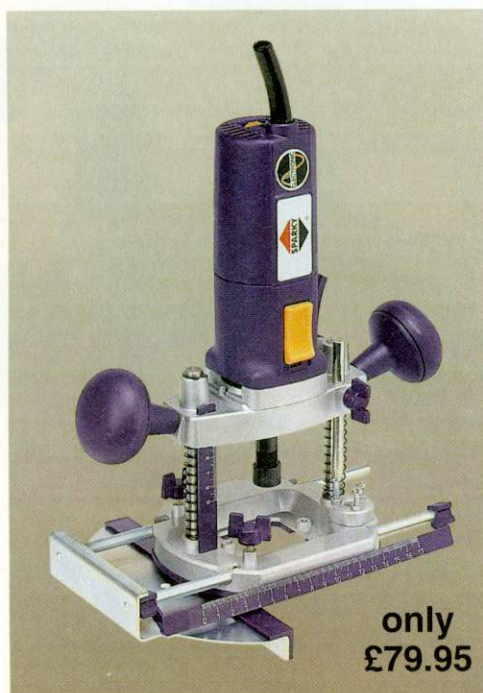
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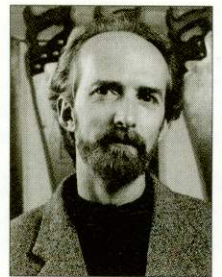
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Build a radiator cover
with **Paul Richardson**

Cover-up

MDF is stable and good for painting, thus ideal for this job. Start by drawing up a cutting list using the one shown. Critical dimensions of the radiator are height, width and distance off from the wall, allowing for the valves. Adjust the cutting list to suit your own radiator (the one shown will fit a radiator 1300mm wide, 875mm tall, and standing 150mm from the wall).

The carcass

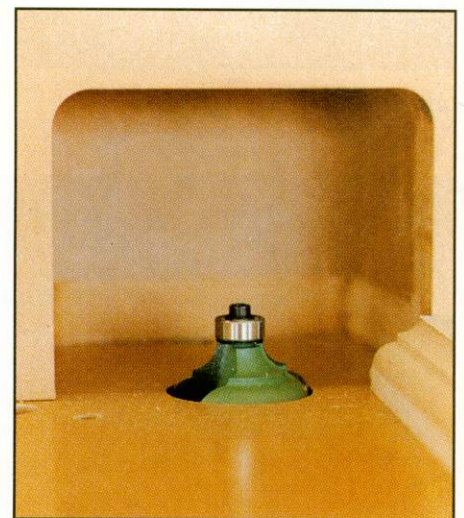
Machine a classical profile onto the front edge and sides of the top face of the top, use the roundover part of this cutter to make a bead on the underside.

Mark the length of the flutes across both columns, allowing for the plinth, which takes up 150mm from the bottom. Use a 10mm core box cutter, these cutters

tend to wander from the line so use two fences adjusted to give a sliding fit on the column. This ensures the flutes are straight and parallel. Cut the first flute in the centre of the column, adjust the fence to cut the next in the centre of the remaining space. This setup will cut both of the remaining flutes, first in one direction; turn the router around for the other cut.

The columns are joined to the carcass sides, using biscuit joints or loose tongues. Both methods are best carried out with an arbor mounted groover. When the joints are dry, sand flush and run a 'V' groove along them to conceal the joint and add visual interest to the plain sides.

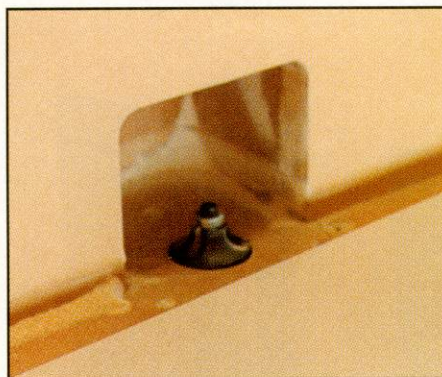
The baseboard, back board, and frieze are fitted, again with a biscuit or loose tongue. Fit the baseboard with the top edge in line with the intended position of the plinth - 150mm from the bottom. These joints are



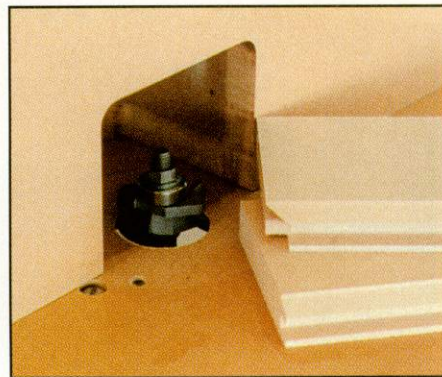
Machining with a 'classical' cutter



Cutting the first flute



The plinth moulding



The fit

weak, handle with care at this stage until reinforced by the panel stops. The panel stops are glued and screwed in place inside, across the joints with the columns and overlapping the baseboard and frieze by 13mm. These create a rebate for the panels and support the structure.

Fitting plinth and top

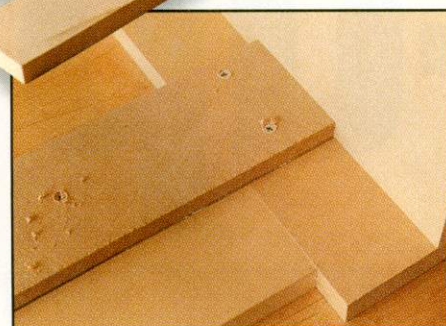
Prepare the plinth moulding, mould the board edges with a 9.5mm ovolo.

The finished columns

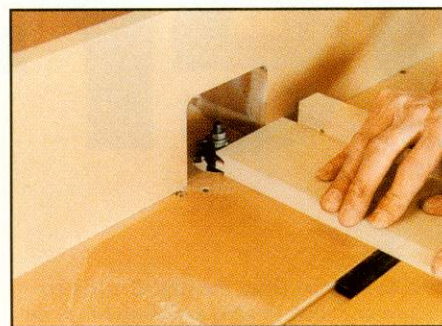
Cut the mitres on the front, screw and glue from the inside. Mitres are cut on one end of the side pieces, leaving them over-length. Adjust the mitres to fit, trim to length and fit. Create a vent at the bottom of the plinth to allow air to circulate. The baseboard is 25mm short of the bottom so it forms a template for this vent.

Cut away the waste with a jigsaw (not into the corners) and trim with a 19mm panel trimmer running the bearing on the columns and baseboard edges. The cutter will make a neat corner radius.

Lay the top face down on the bench with the carcass inverted on it. Mark round the carcass, then biscuit or dowel the two parts together.



Fitting the panel stops



Scribing across the rail ends

The grille

A variety of grille materials are available, from perforated hardboard to very expensive brass grille. I once had woven cane panels made up. Choose what fits in with the room's decorations, and the budget. Perforated hardboard costs around £24 for a six by two sheet, brass grille can be well over £100.

Making the panels

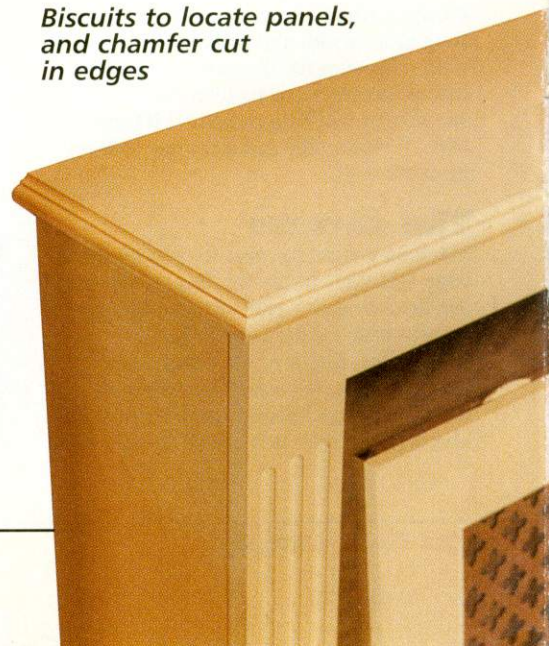
The panel should fit into the 6mm groove formed by a profile and scribe door set which is the best way to make the panels. Basically a scribed joint is cut into the rail ends, which matches a profile cut on the inside edges of the stiles and rails. This forms a surprisingly strong joint with a decorative moulding inside the frame with a groove.

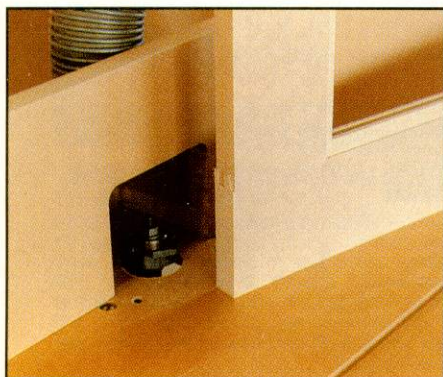
This type of cutter must be used in a router table, fitted with a cross-slide of some kind. If no mitre-slide is available, use a piece of square board to back up the rails when doing the scribe cut. These cutters come with bearings, but set the fence in line with it (and parallel to the mitre-slide groove), for good results. Do not leave the stiles over length. If the fence has been set properly there will be no 'notching' at the start and finish of the cut, and gluing up square is easier. All parts must be prepared square in all directions, or the panels will be distorted and joints won't fit. Cut the grille about 1mm under the size

Biscuits to locate panels, and chamfer cut in edges

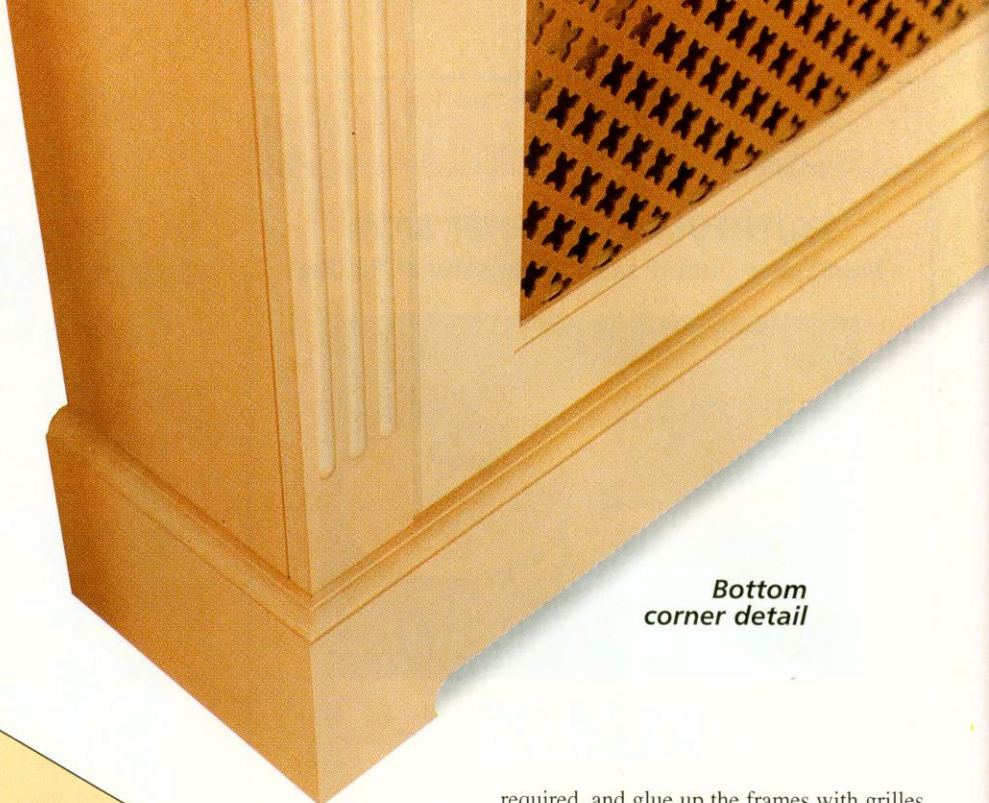
Cutting list

Component	No. off	Thickness	Width	Length
Carcass sides	2	18	190	922
Columns	2	18	75	922
Top	1	18	226	1435
Base board	1	18	125	1249
Frieze	1	18	62	1249
Plinth moulding	1	18	150	1435
Plinth moulding	2	18	150	226
Panel stop	2	12	75	1363
Top back board	1	18	75	1363

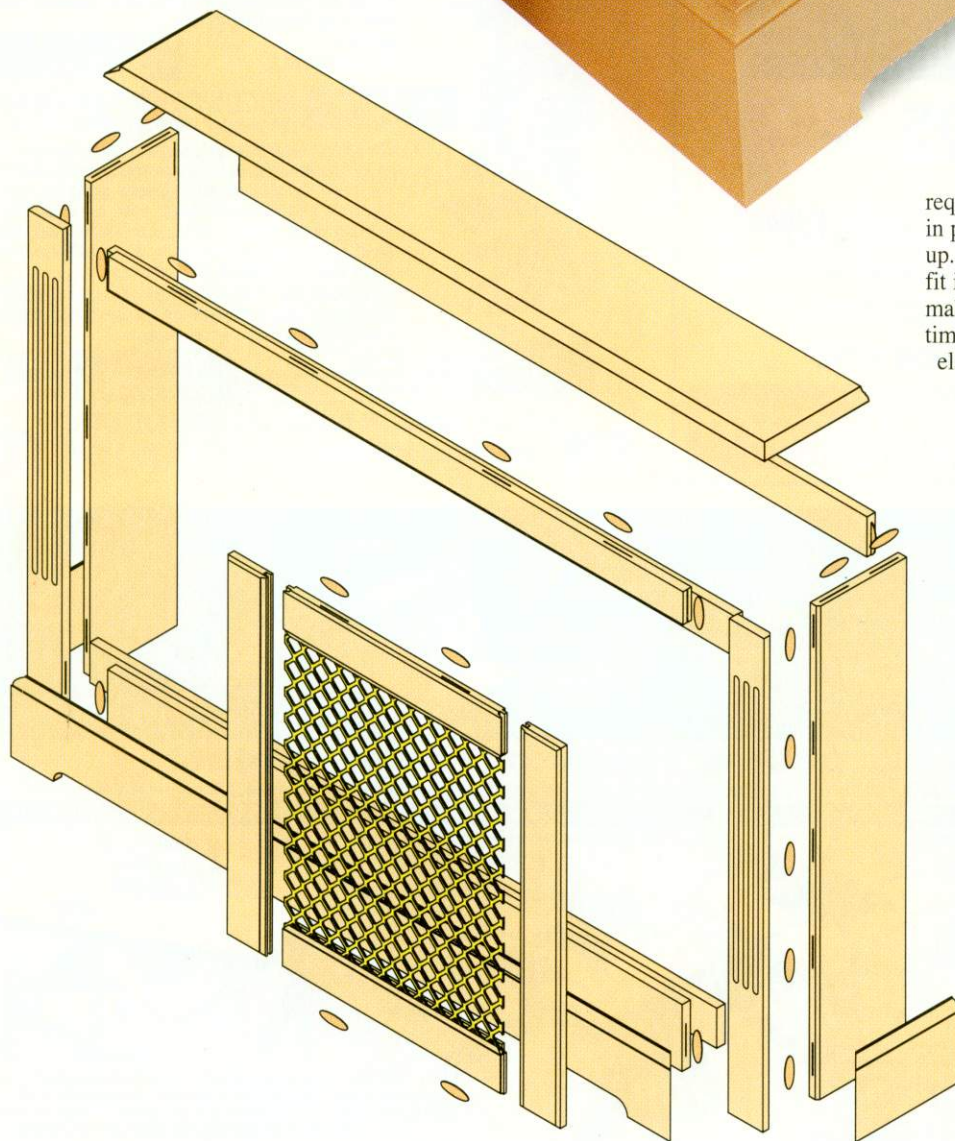




Both parts of the joint cut



Bottom corner detail



required, and glue up the frames with grilles in place. Check for square when cramping up. When dry, sand the frames and check for fit in the carcass, trim as necessary. Don't make them loose as they stay put most of the time. Use magnetic catches to hold the panels in place – fitting two biscuits at the top of each panel works well as used on this example. Finally, run a chamfer around the panels.

Finishing

Sand the MDF well, especially the fluffy cut edges. MDF contains waxes, and soaks up water, avoid using petrochemical (i.e. most cellulose thinners) based lacquer or water based paint like acrylic primer. Oil based primer or shellac sanding sealer works well and once sealed a paint finish is applied. The radiator cover can be painted before or after fitting depending on its location, fitting will not damage an existing surface. The plinth is scribed to fit the skirting board then the cover is screwed through the backboard into wall plugs and modesty blocks into the skirting board or floor. If the walls are flattish, gaps can be filled with white acrylic sealant from a mastic gun. ●

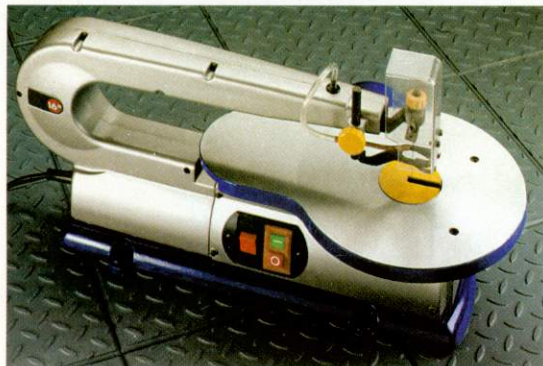
Removable panel cutting list

Panels:	No. of	Thickness (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
	2	18	624	710
Stiles	4	18	85	710
Rails	4	18	85	473
Grille	2	4	491	559

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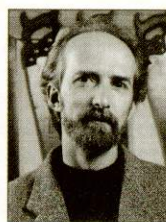
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Devil in the detail



Paul Richardson
explains the secrets
of cross-banding
and stringing

Inlays and edgebanding can transform a piece

THERE are two techniques which transform veneering from a craft to an art. While both are often used to frame marquetry – where veneers are cut to form a picture or pattern – they're more dignified when used alone to make a plain surface more interesting.

Crossbanding

Crossbanding has a practical and an aesthetic function. Its practical purpose is to present a durable, end-grain edge around table tops, drawers and other parts which may otherwise suffer damage in use.

The end-grain of veneer is harder than its side-grain edge, plus, if a piece lifts or is chipped at an edge, only a small, easily repaired flake is damaged, rather than a long sliver as with side grain.

Crossbanding allows you to define areas with a crisp and elegant frame or border, either increasing the prominence of details – the perimeter of a drawer, perhaps, or a frieze below a cornice – or concealing them.

By crossbanding the edge of a hinged table top, you view the top as a whole, and are not distracted by the join. The

effectiveness of visual trickery is controlled by the strength of the crossbanding's contrast with the main veneer.

If we use the same material for both, the effect is quite subtle; if a full contrast such as satinwood with rosewood is chosen, the effect is quite striking. It's easy to go too far and create too strong a contrast, so do not get carried away.

*Cutting back main
veneer for crossbanding*



*Cutting crossbanding with a
knife and straight edge*



*Carefully lift away the waste and
glue using a chisel*



Lay the first piece of crossbanding and stringing against the main veneer

Stringing

'Stringing' is the use of narrow strips of veneer or inlay in the same way as crossbanding. When the thickness of veneer, stringing is applied along with the main veneer and crossbanding. When used thicker, it is inlaid into a groove or rebate, cut after the veneer has dried. This form may also be inlaid into solid wood. Like crossbanding, stringing at the edge of a surface serves to protect the veneer from possible damage.

Stringing can define form, or provide a neat interface between crossbanding and main veneers. Decorative stringing, made up of contrasting lines and sometimes crossbanding, is available commercially. Useful for adding fine and complex decoration to a piece of furniture, it is nevertheless best used sparingly.



Lay the next piece, then cut through both to make the join



Cutting through both layers to form a mitre



Complete all four sides then set aside to completely dry before trimming and crossbanding the edge

Preparation

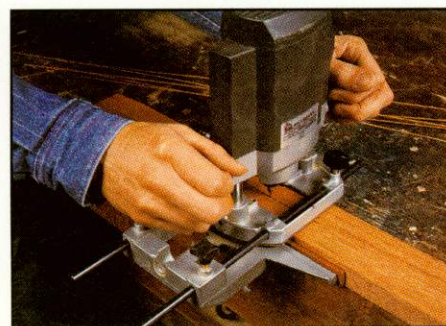
Crossbanding is usually laid while the main veneer is still wet. The simplest form is used around the edge of a panel, table top or drawer front, often with a single line of stringing between it and the main veneer.

Prepare strips of crossbanding in advance. Cutting it across the veneer leaves a width slightly greater than that which is needed. Be sure to take into account the width of any stringing.

As when preparing veneers for laying with Scotch glue, before cutting, sponge the leaves with scalding-hot water and press between two flat boards.

Cutting may be done in any number of ways. If the leaves are kept between pieces of plywood or MDF, then a bandsaw can be used, or each piece may be cut with a straight edge and knife, using a simple jig to maintain width and parallel. A guillotine is best. This should result in a clean-cut edge, with no loose dust particles to interfere with adhesion.

Whichever method is chosen, stack the cut pieces together to retain moisture, and press them in a vice until they are needed.



A groove is routed to take a stringing line

Groundwork

Taking a small table top as an example, first lay the main veneer, overlapping the area to be crossbanded, but not the edge of the groundwork. Trim the main veneer back to leave what is effectively a wide, shallow rebate into which the crossbanding and any stringing is fitted.

Trim with a knife and wooden straight edge, measuring for width and parallel, or use a cutting gauge set to the combined width of crossbanding and stringing. This latter method is the quickest and, as speed is important when veneering with Scotch glue, use it whenever possible.

Any shaped corner other than square – radiused, for example – can be cut with a template and knife. Lift away the waste and glue with a chisel, and the groundwork is ready for crossbanding.

"Lift away the waste and glue with a chisel"



Be sure to press the stringing in very firmly



Back-feeding the router gives a cleaner rebate for edgebanding

Laying crossbanding

Working quickly is the key to success with hand veneering, so have all you need to hand. Wipe the glue brush along one side of the table top – for a larger table, work on about 1000mm (39in) at a time – then press the stringing into place. Don't worry about fitting it exactly, as this will be done with the crossbanding. Allow an overlap at each end for later trimming.

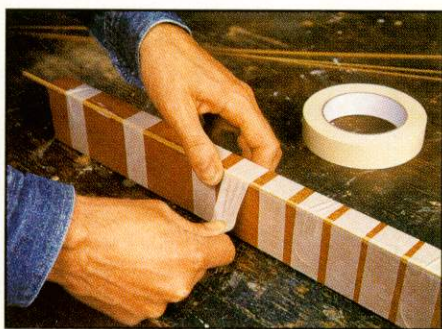
Starting at one end, and leaving an overhang, lay the first piece of crossbanding in place. Apply the glue brush quickly, then hammer down using the hammer diagonally, so it pushes the banding into the stringing and main veneer. Don't hammer across the grain, as this will stretch the veneer, leaving gaps when it shrinks back on drying.

Lay the next piece of banding as quickly as possible, overlapping the first. Knife through both pieces to make the join, lift out the waste and hammer back down. If you're slow the glue may gel, but a quick touch with a hot glue brush should be enough to sort it out.

Repeat this process until one side is complete, with overhang at both ends. Start the next side, laying the stringing and first piece of crossbanding, overlapping the first side at the corner.

With a sharp knife, cut through the lot to form a mitred join at the corner, then proceed along the side as before, working around the table top until it is complete.

The last mitre is trickier, as the first side's veneer will have started to dry. Apply some hot glue to its surface to melt the glue holding it down, but only



Line fitted to an edge is glued and held with masking tape



Stringing should be cleaned up with a quality cabinet scraper

touching it briefly with a heated iron if absolutely necessary.

Shaped corners are approached slightly differently, as crossbanding for the corners must be cut to fit from the same template as the main veneer, then laid. Likewise, bending the stringing around a tight radius can be tricky. If you have difficulty, see below for details of routing square line inlay.

"Shaped corners are approached differently"

Stringing inlay

Line inlay is applied differently, and can also be used for composite lines, which tend to be thicker than a veneer, and indeed crossbanding, when fitted to a solid wood piece. Complete all groundwork, including any crossbanding, allow to dry and clean up as usual.

Route a groove or rebate to take the line, which is then glued into it using PVA or similar. If fitted into a groove, the router cutter must be carefully matched to the line inlay to avoid a loose or over-tight fit. At these sizes, typically 1.6, 2.4 or 3.2mm tolerances are close, so a test cut is advisable. Most suitable glues contain water, and will swell the line during application. Line fitted to a corner is glued and then clamped into the rebate, unless it's on a curve, when masking tape is used.

For grooves, the angle of rotation and low circumferential speed of these tiny cutters means the groove can easily become choked with waste. To compound the

problem, when routing into a previously veneered surface, the heat generated can melt the glue line.

To keep things clean, use a sharp two-flute cutter, plunging and advancing it slowly, proceeding no more than 75mm at a time, reversing the router back through the cut and forward again.

Cut the groove slightly shallower than the depth of the stringing, then run a line of PVA glue into it. Press the line gently into the groove with your fingers, then hammer it down – a good fit should not require clamping.

Cutting rebates for edge-fitted line can be done with any size of two-flute cutter – the danger here is tear-out, leaving a ragged edge. This will be much reduced by back-feeding the cutter. ●

Cleaning up

In the 18th century, veneered and inlaid work would be cleaned up entirely with the cabinet scraper. This is still the best tool for the job, and although the initial cleaning up can be done with a belt sander and a random orbital machine will finish-sand nicely, a sharp cabinet scraper will give the best results. This is especially true of contrasting timbers – rosewood sanding dust will embed itself into boxwood line, spoiling the effect, but a scraping action keeps the colours crisp.

NEW

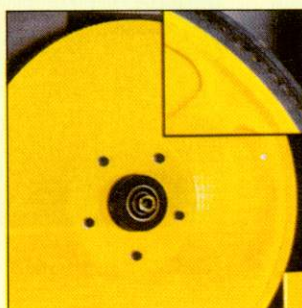
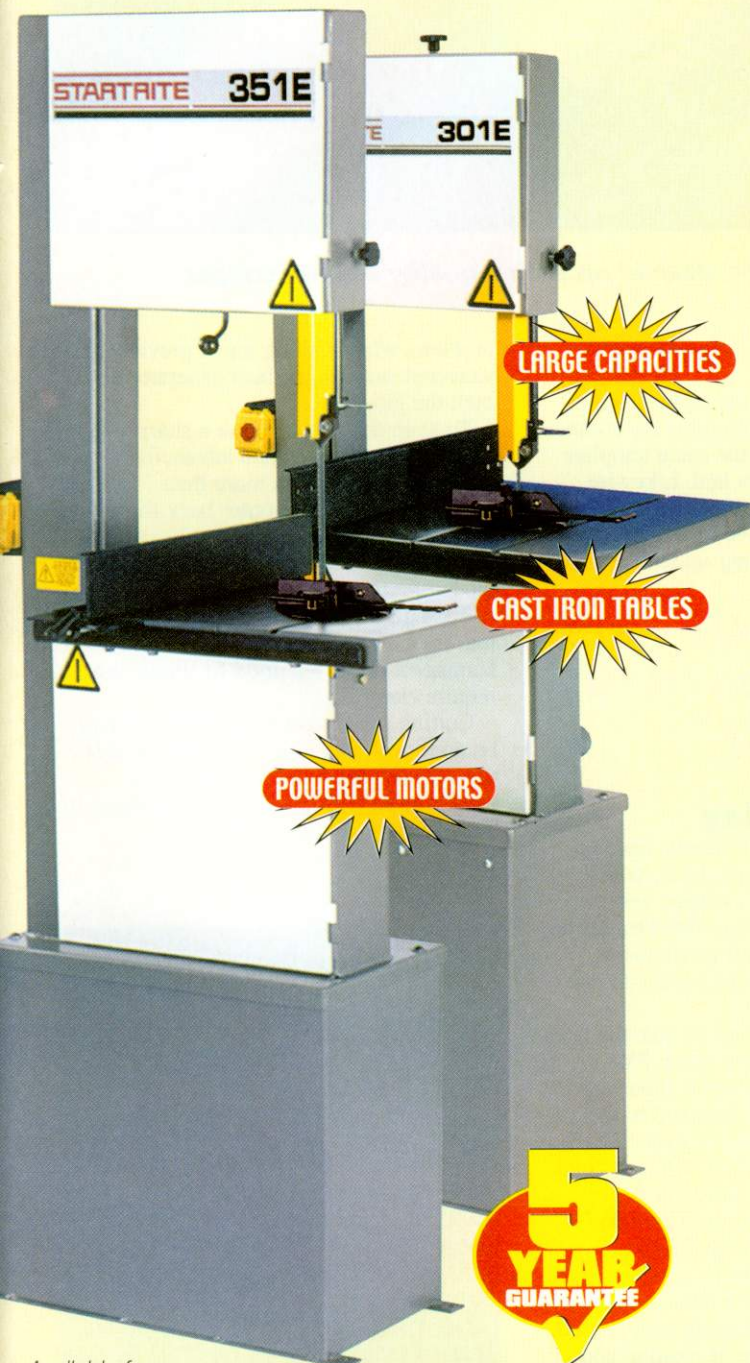
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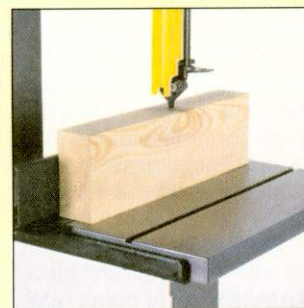
E-RANGE BANDSAWS

The new STARTRITE 301E and 351E bench mounted bandsawing machines have been designed for maximum cutting capacity and performance at a modest cost and will appeal to the enthusiastic amateur or professional woodworker.

Powerful drive motors provide a cutting speed suitable for all types of wood, timber products, laminates and plastics. The rugged steel saw frame construction provides the 301E with a throat capacity of 300mm with a full 200mm under the sawguides, while the 351E offers 350mm throat capacity and a height of 300mm under the guides. British manufactured, the new STARTRITE 301E and 351E will provide years of trouble free sawing.



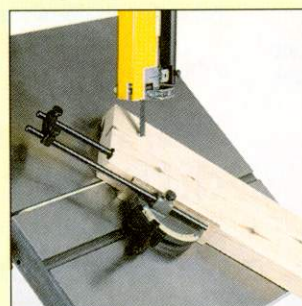
A solid pressed-steel bandwheel has a thick layer of rubber, vulcanised to the outside diameter of the wheel. The bandwheel is then precision ground with a convex form impressed on the bandwheel. This provides accurate blade tracking. The bandwheel is then dynamically balanced to ensure vibration-free running at high speed.



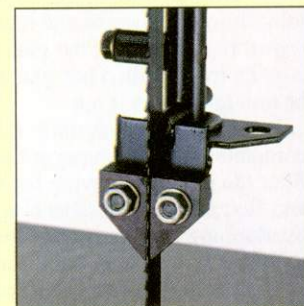
With the large capacity under the guides and powerful motors on the new 'E'-range from Startrite Machines, rip sawing is easy.

"I managed to cut 145mm deep softwood at a low feed rate. Ripping thinner 50mm stock was like slicing through soft cheese!"

Quote by Andy King, Technical Editor, Good Woodworking, Oct '99, Issue 88.



A solid cast table is supplied as standard on all the machines in the new 'E'-Range. Ribbed to give maximum strength and support, the table tilts to 45° with a graduated angular scale, enabling accurate mitre cuts to be made with ease.



The blade guidance system features top and bottom carbide thrust rods with large self-lubricating cast guide blocks to provide accurate cutting and maximum support, especially when precise contour cutting is required.

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Motor Power (kw)	0.75	1.1
Height Under Guides (mm)	200	300
Throat Depth (mm)	295	350
Min. Blade Width (mm)	3	3
Max. Blade Width (mm)	16	20
Blade Speed (m/min)	930	845
Table Height (mm)	435	535
Overall Height (mm)	1640	1830
Width (mm)	720	830
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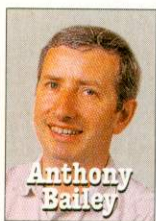
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Cool Router Project carry-case



Anthony Bailey takes care of your lightweight routers and cutters with a nifty carry-case

MOST professional routers come with a steel site case, but for some it may only be available as an extra. Small DIY routers don't have cases, though you might find a plastic case at some sort of a DIY warehouse. Steel or plastic, they are rather unlovely things, simply being functional, and not always that.

Casework

For more attractive storage, a properly-fitted box or case is better. I have designed this case to suit a $\frac{1}{4}$ in collet small router, but the design can be modified to accommodate a larger machine.

Note the use of tongue and groove for the casework. This is easy to do, and gives positive location and, once the front and

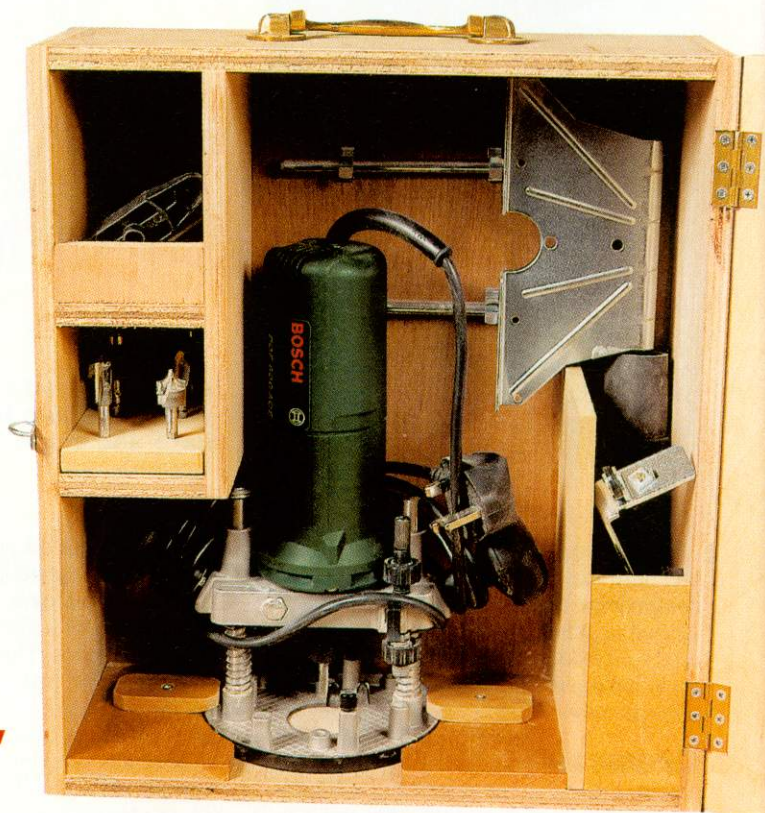
"The design can be altered for a larger machine"

back are on, strength too. There are some internal fittings which are cut to fit the individual machine, and 'turnbutton' strips to hold the router in place.

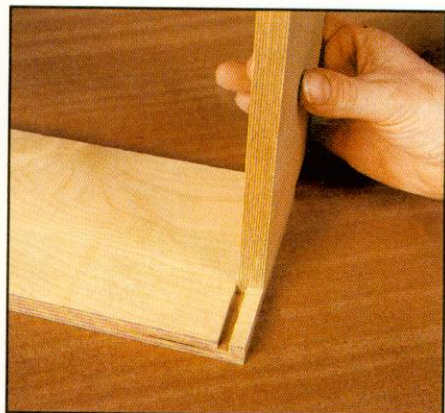
Also there are Terry clips for the fence and a compartment for all the little odds and ends. I have included a space for keeping half a dozen cutters, on the basis that if you take the router anywhere other than the workshop, you should always have something to cut with, even if you forget the cutter box! A large case handle is needed, which are available from hardware shops, and the hinges need to be recessed in.

Getting started

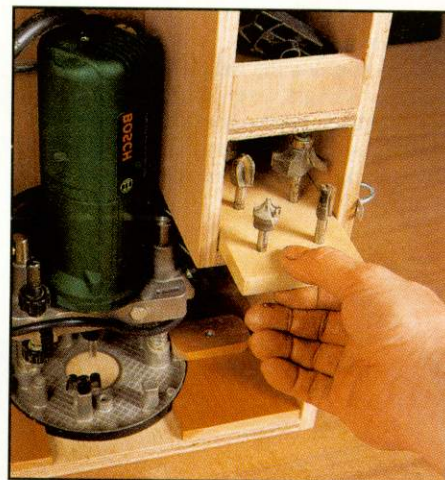
First of all cut some strips of 12 by 140mm wide ply, long enough to get all the case parts out of, except for the door and the back which we will do later. ▶



The completed case with router and accessories



Casework tongue and groove



Note the sliding cutter board and turnbutton strips

Materials

Two case sides	410 x 140 x 12
Top and bottom	360 x 140 x 12
Left-hand vertical divider	232 x 140 x 12
Base and shelf piece	140 x 90 x 12
Slide-out cutter board	139 x 89 x 12
Right-hand vertical divider	210 x 140 x 12
Divider front piece	120 x 50 x 12
Shaped piece to hold router base (2)	140 x 110 x 12
Case door	410 x 360 x 9
Back panel	410 x 360 x 6
Two short wood strips to make turnbuttons	60 x 30 x 10
16mm fixing pins for back panel	
PVA glue	
Four small Terry clips	
Pop rivets	
Short screws	
Hasp, staple, and padlock	
Flip-down brass handle	
Formica for under slide cutter board, and contact adhesive	
Two small brass hinges	



The completed case with flip-down handle, hasp and staple with padlock

♦ Cut all the pieces to length and check you have the correct number and sizes of components. Since most components are housed together using a tongue and groove this is included in the component sizes, some having a tongue at each end, others one end only.

Grooves

Machine the grooves first, using a 6.4mm straight cutter on the router table and a mitre protractor or a good square pushblock. You could do this freehand using a fence, though care is needed for a decent result.

Now machine the tongues using a larger diameter straight cutter again on the table and aim for a good tight fit. For all these operations fitting a through-fence will help the components slide across the fence opening smoothly.

Assemble all the components using PVA glue and 1½in panel pins, clean up, check for square and leave to set.

Now cut out a piece of 6mm or thinner ply for the back. This should be a fraction oversize. Glue and pin in place and use a small router and a bearing-guided cutter to trim exactly to case size.

Note that the pins must be flush with the surface or they will scratch the router base. Use a straight cutter or shallow mortice cutter if you have it, to achieve the neatest results on the hinge recesses.

Place the thickest part of the unfolded hinge under the depth stop rod after bringing the cutter down to surface level. Lower the rod to trap the hinge, this should be the correct recess depth.

Mark the hinge positions on the carcass and do the recesses with a strip of wood clamped alongside for extra router support.

Cut a piece of board slightly oversize again, as the door. Mark the hinge positions and recess as before. Screw the hinges on and close the door then trim the three unhinged edges as you previously did with the back panel.

The back of the case. Note the pop rivets used to fix the Terry clips inside

Handle

The handle needs to be bolted on if possible and the various clips fitted in place using long pop rivets and a drill to make the holes for them.

The cutter board should be a slightly loose fit and has two rows of holes drilled using a 6.4mm straight cutter in the router aiming on to cross lines wherever the holes need to be.

Use a larger piece of board and cut to size, that way the router will sit easily on it. The result is more precise than an ordinary drill so long as the router does not slide around whilst drilling; a good tip is to stick abrasive paper on the router base to prevent this kind of slippage.

Finally a hasp and staple with padlock complete this project and possibly a coat of varnish. Now your precious machine can sit tidily and safely on a shelf until you need it and it can also be carried about. ●

Tooling up

- Pop rivet gun
- ⅛in straight cutter
- ¾in straight cutter
- Bearing guided cutter
- T-square

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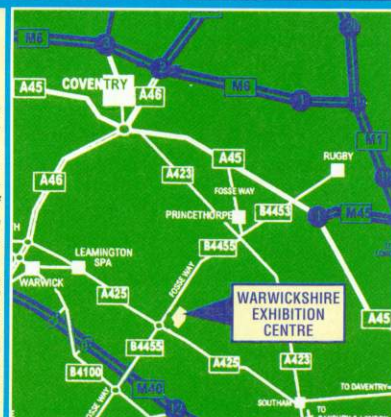
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FIXINGS MANUFACTURER ABC recently launched its new Pro-sort range which features its unique SPAX-S screw. Comprising a selection of their screw sizes, they're all safely housed in a durable storage case to prevent you leaving a trail of screws in your wake. There will be two options; one case containing just screws, and the other comprising both screws and a SPAX-S screwdriver. What's more, the cases are organised so that each screw size is housed in its own separate compartment, making selection quick and easy.

- ABC Pro-sort range, £39.99, not including the dreaded VAT
- Contact: ABC, Unit B, Saxon House, Henson Way, Kettering, Northants NN16 8PX. Tel: 01536 417038, Fax: 01536 311005



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WHO SAYS SAFETY GLASSES have to look odd or boring? The range of safety eyewear from Tilgear is very functional and safe but stylish as well. Take the metallic blue Denver with nylon frames, wired arms and side shields, for example. Then there's the Neptune with a silver top frame and arms and a one-piece eyeshield and sides. Or Top Flight which has a gold finish metal frame, one-piece abrasion resistant eyeshield and a nose-bridge and brow piece and clear side shields. The Madrid, which is made from clear polycarbonate, can be worn over prescription glasses, while the Standard goggles give economical directly ventilated eye protection and can also be worn over glasses. They're available in aqua blue or green. ■ Denver £4.64, Neptune £4.99, Top Flight £6.99, Madrid £1.76, Standard goggles £1.47. All prices inc VAT and the glasses are also available in packs of 4 (some also in 10s)

- Contact: Tilgear on 01707 873434

A Hex On You!

DO YOU USUALLY manage to lose Allen keys and spanners in piles of sawdust? Just think how much easier it'd be if all Allen keys remained neatly together. Thankfully Bondhus of the USA make these very neat high quality key sets rather like folding penknives. The metric version has seven keys from 2mm to 8mm while the imperial version has nine keys from $\frac{3}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The fibreglass reinforced handles are colour coded for ease of spotting in the aforementioned sawdust piles and are comfortable to use. The keys are made from high-grade chrome vanadium steel and heat treated for maximum torque. The key ends are chamfered for an easy fit every time.

- Folding Hex key sets: £4.64 (metric) inc VAT, £4.41 (Imperial) inc VAT
- Contact: Tilgear on 01707 873434

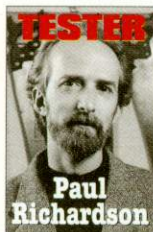
Brightly coloured for swarf-heap identification



Correction! In Anthony Bailey's Trend Unibase test in Issue 21 the Bosch GOF1600A and GOF1700 ACE units managed to slip through the net. The Trend Unibase also fits both these models. Sorry.

Big easy

**Router
Test**



What's green and yellow, and can make a hamster do 60mph? – the Record RDX600i. **Paul Richardson** cleans up his act

It doesn't take very long for a router user to feel the need for a dust extractor – generally about six feet of edge moulding. The dust created by a TCT router cutter running at up to 22,000rpm is extremely fine, and travels a surprising distance. This means mess, certainly, but that is only the start of the trouble.

"as soon as the mask comes off; whoosh – straight up your nose"

Trouble at mill

These fine dust particles can get straight past the body's natural defences, and there is little doubt that having done so, they present all kinds of dangers that you just don't want to know about. Wearing a mask is good, and using an air-fed helmet such as the Racal Airstream or Record's own Turbo Visor is even better, but the particles remain suspended in the air for hours – as soon as the mask comes off; whoosh – straight up your nose.

RDX600i – keeps your workshop free of dust and pets

That's not all. Your router likes being clogged up with dust as much as your lungs do, and will neither perform as well nor last as long as it should if left that way.

And finally – dust build-up in the cut while routing can cause cutters to overheat and interferes with the cutting action. Convinced?

High-pressure result

The RDX600i is a High Pressure Low Volume – HPLV – machine, meaning that it is the type most suitable for dealing with fine dust. These devices use a vacuum unit to create a strong suction, drawing the dust-laden air through a filter before blowing it back out.

The Record's motor is housed in an acoustic hood, below which is slung a cartridge filter not unlike the air filter of a car. A higher degree of filtration is provided by replaceable paper filters (imagine a brown paper bag...), fitted when needed around the cartridge.

This assembly sits on top of a steel drum, to which the hose is fitted and in which the dust is collected – again, bags are available to make emptying easier.

The hose supplied is a standard 100mm (4in) diameter, which is OK for machines and cleaning the floor but not much cop

Various accessories are available – routers will need the DX1500B hose reducer shown here



for power tools such as routers, for which an optional 32mm hose is needed.

In hand and in use

Does it work? You bet it does – I advise you to keep the family pet out of the workshop, because anything that comes near the hose ends up in the can, pronto. The RDX600i kept the working area clear in all routing situations, including some heavy panel-raising on my router table. With the paper filter fitted the workshop's air stayed clean; Record claim filtration down to 0.5 microns.

Noise levels are better than I expected – the acoustic hood works well – certainly quieter than my Elu 177E in full cry.

Conclusion

This is a well-made, effective solution to a common problem. It lacks such frills as automatic on/off switching and castors, but the price is very good and it does the job well. If you need an extractor to sit by your bench or router table, this passes the hamster test. ●

Price list

Capacity	45 litres
Motor	1kw
Dimensions	625h 368w
Weight	11kg
Air flow (per second)	53 litres
Price	£129.00 inc. VAT





An opportunity to showcase my beloved Elu 97E

My router workshop

I had been at my desk for only three days when our managing editor came up with the really funny idea that the new editor should review his own life and work. So, with heaps of humility, **Carlo Jolly** interviews himself

BELIEVE it or not, I was born in Rangoon, Burma, back in 1962. Perhaps even harder to believe is the fact that our new deputy editor, Dave Campbell, was a toddler in Burma at the same time! Anyway, enough about synchronicity. My family moved to England and settled down in the suburbs of south-west London, my father a doctor, my mother a mother.

As far as my relationship with wood goes, I guess it all really began in 1968, when I was six. My feuding parents would fly me off for school holidays to my

maternal grandmother, who lived in a small, fortified town in northern Italy. My uncle had recently married a local girl whose father was an extraordinary gifted woodcarver and furniture-maker, running his own studio and workshop with a couple of cabinet makers just down from the main piazza. For reasons I still do not fully understand, I made the place my home and would clock on and off with Mario and the guys each day creating would-be Turner-Prize-winning pieces out of shavings, off-cuts, glue and any and every nail in sight.

The woodless years

Years passed. I grew up. I went to St Bedes preparatory boarding school in Eastbourne; got educated; played sport. I forgot about wood. I was then sent to Epsom College by a father who wanted me to follow him into the medical profession. I had other plans, and at fifteen I became the top junior pentathlete in the country, was offered a variety of scholarships by prestigious American universities, took the appropriate exams, chose the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on account of its high academic rating, grabbed my trunks, epee, competition pistol, cross-country spikes and riding hat, and jumped on a plane. That was 1978, the year Madonna was a sophomore at Michigan.

Eight years later I left Michigan, having completed my coursework for a doctorate in medieval literature. I flew to Bombay, India, to work on the launch of the Indian Post newspaper. Then came The Economist newspaper, Focus Publications, VNU Business Publications, and finally Moving Pictures International. By then I was married, living in West Sussex (like my predecessor Alan) and looking for a profound change in my life. It came after my daughter Ellie was born, round about the time when I walked into Simon Horn's Fulham showroom and was knocked unconscious by the price of his children's Bateau beds. When I regained my composure I walked out of the showroom, quit my job, bought a pair of Levi dungarees and a cheap Bosch jigsaw, and, after an agonising amount of screaming, made my daughter a pine crib, painted powder blue, with fish-shaped cut-out handles and removable rockers. We still have it.

I officially became the Woodman of Wessex on 8 April 1994. I had wanted to call myself the Woodman of Wyoming, but my wife pointed out that we were living in England at the time. My daughter originally came up with the name, aged only 8 months. I had just presented her with a tiny fish rattle I had made out of beech. The first thing she did was shove it in her mouth; the second was to say 'wow'. W.O.W, I thought... nice.

As the saying goes, one thing led to another. Friends started asking me to make toys for their children. I bought a 14in Hegner scroll saw, a 400w Bosch drill, 620w PBS 75E Bosch belt sander, 250w PEX 125AE Bosch random orbital sander,



One of the Romanesque beds. As you can see, the Elu worked overtime

120w PDA 120E Bosch detail sander, Hitachi 82mm power hand planer, Stanley hammers, screwdrivers, nails, the usual early-learner stuff, and moved them, along with a comfy chair, into a 6x9ft cell off one of my in-laws' Sussex barns at Hammer Farm, Hammer Vale. I quickly realised that simply loving wood was not enough of an education to call myself a woodman. So I went back to school as a mature student, and took up the offer of an apprenticeship at Milland Fine Timber. I could not learn fast enough, and I got to dress up like a lumberjack every day and carry a packed lunch to work.

Going professional

Time passed; I acquired the techniques to create my work; then had a series of shows to get noticed. The first, at the Haslemere Museum, was a success – thanks to the friends and family vote. Travels I and II followed at the Farnham Maltings, which helped to harden me to the cruel world of self-promotion and the hard slog which lay ahead. I had retained a healthy number of contacts from my magazine days and

approached a sympathetic graphic designer friend in Brighton who was prepared to let me put together press releases, letterheads, leaflets, cards and a whole heap of literature on the Woodman of Wessex, in return for a series of monogrammed place mats and a set of building blocks, both out of English oak. Having been an editor, I knew exactly what kind of post went straight in the bin and what made it to the editor's desk. I carpet-bombed the lifestyle sector of the magazine industry, and for my efforts gained coverage in *Vogue*, *The World of Interiors*, *Gardens Illustrated*, *Period Living and Traditional Homes*, *Country Homes & Interiors*, *Country Living*, *House and Garden*, *Inspirations* and a feature in the Lorenz book, *Making Birdhouses*.

I bought my first router, an 1100w Elu 97E, perhaps the most beautifully designed and balanced hand tool ever made. Then came an Elu EB53401 band saw, which meant that the comfy chair had to go. This was serious. I was getting professional. With a little arm-twisting and a lot of moaning I managed to free up the end of

one of my in-laws' disused chicken sheds, and began the costly process of paying an electrician firstly to get power down to it, and then to wire it up (£500). With £300 worth of MDF boards and insulation, 10 litres of paint, a self-made beech work bench and a pile of army surplus cupboards donated by a friend's dad, I set up my new workshop. With all that space I just had to buy an Axminster CH16 bench drill with morticing attachment and a host of single spur mortice chisels, a Delta 10in cross-cut, a Tormek Super Grind, a set of Stubai carving chisels and a Nobex 180 Champion mitre saw.

Full of confidence, I put together my first set of portfolios in four Tessa Fantoni albums kindly gifted to WOW by my hard-working wife. Did I mention we met at *The Economist*, and that she is a startlingly talented editor? Armed with these albums, I went to London to talk to those nice people at The General Trading Company, The Chelsea Gardener and The Conran Shop. The first two gave me work, the GTC my own window display of bird boxes and trugs to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. The Conran Shop said they would call, but never did.

Expanding business

Although the money helped me purchase a Kity 419 circular saw and a Sedgwick 10in planer thicknesser, I found the repetitive nature of retail work both monotonous and uninspiring. When my initial orders were completed I did not seek more. What I wanted was to design bespoke furniture for fine homes. But how do you go about making the leap from pieces worth only hundreds of pounds to those worth thousands? How do you get to make these grand pieces of furniture if you have no grand pieces in your portfolios to show prospective clients? What I needed was a client with both blind faith and money. And after a year, suddenly three appeared at once – like the proverbial bus.

I spent half of 1998 and most of 1999 making four pieces: a kitchen temple called the 561, that being the number of individual pieces of hardwood needed for its construction; a 10ft solid oak dining table called The Veneto Table on account of the client's love of the region around Venice; a brace of single beds, also in solid oak, which I called Romanesque Beds due to the proportions of the head and footboards, and a set of three bookcases in burr elm and painted pine. By this time I had met and teamed up with a woodman in Midhurst called Colin Rundle, who shares a fully kitted-out workshop with two other cabinet-makers. Not only did this save me having to buy my own industrial machines, it also alleviated much of my loneliness. Relatively happy as I was, although still far from financially stable, I started to feel restless with life again. And then, last December I got my friend's call about a job that was tailor-made for me. I guess the rest is soon to become history. ●



The Kitchen Temple took four months to make and most of my sanity

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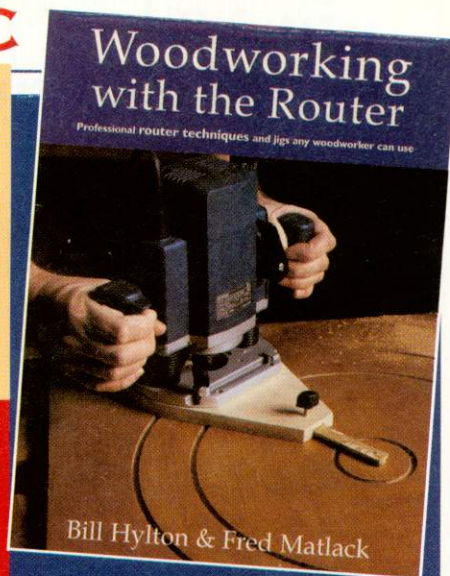
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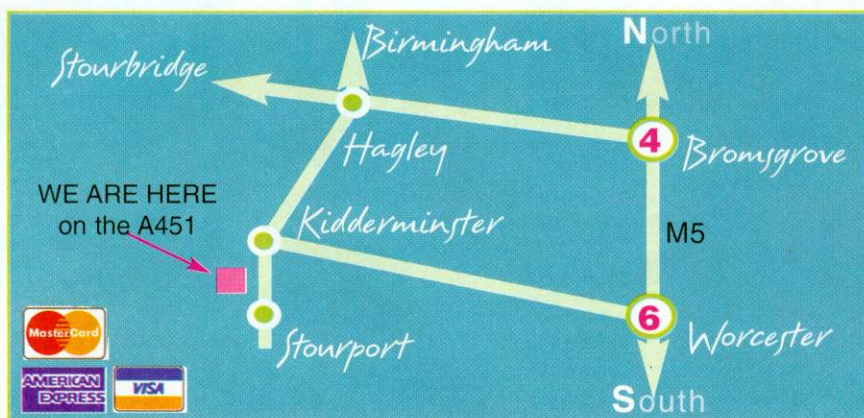
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BISCUIT JOINTERS

Model	Watts	Depth Of Cut	Price
Makita 3901	590w	20mm	£236.00
Bosch GUF4-22A	620w	22mm	£199.00
Dewalt 582K	600w	20mm	£239.00

MITRE SAWS



Model	Watts	Max Cut at 90 deg	Price
Makita LS1040	800w	93x95mm	£229.00
Makita LS1013	1650w	91x305mm	£569.00
Dewalt DW704	1500w	98.5x200mm	£469.00
Dewalt DW705	1500w	98.5x200mm	£469.00
Dewalt DW708	1500w	102x205mm	£669.00
Dewalt DW742	1650w	FUP OVER	£699.00

PLANERS



Model	Watts	Max Per Pass	Price
Makita 1902	550w	1mm	£85.00
Makita N1923BD	550w	1mm	£170.00
Makita 1923H	850w	3.5mm	£179.00
Bosch GH031-82 Kit	750w	3.1mm	£161.00
Bosch GH036-82	850w	3.6mm	£195.00
Dewalt DW678K	850w	4mm	£211.00
Dewalt DW678EK	900w	4mm	£255.00

SANDERS

Model	Watts	Belt Size	Price
Makita 9401	1040w	100x610mm	£250.00
Makita 9924DB	1000w	76x610mm	£193.00
Bosch G8575AE	750w	75x533mm	£195.00
Bosch G85100A	1200w	100x610x20mm	£237.00

JIGSAWS

Model	Watts	Max Cut In Wood	Price
Bosch GST100BCE	650w	110mm	£117.00
Bosch GST2000	980w	85mm	£129.00
Makita 4304	600w	110mm	£119.00
Makita 4304T	600w	110mm	£124.00
Dewalt DW321K	650w	110mm	£149.00

CORDLESS TOOLS



Panasonic Cordless Tools



Model	Voltage	Batt Type	Chuck size	Price
Panasonic EY6406F	12v	NiCd	10mm	£181.00
Panasonic EY6407N	12v	NiMH	13mm	£205.00
Panasonic EY6901F	12v	NiCd	10mm	£199.00
Panasonic EY6431N	15.6v	NiMH	13mm	£245.00
Panasonic EY6930N	15.6v	NiMH	13mm	£296.00



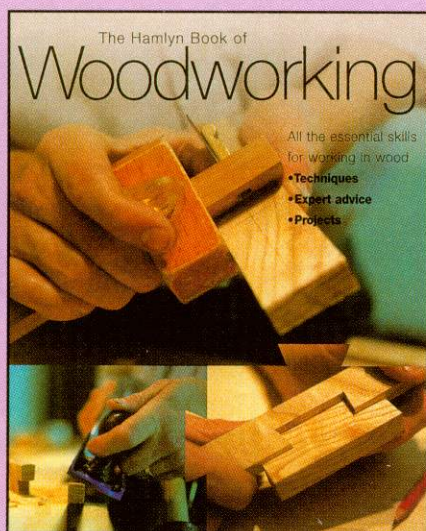
Model	Voltage	Batt Type	Chuck size	Price
Makita 6343DWB-EX	18v	NiMH	13mm	£278.00
Makita 6333DWB-EX	14.4v	NiMH	13mm	£169.00
Makita 6336DWB-EX	14.4v	NiMH	13mm	£208.00
Makita 6316DWB-EX	12v	NiMH	13mm	£199.00

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E+OE. Prices include VAT and are all subject to availability.



The Hamlyn Book of Woodworking

Technical Consultant Declan O'Donoghue

£25, Hardback,
232pp, full colour
ISBN 0 600 59214 6

CALL ME A PLEB, but I'm afraid that a reference book which confuses art with clarity loses Brownie points straight away. My first – and I have to say unworthy – thought on opening this tome was that its deliberately blurred photography detracts from its authority, and that's a pity given the high degree of respect earned by Hamlyn.

So it's sorry to photographers Colin Bowling and Paul Forrester. Next time, lads, don't listen when the art editor goes all luvvie; normal and sharply in focus will do nicely.

To be fair, for a good proportion of the pictures that is exactly what is reproduced; it's just a pity about the remainder...

Mark Ripley is one of an impressive line-up of makers who have contributed to this book which attempts to cover the whole gamut of woodworking, from setting up a workshop to producing the finished piece, via joint-making techniques, tools and machinery, carving, woodturning, designing and finishing.

Besides Ripley, Declan O'Donoghue has drawn upon the knowledge of fellow Parnham graduate Christian Gaze, Parnham teacher Ben Harms, Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Furniture

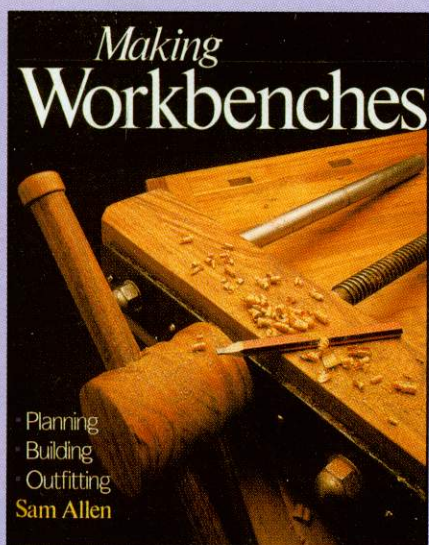
Makers and Rural Development Commission furniture adviser Peter Hoggard, Parnham teacher and woodturner Dave Regester, and another Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers' Liveryman and an external examiner at The Furniture College, Letterfrack, Andrew Varah.

Where are they, though? Having gained the participation of these experts, Hamlyn seem to have gone to a lot of trouble to conceal their presence – a pity.

The acknowledged market for this book is the amateur who wants to acquire the skills of the professional. My own doubt, however, is that any one of its chapters goes into its subjects deeply enough to satisfy aspirant makers craving complex technical know-how, although the information that is offered is good as far as it goes.

Expect to receive this book for your birthday from Auntie Flo who's heard you like doing a bit of woodwork; be suitably grateful, remove the cover so as not to mark it, read it when there's nothing on the telly, replace the cover and put it away until Christmas, when it will do very well as a present for Cousin Albert.

Andrea Hargreaves



Making Workbenches

Sam Allen

Sterling, 1995
£11.99, Softback
160pp, b&w
ISBN 0 8069 0535 2

"A WORKBENCH is more than a table, it is a tool". These are wise words from the author, whose mission is to create the ideal bench.

The woodworking bench's primary function is to hold wood securely while it is being worked; this is mainly achieved by a vice, of which there are many varieties – the familiar iron, quick-release type, the versatile pattern maker's vice and the wide twin-screw type, are just a few. Beyond the vice, bench hooks, holdfasts, board jacks, poppets and clamping dogs are all devices for holding work; some may even be familiar! Their functions are described fully, as are the methods of fitting them.

A chapter on tools to complement the bench, like marking gauges, squares, saws and planes is included, and Sam details good procedures for their use.

A bench is also a flat surface to raise projects to a convenient working height, and its size must be carefully considered. A large bench will not only take up valuable workshop space but can be difficult to use for smaller workpieces. In many workshops, including mine, a bench is a handy surface to dump all

manner of workshop clutter – this leaves about two square inches to work on until a ruthless clean-up campaign is implemented, usually with a large piece of wood.

The author is well aware that no bench design is perfect for everyone and will depend on many things from the type of work undertaken to the stature of the user. He describes, with the use of good drawings – and not so good, but adequate, black and white photographs – the construction of benches suitable for furniture making, carving, veneering, chairmaking and guitar making.

If you are in the market for a new bench and the shop-bought one just don't fit the bill, a read of Making Workbenches will help you to build the bench of your dreams.

Alan Goodsell

■ All books may be ordered from our mail order department – add p&p: £2.50 UK, £3.50 overseas plus £1.50 per additional book. **Contact:** GMC Publications Ltd, 166 High St., Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1XU tel 01273 488005, fax 01273 478606

Router specifications

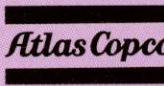
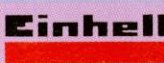
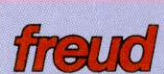
Brand name	Model	Wattage	6mm collet	¹ / ₄ in collet	8mm collet	³ / ₈ in collet	12mm collet	¹ / ₂ in collet
AEG	OFE 710	710W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Atlas Copco	OFSE 1000	1000W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Atlas Copco	OFSE 2000	2000W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Black & Decker	KW 780	600W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Black & Decker	KW 780E	600W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Bosch	POF 500 A	500W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Bosch	POF 600 ACE	600W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Bosch	900 ACE	900W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Bosch	GOF 1300 ACE	1300W	Option	Yes	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Bosch	GOF 1600 A	1600W	No	Yes	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Bosch	GOF 1700 ACE	1700W	No	Yes	Option	Option	Option	Yes
DeWalt	DW613	800W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
DeWalt	DW620	900W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
DeWalt	DW621	1100W	Option	Option	No	No	No	No
DeWalt	DW625 EK	1850W	Option	Yes	Option	No	Option	Yes
DeWalt	DW670	600W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Einhell	EOF 850SP	850W	Option	Option	Yes	No	No	No
Elu	MOF96E	900W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Elu	OF97	900W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Elu	OF97EK	1100W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Elu**	MOF177	1600W	Option	Yes	Option	No	Option	Yes
Elu	MOF177EK	1850W	Option	Yes	Option	No	Option	Yes
Flex Porter Cable	OFT3 12VV	1710W	Option	Option	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Festo	OF 1000 Plus	900W	Option	No	Yes	Option	No	No
Festo	OF 1000 EB Plus	900W	Option	Yes	Yes	Option	No	No
Festo	OF 2000 Plus	1600W	Option	Option	Yes	Option	Yes	Option
Festo	OF 2000 E Plus	1800W	Option	Option	Yes	Option	Yes	Option
Freud	FT2000E	1800W	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hitachi	ZK 2008	550W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hitachi	M8	800W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hitachi	M8V	800W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hitachi	M12SA	1600W	No	Option	No	Option	No	Yes
Hitachi	M12V	1850W	No	Yes	No	Option	No	Yes
Holz Her	2355	800W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Holz Her	2356	1010W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kress	FM6955	550W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Mafell	LO 50E	900W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Mafell	LO 65E	1800W	Option	Option	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Makita	3620	860W	Option	Yes	Option	Yes	Option	Option
Makita	3621C	1850W	Option	Yes	Option	Yes	Option	Yes
Makita	3612	1650W	Option	Yes	Option	Yes	Option	Yes
Metabo	OFE 1229 Signal	1200W	Option	Yes	Option	No	No	No
Metabo	OFE 1812	1800W	Option	Option	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Power Devil	PDW5027	850W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Perles	OF 808	850W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Ryobi	RE 120	570W	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ryobi	RE155K	800W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Ryobi	R 600N	2050W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Ryobi	RE601	2050W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Skil	1875UI	1400W	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Sparky	X52E	500W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Trend	T5E	850W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Trend	T9E	1800W	Option	Yes	Option	Option	Option	Yes
Virutex	FR77C	850W	Option	Option	Yes	No	No	No
Virutex	FR78C	850W	Option	Option	Yes	No	No	No
Virutex	FR66F	1100W	Option	Option	Yes	No	No	No
Woodcut	WTC-1800E	1800W	Option	Option	Option	Option	Option	Yes

Information is correct at time of going to press as supplied by manufacturers. If any new models become available please let us know. Prices are all manufacturers' list prices – shopping around will help to find discounts.

Key: TR# = The Router issue tested; NYT = not yet tested by The Router; ** = tested as DeWalt 621.

Max. plunge	RPM	Soft start	Voltage	Spindle lock	Dust extraction	Weight	Test	Price
50mm (2in)	10,000–30,000	Yes	240V	Yes	No	2.9kg	TR10	£234
50mm (2in)	8,000–25,000	Yes	240V	Yes	No	2.7kg	NYT	£355
75mm (3in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.2kg	TR3	£478
55mm (2¼in)	30,000	No	240V	Yes	Yes	3.0kg	NYT	£135
55mm (2¼in)	8,000–30,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	3.0kg	TR10	£153
52mm (2in)	27,000	No	240V	No	Yes	2.4kg	NYT	£131
52mm (2in)	12,000–27,000	Yes	240V	No	Yes	2.0kg	TR10	£184
50mm (2in)	12,000–26,500	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.5kg	TR1	£341
60mm (2½in)	12,000–24,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	4.8kg	TR9	£401
75mm (3in)	25,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.7kg	TR2	£398
75mm (3in)	8,000–23,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.8kg	TR7	£488
35mm (1¾in)	27,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	2.8kg	TR1	£233
55mm (2¼in)	24,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.1kg	NYT	£282
55mm (2¼in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.1kg	TR1	£376
64mm (2½in)	24,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	TR3	£562
22mm (1¾in)	30,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	1.9kg	NYT	£233
50mm (2in)	24,000	No	240V	Yes	Yes	n/a	TR1	£165
55mm (2¼in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	2.9kg	NYT	£329
55mm (2¼in)	24,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.3kg	NYT	£282
55mm (2¼in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.3kg	TR1**	£364
65mm (2½in)	20,000	No	240/110V	Yes	No	5.1kg	NYT	£493
65mm (2½in)	20,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	TR1	£535
73mm (2½in)	10,000–21,000	Yes	240V	No	Yes	7.8kg	TR5	£685
55mm (2¼in)	10,000–22,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	2.7kg	NYT	£321
55mm (2¼in)	10,000–22,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	2.7kg	TR11	£321
65mm (2½in)	25,500	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	NYT	£445
65mm (2½in)	12,000–22,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	TR3	£525
70mm (2¾in)	8,000–22,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.9kg	TR2	£341
52mm (2in)	27,000	No	240V	No	No	2.3kg	TR10	£143
50mm (2in)	25,000	No	240/110V	Yes	No	2.7kg	TR1	£264
50mm (2in)	10,000–25,000	No	240/110V	Yes	No	2.8kg	NYT	£328
62mm (2½in)	22,000	No	240/110V	Yes	No	5.2kg	TR2	£339
62mm (2½in)	8,000–20,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	No	5.3kg	TR3	£469
50mm (2in)	25,000	No	240/110V	Yes	No	2.7kg	NYT	£235
50mm (2in)	8,000–25,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	No	2.7kg	NYT	£310
44mm (1¾in)	8,000–25,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	No	2.7kg	NYT	£310
50mm (2in)	10,000–22,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	1.6kg	TR10	£199
65mm (2½in)	8,000–20,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.5kg	TR4	£395
35mm (1¾in)	24,000	No	240V	No	No	2.4kg	TR10	£220
60mm (2½in)	9,000–23,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	6.0kg	NYT	£432
60mm (2½in)	22,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.8kg	NYT	£398
50mm (2in)	5,000–25,500	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.4kg	TR1	£428
80mm (3½)	8,000–22,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	TR3	£570
43mm (1¾in)	9,000–28,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	3.7kg	TR16	£50
50mm (2in)	25,000	No	240V	No	No	n/a	NYT	£185
55mm (2¼in)	17,000–28,000	No	240V	Yes	Yes	2.2kg	TR10	£199
50mm (2in)	16,000–27,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.0kg	TR1	£298
60mm (2½in)	23,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	6.2kg	NYT	£398
60mm (2½in)	10,000–23,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	6.2kg	TR2	£469
63.5mm (2½in)	8,000–22,000	Yes	240V	No	Yes	4.5kg	TR2	£316
52mm (2in)	8,000–33,000	Yes	240V	No	Yes	2.2kg	TR10	£105
50mm (2in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	3.1kg	TR7	£217
75mm (3in)	8,000–22,000	Yes	240/110V	Yes	Yes	5.2kg	TR9	£351
50mm (2in)	24,000	No	240/110V	Yes	Yes	3.1kg	NYT	£182
50mm (2in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	2.9kg	TR15	£190
60mm (2½in)	23,000	No	240V	Yes	Yes	3.8kg	TR15	£175
80mm (3½in)	8,000–24,000	Yes	240V	Yes	Yes	5.1kg	TR6	£259

Router contacts

Product	Company	Address	Tel	Fax
 	Atlas Copco Tools Ltd.	PO Box 79, Swallowdale Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7HA	01442 261201	01442 240596
 	Atlas Copco Tools Ltd.	PO Box 79, Swallowdale Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7HA	01442 261201	01442 240596
   	Axminster Power Tool Centre	Chard Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5DZ	01297 33656	01297 35242
  	Black & Decker Power Tools Ltd.	210 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1YD	01753 511234	01753 500843
   	Robert Bosch Ltd.	PO Box 98, Broadwater Park, North Orbital Road, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5HT	01895 834466	01895 838388
  	CMT Tools (UK)	80 Ninfield Road, Sidley, Bexhill, E. Sussex TN39 5BB	01424 214233	01424 819909
  	DeWalt Power Tools Ltd.	210 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3YD	01753 567055	01753 521312
 	Blades	271 Botley Road, Burridge, Southampton, SO31 1BS	01489 885221	01489 885221
 	Hamilton Power products	Unit 12, Grangeway Business Pk, Whitehall Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 8HF	01206 798600	01206 798799
   	Minden Industrial Ltd.	Saxham Business Park, Saxham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6DX	01284 760791	01284 702156
  	Freud Tooling UK Ltd.	Unit 3 Emmanuel Trading Estate, Springwell Road, Leeds LS12 1AT	0113 245 3737	0113 243 8883
   	Hitachi Power Tools	Precedent Drive, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK13 8PJ	01908 660663	01908 232868
  	Cheetham Tool Group distributor	Rhosddu Industrial Estate, Wrexham LL11 4YL	01978 291771	01978 290068
  	Jesada Tools UK	Weycroft Avenue, Millwey Rise Ind. Est., Axminster, Devon EX13 5HU	01297 33656	01297 35242

Key:  cutters  accessories  routers

Product	Company	Address	Tel	Fax
 	BMJ Power	305 Dewsbury Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS11 5LJ	0113 2714019	0113 2778341
  	KWO Tools (UK) Ltd.	4 Strawberry Vale, Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SJ	01732 364444	01732 351144
 	NMA Agencies	34 Elmfield Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD2 2XH	01484 531446	01484 432906
   	Makita (UK) Ltd.	Mitchigan Drive, Tongwell, Milton Keynes MK15 8JD	01908 211678	01908 211400
  	Metabo (UH) Ltd.	25 Majestic Road, Nursling Ind. Est., Southampton, Hampshire SO16 0YT	02380 732000	02380 745500
  	Cheetham Tool Group distributor	Rhosddu Industrial Estate, Wrexham LL11 4YL	01978 291771	01978 290068
  	Ryobi Power Equipment (UK) Ltd.	Pavillion 1, Olympus Park Business Centre, Quedgeley, Glos GL2 6NF	01452 724777	01452 727400
   	Screwfix Direct	Screwfix Direct, Yeovil, BA22 8BF	0500 414141	0800 056 2256
 	Skil Power Tools	PO Box 98, Broadwater Park, North Orbital Road, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5HT	01895 838743	01895 838802
  	M & M Tools (UK)	8 Wainwright Road, Bexhill, E. Sussex, TN39 3UR	01424 216897	01424 730674
  	Titman Tip Tools Ltd.	Kennedy Way, Valley Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 4AB	01255 220123	01255 221422
   	Trend Machinery & Cutting Tools Ltd	Unit 6, Odhams Trading Est. Watford, WD2 5TR	0800 487363	01923 236879
  	Ney Ltd.	Falkland Close, Charter Avenue Industrial Estate, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 8UA	01203 420300	01203 420360
  	Wealden Tool Company	31 Branbridges Industrial Estate, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5HF	0800 3284183	07000 564636
   	The Woodcut Trading Company	80 Ninfield Road, Sidley, Bexhill, E. Sussex TN39 5BB	0800 378027	01424 819909

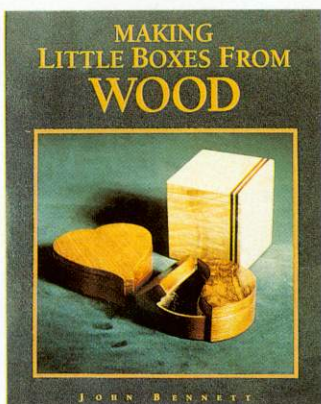
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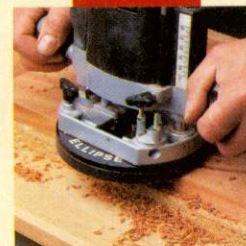
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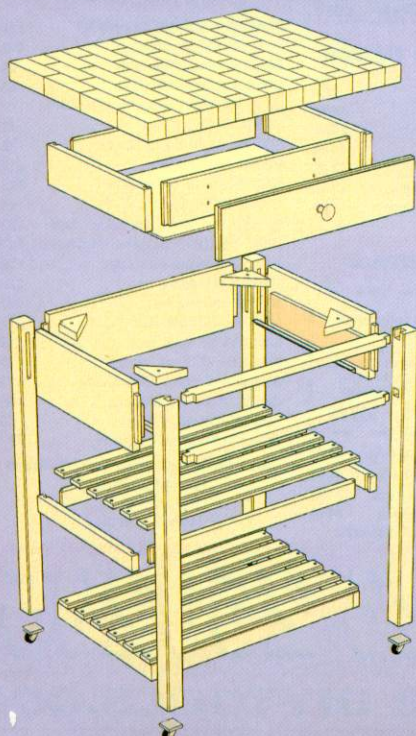
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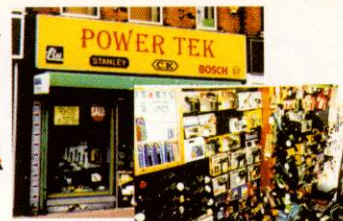
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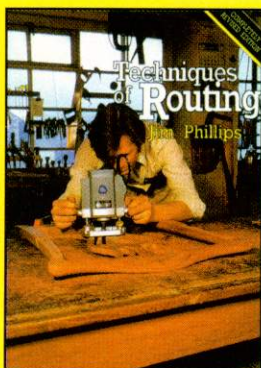
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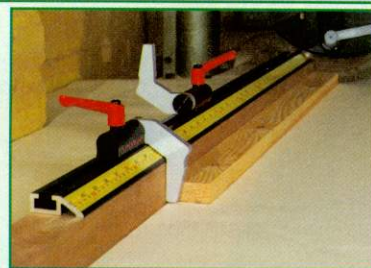
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BITS & PIECES

Company Name & Address	Telephone & Facsimile No.s	Routers	Router Cutters	Jigs & Accessories	Sharpening	Extra Details
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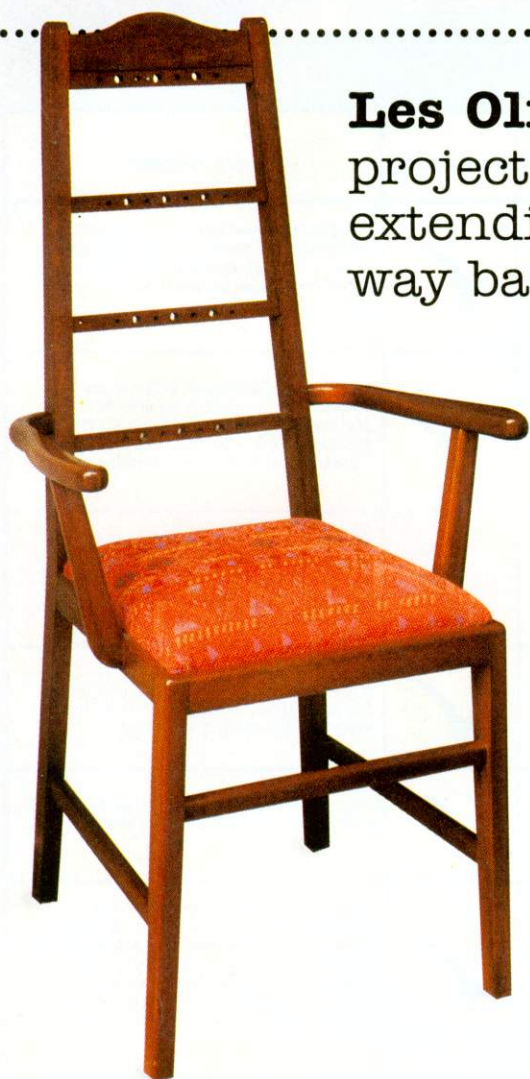


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Next issue of **The Router**



Les Oliver completes a fine chair project to compliment the circular extending table he made for us way back in issue 3.

Technical guru **Anthony Bailey** puts the top middleweight (and priced) router contenders into the test ring.



We get to grips with the new DeWalt DE2000 router table and a bevy of quality accessories.



Plus The Router regulars packed with new product information, hot tips, techniques and fun projects.

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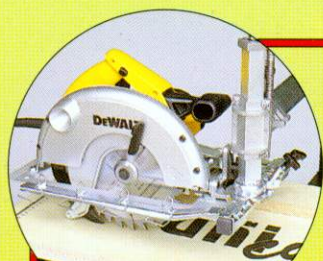
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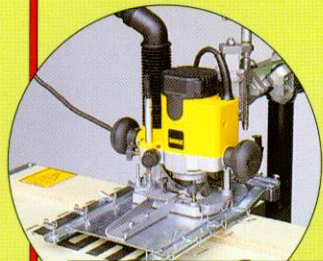
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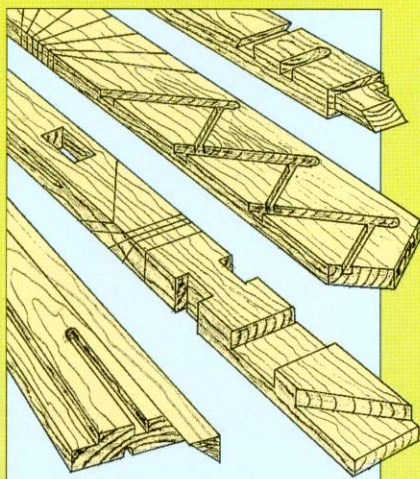
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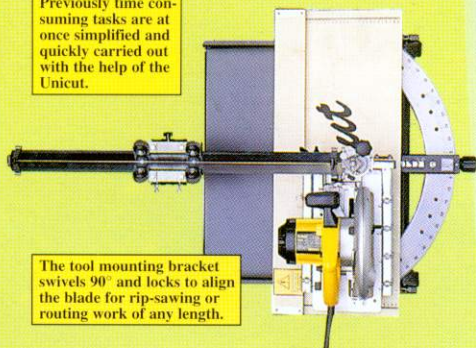
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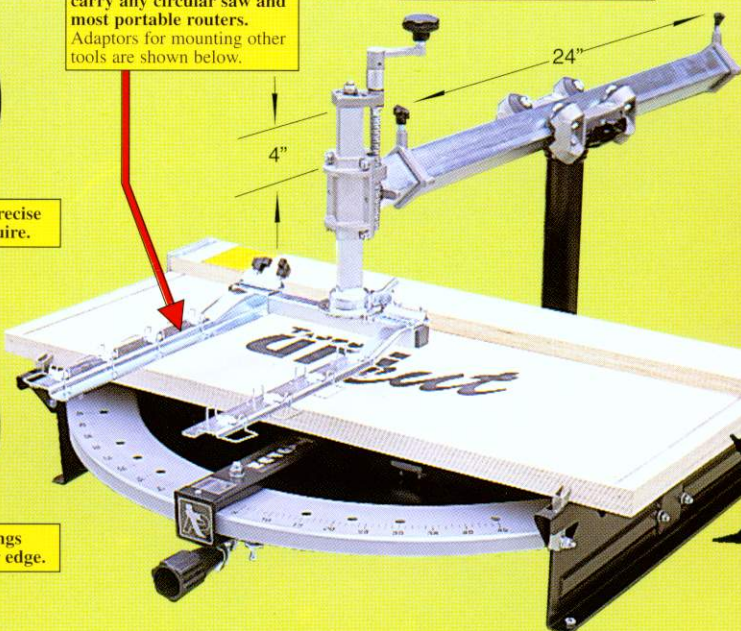


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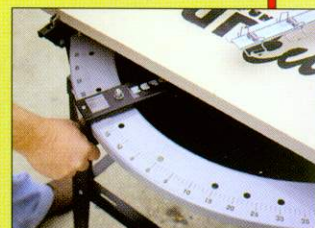
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