

Pint-Size Precision

THE TERM "PRECISION" tends to be thrown around with abandon, but in this case, it's warranted. Imagine gene-splicing a micrometer with a plunge base, and then shrinking it; that's the new Micro Plunge Base from Micro Fence. It's a miniature version of their standard Precision Plunge Base—made for compact routers. Combined with the Micro Fence Edge Guide (shown here, but only available as an accessory), the Micro Fence system oozes quality.

For intricate inlay work, detailed moldings, guitar and luthier work, small hardware installation and scale model building, even a compact router can seem unwieldy. The Micro Plunge Base is sized for use with smaller units, such as the Dremel and Proxxon high-speed rotary tools. Each requires a different collar/adaptor to fit the base. Adding the base to one of these tools creates a precision machine that's easy to manage, yet has a substantial feel.

Though operation looks complex, it's quite simple. One of the handles locks or releases the plunge mechanism. Gross depth adjustment is accomplished with the depth stop rod. The rod's end contacts a rotating turret that has detents for 1/32", 1/16" and 1/8" depth settings. Locking the depth stop rod in place allows you to fine-tune the depth setting with a micrometer dial that's accurate to .001".

The Micro Plunge Base includes one acrylic insert for whichever rotary tool you have, one LED light that mounts in the base, a driver for assembly and adjustment, and a sample bottle of spindle oil.

There are a number of optional accessories available. The baseplate is recessed to accommodate an insert that holds a standard router guide bushing; Micro Fence makes a set of precision guide bushings as well. Another accessory—automatic center-



ing bearings—allows you to instantly center a cut on parts up to about 3" wide. The bearings mount in drilled and tapped holes in the baseplate. The small bits used in a high-speed rotary tool don't create a lot of dust, but you can also purchase a dust shroud that fastens with thumbscrews.

Micro Fence's Edge-Guide—also equipped with a micrometer-style adjustment—and Circle Jig Attachments both work with the Micro Plunge Base. If you already own the Edge-Guide or Circle Jig, you'll need a special adapter plate to fit them to the Micro Plunge Base.

SOURCE

Micro Fence, microfence.com, 800-480-6427, Micro Plunge Base, \$300.