

# Toolbox

Technical Editor **Alan Goodsell** looks at the performance of useful products and draws attention to what's new

## MICRO FENCE

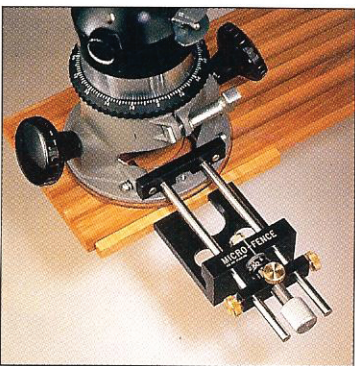
Tested by Paul Richardson

WITH SO MANY pieces of equipment passing through our hands at F&C it is easy to become blasé, but every now and again a device comes along that stands out from the rest and refreshes the jaded tester.

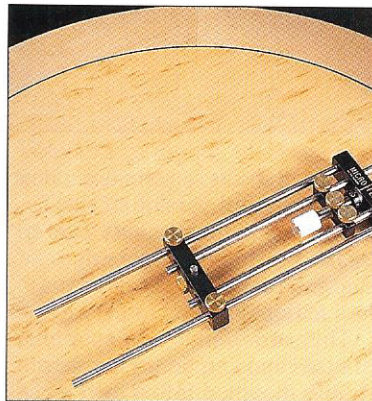
The micro fence tested here is just such a high point. No re-invention of the wheel, just a masterly revision of the router side fence.

Given the high degree of precision attainable with the router when used with templates or other guides — or indeed when inverted — most side fences are crude, approximate in adjustment and generally unhelpful.

This is what Richard Wedler of Micro Fence thought, too, but as a working cabinetmaker, see 'Roll with it', page 27 this issue, and the son of an inventor he did something about it.



**ABOVE:** Precise edge-referencing at last

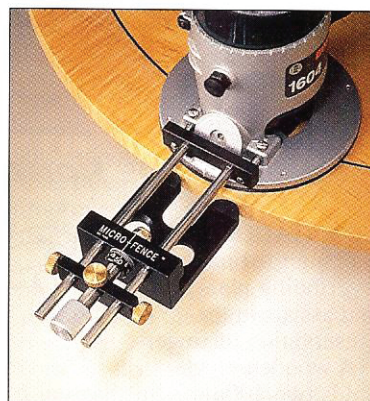
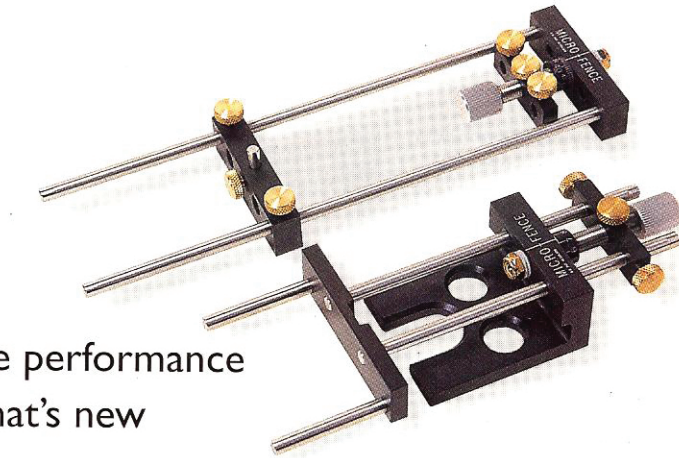


## Revelation

The Micro Fence consists of a machined alloy body through which steel rods pass. The body is locked into approximate position with two knurled brass screws, then fine adjustment is made with a fine-pitch lead screw, calibrated in one thou' increments and lockable with a third brass screw. The package includes various sub-fences and a pair of round-nose stubs for following curved edges.

Using this setup is a revelation. There is no discernible backlash in the lead screw, the fence rods pass easily through their holes but with zero slack, and with everything locked down it is truly rigid.

Suddenly, working from an edge makes sense. Where I would normally make up a template or jig, using this fence saves time and gives an entirely controllable, repeatable result. Ever tried to fit 3.1mm stringing into a groove made with a 3mm cutter? A turn of the lead screw



and the groove is widened.

The Micro Fence is also available with a trammel extension, referred to as the Circle Jig, which adds the same degree of control to the cutting of arcs and circles of up to 1200mm, 48in diameter — again especially useful for inlay work.

## Real benefits

Most popular router models are catered for by means of different mountings, allowing one fence to be used with a variety of machines.

The virtue of this device lies in its impeccable engineering, lending a precision which makes it more of a jig than a fence. It is one of the most sensible 'gadgets' I have come across for a long time, offering real benefits in increased quality and productivity for router users — and that's most of us.

UK distribution and prices have yet to be finalised, in the meantime contact Micro Fence with enquiries.

North American readers can order direct.

● **Prices:** Micro Fence with optional package \$125, with Circle Jig \$198.

● **Available from:** Micro Fence, 11100 Cumpston St., #35, North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA tel (001) 818 766 4367, fax (001) 818 761 3977, email [MicroFence@aol.com](mailto:MicroFence@aol.com)



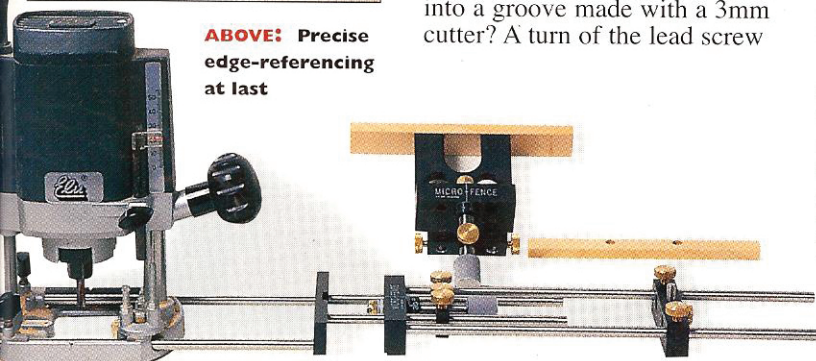
## ● Tried and tested

This symbol denotes items tested by Alan Goodsell. Items not bearing the icon have not yet been tried out by F&C staff, but would appear to merit attention.

**TOP:** The Micro Fence, foreground, and Circle Jig

**ABOVE FAR LEFT:** Two approaches to circle work, first using the Circle Jig...

**ABOVE LEFT:** ... and second, working from the outer edge



**LEFT:** The full Micro Fence package and Circle Jig, considerably enhancing the Editor's MOF 96