

TOOL TEST

Micro-Fence Router Guide

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
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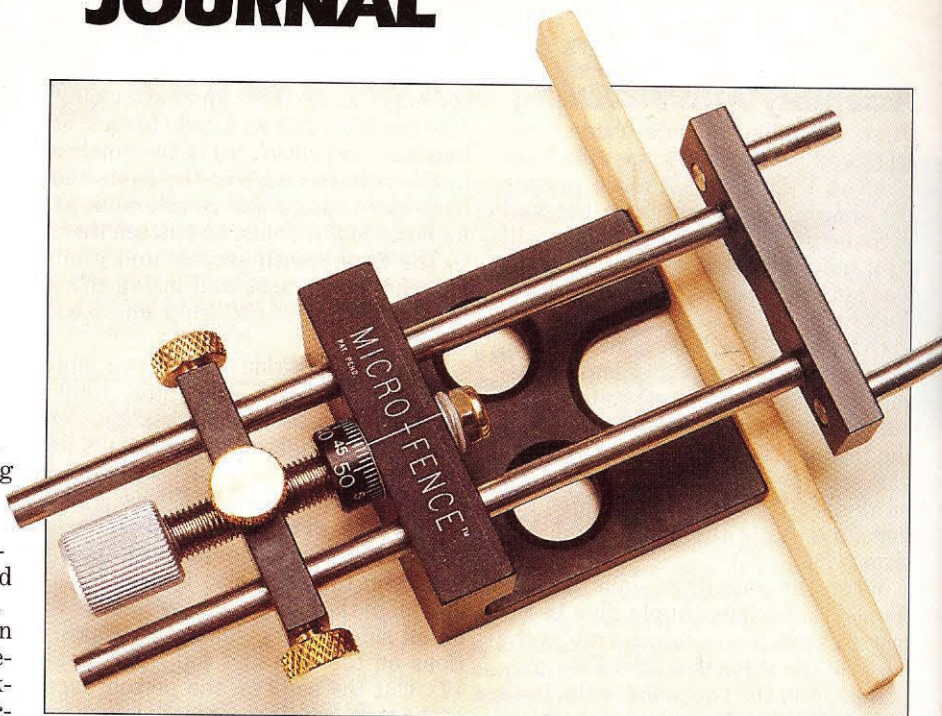
● If you've ever fumbled while making fine adjustments using a conventional router edge guide, you'll surely appreciate the capability and effectiveness of this recently introduced router accessory called Micro-Fence.

It looks and feels like the precision instrument it is. Its designer and developer is a well-qualified woodworker and mechanical engineer who recognized that standard router fences are often difficult to set up and adjust accurately. He set out to achieve an adjustable edge guide that was quicker and easier to use. His product nicely satisfies these requirements.

The unique feature of this edge guide is the micrometer-adjusted fence. It has readout accuracy to within $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of an inch (.001). The leadscrew that positions the fence can be adjusted to any position shown on the dial. This is graduated in .001 divisions from 0 to 50. A revolution will move the fence .050 in.

While general woodwork does not demand such close tolerances, other operations do. The Micro-Fence is extremely useful in making precise joints and cutting mortises for cabinet hinges and locks.

I tried it on a variety of edge-guided operations with excellent results. To use the device, first set it in approximate terms. Then, make a test



The Micro-Fence is an edge guide designed for quick and exacting adjustments to a router fence. By making edge operations easier, it extends a router's versatility.

cut and measurement, and move the dial to adjust the fence as needed.

I especially liked using Micro-Fence for setting up 2-pass dados. This is essential to match undersize plywood-thickness dimensions. A turn of the large knurled knob readily adjusts the leadscrew to the desired position (Photo 1).

The easily fine-tuned fence makes it a simple task to cut precisely spaced grooves, an operation known as veining (Photo 2). Without this feature, veining is much more time consuming.

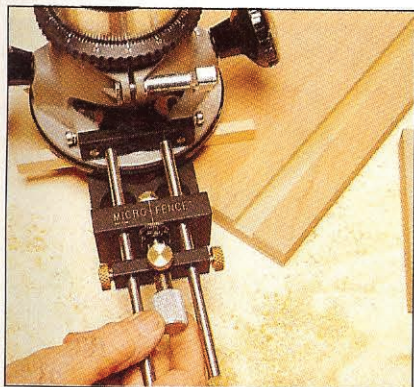
Micro-Fence can be used with many router makes and models, and you must state your make and model of router when ordering it. The manufacturer also offers subbases that allow it to be used with laminate trimmers.

The basic package includes the interface mounting bar to fit your router and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in.-wide hard maple sec-

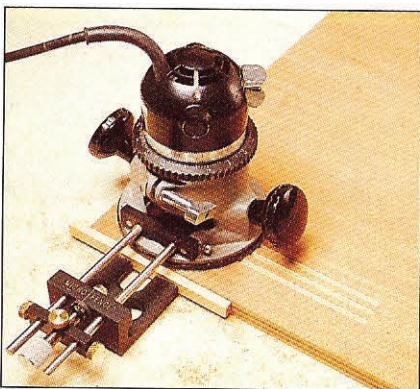
ondary fence. This low-profile fence is advantageous because it allows you to clear $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-thick material that is resting directly on the benchtop.

A Micro-Fence complete package expands the versatility of the accessory. It includes the basic fence with the addition of half-round inserts that are screwed to the fence for routing parallel to a curved edge (Photo 3). Also included in the complete package is a deep-profile secondary fence. Its extra width provides a greater contact surface. This is essential for pivoting a nonplunge router into the workpiece when cutting pocket mortises or blind dados. Finally, the complete package includes a pair of 12-in.-long guide shafts that provide additional reach.

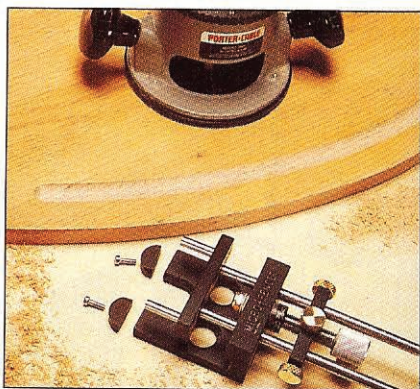
The basic package is about \$98 and the complete package, \$125. Contact Micro-Fence, 11100 Cumpston St. No. 35, North Hollywood, CA 91601. **PM**



1 The fence excels at guiding groove cuts to fit plywood parts. These parts are often thinner than their nominal dimension.



2 The Micro-Fence guide is a boon for cutting accurately spaced grooves, and its low-profile fence helps on thin stock.



3 To do routing along curved edges, use the half-round plastic inserts. These are attached with screws to the main fence.