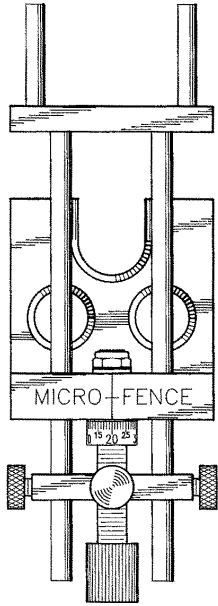


# MICRO FENCE EDGE-GUIDE SYSTEM

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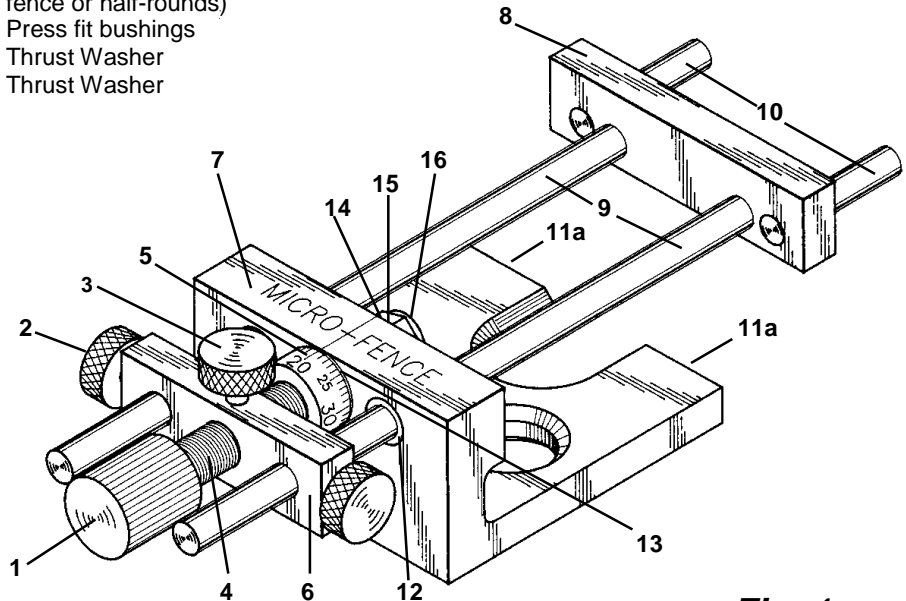


**RICHARD WEDLER'S**  
 U.S. Pat. # 5,299,609  
 Made in the USA

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We suggest that you take a few moments and familiarize yourself with the names of our parts by referring to the drawing below.

- |  |   |                      |
|--|---|----------------------|
| 1 Leadscrew adjusting Knob                                     | 11a 8-32 Tapped holes (To attach wood fence or half-rounds) | 15 Metal Wave Washer |
| 2 Brass Locking Thumbscrews (Long) for approximate positioning | 12 Press fit bushings                                       | 16 Lock Nut          |
| 3 Brass Locking Thumbscrew (Short) for Spindle Locking         | 13 Thrust Washer  |                      |
| 4 Stainless Steel Lead Screw/Spindle                           | 14 Thrust Washer  |                      |
| 5 Laser-Etched Micrometer Dial                                 |   |                      |
| 6 Spindle Bar  |   |                      |
| 7 Main Body  |   |                      |
| 8 Mounting Bar (Interchangeable to fit other routers)          |   |                      |
| 9 Stainless Steel Guide Shafts                                 |   |                      |
| 10 Mounting Pins (Vary according to router model)              |   |                      |



**Fig. 1**

## PREFACE

### Measurement – the core philosophy of Micro Fence

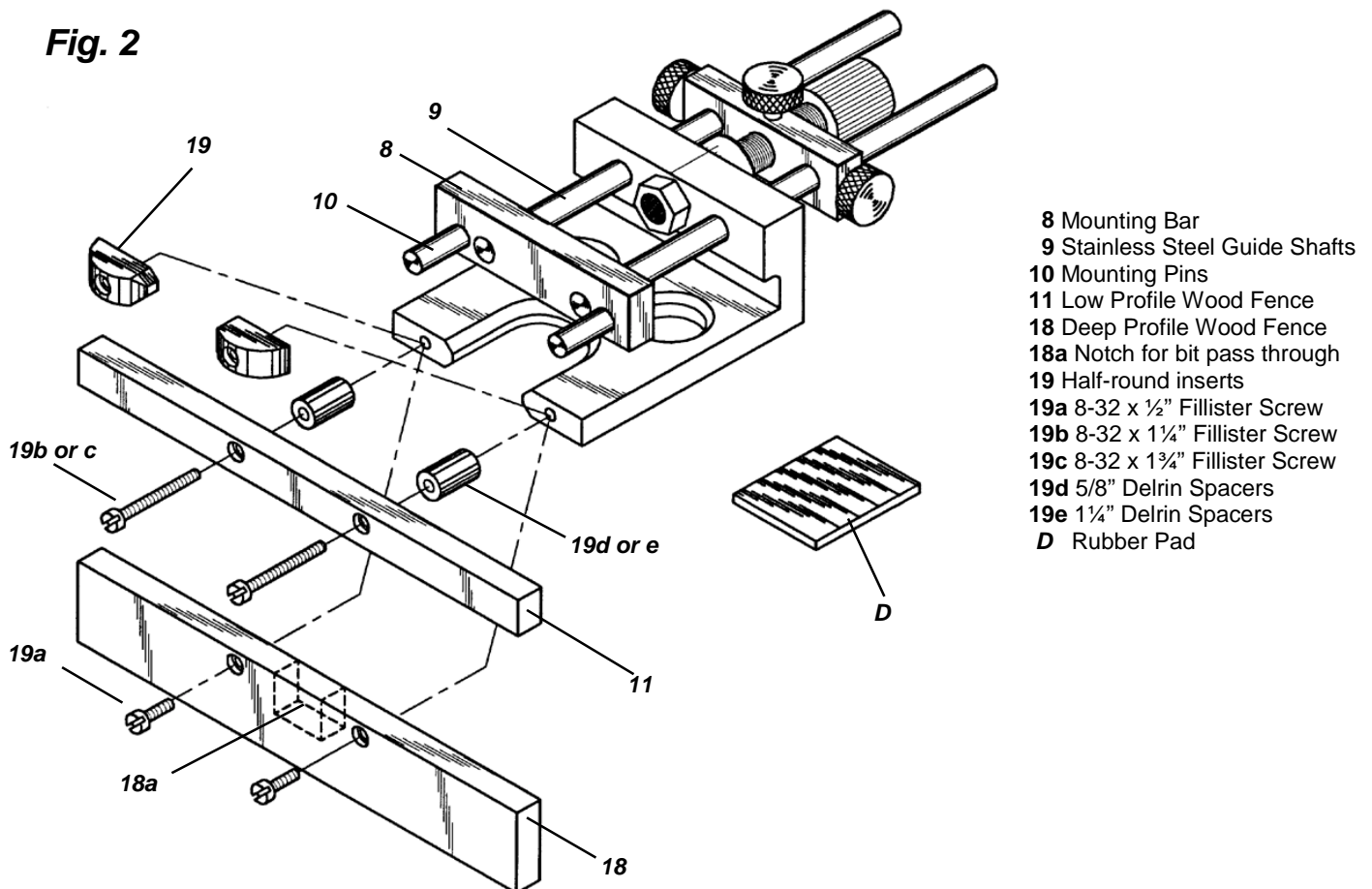
Most woodworkers would probably agree that the router is *the* most versatile tool in the woodshop. We contend that an edge guide is the most versatile accessory that works with the router. It can do a myriad of different woodworking jobs. Whether the work piece is straight or curved, the primary function of the fence is to guide the router bit in a path parallel to the edge. Your Micro Fence is the first and only edge guide to provide you with reliable and accurate settings of the distance between the fence and the router bit. Borrowing directly from the machine-tool trade, it features a built-in micrometer that measures in thousandths-of-an-inch to make *any* set-up precise, efficient and repeatable.

## GETTING STARTED

### Check Your Packing List

Your Micro Fence comes with the parts and accessories shown in Fig. 2. These standard accessories make your fence an extremely versatile tool.

**Fig. 2**



- 8 Mounting Bar
- 9 Stainless Steel Guide Shafts
- 10 Mounting Pins
- 11 Low Profile Wood Fence
- 18 Deep Profile Wood Fence
- 18a Notch for bit pass through
- 19 Half-round inserts
- 19a 8-32 x 1/2" Fillister Screw
- 19b 8-32 x 1/4" Fillister Screw
- 19c 8-32 x 1 3/4" Fillister Screw
- 19d 5/8" Delrin Spacers
- 19e 1 1/4" Delrin Spacers
- D Rubber Pad

**Standard Accessories**

Either the **low profile (#11)**, or **deep profile (#18) wooden fence faces** may be attached to the main body, (using the 8-32 tapped holes on the end of the Micro Fence body, (Fig. 1, #11a)). The low profile is useful for most straight-line operations occurring inboard from an edge, and will clear 3/4" material on a work bench or work surface. The height of the deep profile fence allows it to be notched, (Fig. 2 # 18a), so that the bit can be enveloped by the fence for rabbeting or flush-trimming operations. It's also useful for shallow "pocket" cutting as required for stopped flutes, lock or hinge recesses, dados or mortises.

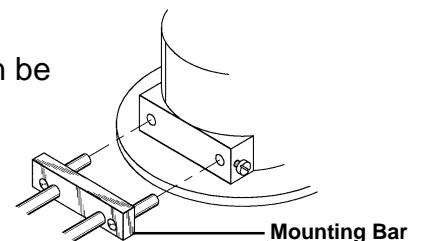
A pair of **Delrin half-round inserts (#19)** comes with each edge-guide. When installed on the main body, (using the same Fig. 1, #11a holes as the profile fences), they provide two points of contact so the fence can ride along arcs, circles or irregular edges. (See Fig. 2). Note: Since the inserts mount on 2" centers, using the edge guide on small radiused edges, (particularly under 2"), is not only difficult, but will result in a cut that is not parallel to the edge.

A pair of **Delrin extension spacers (#19d or e)** is included to provide additional reach, permitting settings that align the fence with the far side of the bit for flush-trim operations, such as Formica or veneer trimming. A second, longer set of 8-32 screws, either 1 1/4" or 1 3/4" (#19b or c) depending on which router your fence fits, is provided in your parts bag for installation of the extensions.

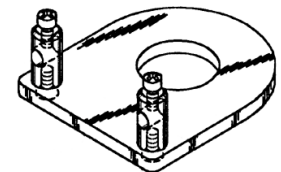
**Rubber pad (D):** The black rubber pad included in your parts bag prevents the jaws of pliers from damaging the stainless steel guide shafts or mounting pins during installation and/or removal. (Care should be taken that the plier's teeth are not so sharp as to cut through the pad when pressure is applied).

**Optional Edge-Guide Accessories:**

**Mounting Bars** for Different Routers: The Micro Fence System can be adapted for use on virtually any router or laminate trimmer on the market today simply by changing the mounting bar and pins (Figs.1 & 2, #'s 8 & 10). The guide shafts, (Figs.1 & 2, #9) are threaded and can be changed out easily.

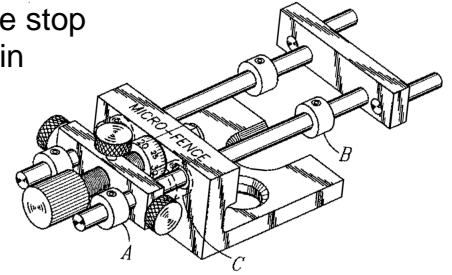


**Sub-base Assemblies:** These allow the Micro Fence System to be used on laminate trimmers. These sub-bases come with two cross-drilled posts that provide points of attachment.

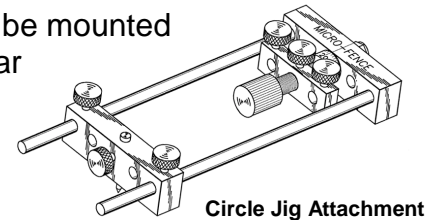


Our **Stop Collar Sets** are matched sets of four brass collars fitted with nylon-tipped setscrews. Locking the collars on the guide shafts allows you to "memorize" the position of the guide for a particular cut and return to it to that position later, without having to re-

measure. (A, B and C in the diagram to the right represent possible stop collar placements). They may be used to locate cuts that must be in relation to one another, (such as flutes or reeds); to memorize the amount of offset when enlarging single cuts with a second pass, (dadoes for under-sized plywood); or, when installed on our Circle Jig, to position concentric cuts, (like the inside and outside diameters of a ring or wheel).

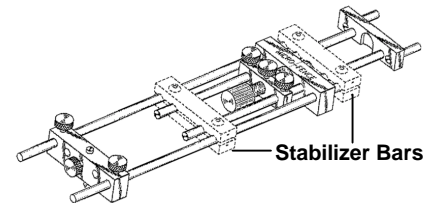


The **Circle Jig Attachment (CJA)**: Our Circle Jig Attachment can be mounted on the guide shafts (Fig.1, #9) in place of the edge guide for circular cutting requirements. The standard attachment allows you to rout circles and arcs from 6 in. to 48 in. in diameter. Longer rods (24" or 36") are available for larger diameter work.

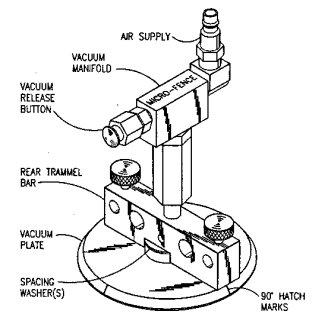


The following accessories are available for use with our Circle Jig:

**Stabilizer Bars:** These maximize the rigidity of our Circle Jig when making larger circles or taking heavier cuts. A clamping device, stabilizer bars grip all four rods of the jig once your final settings have been made, shown here on the Circle Jig Complete.

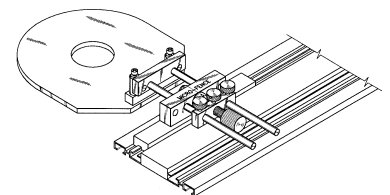


**Vacuum Center Accessory (VCA):** This accessory eliminates the need to drill a pilot hole to secure the center pivot when routing circles. Your air compressor provides the vacuum necessary to hold the center in place. Developed initially for the solid surface and formica trades, the VCA can provide efficient set-ups and unblemished work surface on any cabinet-grade material including plywoods and surfaced lumber.



**Ellipse Jigs:** When connected to the two centers on this jig, our Circle Jig can cut ellipses or ovals in a great variety of shapes and sizes. The Ellipse Package provides all the plates, centers, slides and linkage you need to turn your Circle Jig into a far more versatile tool.

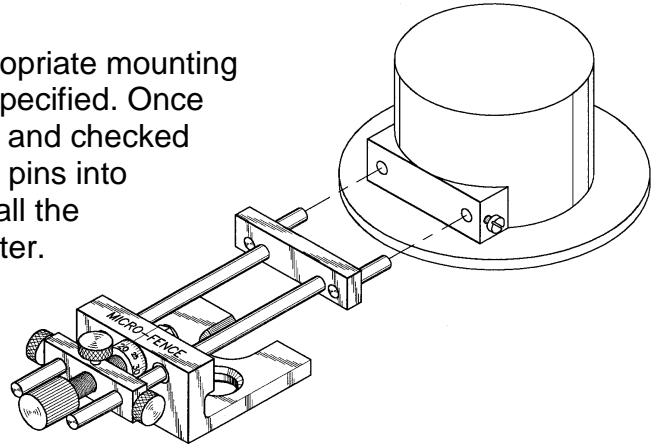
**“Tru-Grip Clamp” Interface:** By fitting this accessory to our Circle Jig, the Micro Fence will slide along the extrusion of a “Tru-Grip Pro Ft’r” clamp. This guides the router in a straight line, for dadoes, grooves or decorative cuts across any flat surface.



See our latest brochure or visit our website at [www.microfence.com](http://www.microfence.com) for more information and pricing on our accessories.

## ATTACHING THE MICRO FENCE TO YOUR ROUTER

The Micro Fence you ordered includes the appropriate mounting bar, pins and screws to fit the router you have specified. Once you have removed the fence from its packaging and checked all parts for tightness, simply slide the mounting pins into the existing holes in your router's base and install the screws we supply to lock the fence onto the router. (If your router already has the necessary locking screws, keep the set supplied with your Micro Fence for backup.)



**Tip:** Care should be taken to check that all threaded joints are firmly tightened before using your edge guide. These include the mounting pins and guide shafts where they are threaded into the mounting bar, the screws holding the fence on the router, and the brass locking thumbscrews that position the fence and lock the spindle.

## BASIC MEASURING PROCEDURES

“Dial the Difference.”

The Micro Fence was designed to allow very accurate adjustments when using it in conjunction with a dial caliper. Both tools are calibrated in .001 increments. To set the router for any basic cut, use this simple **two-step** method:

**Tip:** Loosen the two brass locking thumbscrews (*Fig. 1, #2*), and preset the Micrometer Dial to 0.50 (it's the same as zero), before starting. This practice makes the arithmetic between cuts simple.

**Step 1:** Set the fence at a position that approximates the distance between the edge of the stock and the desired router bit cutting location. Make a test cut on a piece of scrap wood.

**Step 2:** Measure the distance between the edge of the work piece and the cut with your dial calipers.\* Calculate the difference between this measurement and the desired measurement (by simple subtraction), and then use the adjustment dial on the Micro Fence to reposition the fence relative to the bit by this amount.

**Example A:** Measuring the test cut shows an edge-to-bit distance of 1.133” inches. The desired distance is 1.250”, (a difference of .117”). The adjustment dial is used to move the fence .117” farther away from the bit.

\* The two most common measurements are 1.) the size of the cut itself and/or 2.) the distance the cut occurs from an edge or previous cut.

**Tip:** *Turning the spindle clockwise draws the bit toward the fence; counter-clockwise pushes it away. Remember that routers rotate clockwise, (when viewed from above). Your feed should be counter-clockwise in most operations to avoid “climb cutting.” Take it easy. **NEVER force your router in any application.***

**Example B:** Here’s another way you can use Micro Fence’s precision adjustability to your advantage:

Lumber and plywood today aren’t usually precise in their dimension, (e.g., ¾” plywood is frequently manufactured as much as 1/16” under-size). If it were full size, a ¾” piece would measure .750”. In reality, however we frequently find goods that measure anywhere from .690 to .750. When a snug fit is crucial for joinery or aesthetic considerations, you can use the Micro Fence with an under-sized bit to create tight fitting joints.

Let’s say the plywood parts you wish to join measure .710” thick. Starting with a 5/8 in. diameter straight bit, rout a groove and measure its width (bits don’t always cut exactly the size they’re supposed to). If it measures .625” wide, adjust the dial on the Micro Fence to reposition the fence by .085” (subtract the actual cut dimension from the thickness of your material), then take second cut. The second pass will widen the groove to .710” to fit your plywood.

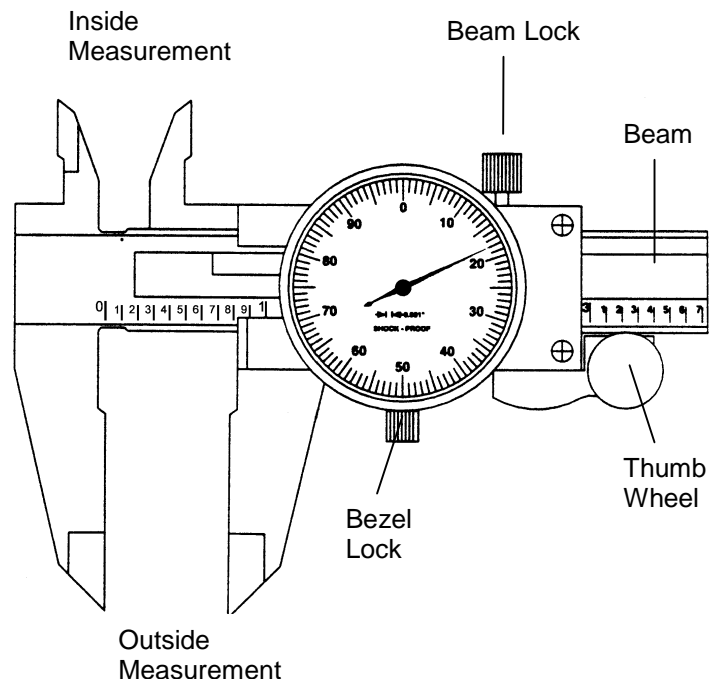
**Tip:** *It’s always a good idea when cutting joinery to include a little clearance. When joining ¾” plywood, for instance, we recommend routing grooves or dadoses .010 -.015 wider than the stock’s thickness (.720” - .725” for the example above). This makes joints easier to assemble and allows room for the wood to swell when glue is applied to the joint.*

**Reading Calipers:**

This example reads .818”. Read the inch and/or 1/10 inch from the scale on the beam (.800”). Read the 1/100 and 1/1000 inch from the dial (.018”).

To set zero: Wipe the lower jaw faces clean and loosen the bezel locking screw (under the Dial). Close the two lower jaws and rotate the bezel until the needle points to zero. Re-tighten the bezel lock to secure the bezel ring in its new position.

Your calipers will measure inside, outside, depth and offset dimensions. It can also be used as a gauge by setting the beam locking screw at whatever dimension you wish to test.



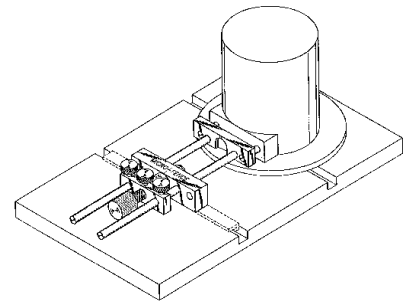
## MICRO FENCE TECHNIQUES

There are many routing jobs that Micro Fence makes easier and more precise. Below are some examples of these jobs and the techniques we recommend for their execution.

### I. Dados:

To cut any size dado, use the technique described in [Example B on page 6](#). Make an initial cut with a bit smaller than the thickness of the stock you're working with, measure the first cut, then take a second pass after adjusting the fence to widen the first cut by the desired amount. Dados of virtually any width can be accomplished with this two-cut method.

- a. Parallel Dados: Fitting your Micro Fence with the Circle Jig Attachment allows you to rout any number of straight, parallel dados. First, attach the aluminum fence supplied with the Circle Jig to the bottom of either trammel bar. The aluminum fence is designed to reach down into the last cut you made, allowing you to make repetitive dados at equal spacing, (or at any spacing you choose).



**II. Rabbeting:** Rabbet cuts can be accomplished with the same two-cut approach used for dados. Notching the deep profile wooden fence, ([Fig.2, #18a](#)), will let you use any portion of your router bit. Measure your first cut with the back end of your dial calipers and then dial the appropriate adjustment for any dimension you require.

### III. Mortise and Tenons:

The Micro Fence can help you cut snug-fitting mortises using the same basic two-cut approach described above in the dado section.

- a. The tenon can be cut most efficiently on the table saw, making vertical and horizontal passes against the saw fence. Once it is cut, measure it with a dial caliper to determine its width and length.
- b. Draw a center line on the stock that is to receive the mortise and rest the tenon on it to mark the limits of the mortise cut using the tenon itself for your template.
- c. Using a multi-spur or Forstner bit in a drill press, drill along the center-line to clean out the majority of material from the mortise.
- d. Set your Micro Fence, with the deep-profile wooden fence installed, at an approximate distance a little shy of the finished tenon dimension and take a cut from each side of the stock. (The bit should be cutting on the far side of the mortise from where the wood fence is riding). This technique will automatically center the cut on your stock.
- e. Measure the result of these initial cuts with a dial caliper.
- f. Dial  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the difference between the existing mortise and the size of the tenon you wish to accommodate, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  of any clearance you'd like to have, and make your final cuts.

#### IV. Recesses for Hinges:

- a. Butt hinges: First measure the width of the hinge leaf. Place the fence at an approximate setting with either the low or deep profile wooden fence face installed on the Micro Fence body. Measure the test cut, and then adjust the setting to accommodate the width of the leaf. Draw pencil lines on the door edge to show the length of the hinge. Once the recesses are cut, chisel out the radius corners left by your router bit with a sharp paring chisel.
- b. SOSS Hinges: This “invisible” hinge offers an attractive alternative to standard hinges, but has always presented some difficult challenges with its installation requirements. Two cuts of differing length and depth must be made on the same centerline. A first, deeper cut to house the body of the hinge is followed by a second, more shallow one to accept the face plate. The centerline for these cuts can be found by running one test cut at an approximate setting in scrap material the same thickness as your finished piece. Measure the material left on each side of your test cut and dial one half the difference between them in the appropriate direction.

#### V. Mortising Locks:

Centering the mortise for a lock or strike plate can be easily accomplished by taking one test cut in material the same size as that of your actual piece. Measure the material left on either side of your cut and compare them. Dial one-half of their difference in the appropriate direction to position the bit precisely on the centerline of the work.

#### VI. Fluting/Reeding:

- a. Three or Five Flute Groupings: Assuming your stock is straight and parallel, a centered flute is first routed, from which other cuts are referenced. On a piece of scrap material of the same width, run a test cut at approximate position. Measure the distance from the edge of your material to the edge of the cut flute on each side. Dial one-half the difference between these two measurements in the appropriate direction to center the cut. Successive flutes are placed using the same test cut principle, though your correcting cuts are no longer divided in half.
- b. Four Flute Groupings: Your first approximate setting is used to make cuts from each side of the work piece. This leaves a “land” in the center, which is the dimension you will match after re-setting the fence for the next two flutes. Do your test cut, and then dial the difference to the proper setting and run the “outboard” flutes.
- c. Note: Our Stop Collars can be used to “memorize” a cut position before resetting the fence to another position. Inlay Work:

Measure the inlay you wish to install. If its dimension doesn’t match the diameter of a standard router bit, pick a bit of smaller dimension. After an initial inlay recess is cut, enlarge it with a second pass by dialing the desired dimension on the Micro Fence. We recommend a trial run in scrap material to insure desired results before



doing the final installation in your actual project. (Allowing .002-.003 tolerance may prevent the inlay material from splitting or breakage during installation).

**TIP:** *When installing inlay in curved or circular pieces, always cut the inside radius first. This allows an element of insurance if the fence wanders away from the edge during the first pass. The second cut, after adjusting the fence outward, will clean up any irregularity.*

### VII. Formica Trimming:

Setting up your router with the bit flush to the front surface of the deep-profile wooden fence allows you to make “flush-trim” cuts, such as those needed to trim formica or wood veneer. Settings can be tested and adjusted in one-thousandth-of-an-inch increments for immaculate flush cuts.

These setups may require that the wooden fence be notched to allow the bit to be positioned inside it and to extend far enough below the sub-base of the router to cut through the thickness of the material you wish to trim. Each Micro Fence is designed with sufficient clearance between the router sub-base and the top of the fence to accommodate the thickness of plastic laminate. Two delrin spacers (either 5/8” or 1 3/4”) are included with each edge guide to provide additional reach for this type of setup. (See [Fig. 2, #19d or e](#)).

### VIII. Circles:

Our Circle Jig Attachment accessory works in conjunction with our basic edge guide or can be purchased as a totally separate tool (called the Circle Jig Complete). The CJA simply slides on to the same guide shafts, ([Fig. 1, #9](#)), and provides a trammel pin from which to swing the router to perform radius cuts. The standard attachment provides capability for 6”-48” diameters. Longer rods are available for diameters up to as large as 12 feet. A separate instructional booklet comes with each Circle Jig Attachment.

**IX. Straight Edges – Edge Profiling:** The deep profile wooden fence, ([Fig.2, #18](#)), can be installed with the extensions provided in your parts bag, ([Fig.2, #'s 19d or e](#)), to reach settings that “envelop” the router bit completely or in part. When completely enveloped, flush trimming can be accomplished, (see [VII above](#)). Partial enveloping of your bit will allow edge profiling for details like bevels, ogees or over-rounds.

### X. Curved and Irregular Edges:

- a. Installing the half-round inserts ([Fig.2, 19](#)) provides two points of contact with your workpiece to allow your fence to follow curves.
- b. Using angled or curved fences to guide cuts: You can use the drilled and tapped holes on the end of the Micro Fence body, ([#11a in Fig. 1, p.1](#)), to attach any sort of attachment that you fabricate yourself. e.g. “V” shaped wooden fences to follow circles.

**XI. Slotting and Veining:** See [VI above](#).

**XII. “V” Grooves** are frequently used in desk or table-top construction to separate solid wood surrounds from plywood center fields. “V” grooves allow different rates of expansion and contraction to occur without cracking finishes. As a design element, they add a sense of depth to a surface or to separate contrasting woods for dramatic effect.

**XIII. Sliding Dovetails:**

Useful in the manufacture of table or drawer extension slides, these sliding joints can be made to whatever tolerances are necessary given the species of wood you’re using. Hardwoods like maple or beech are popular choices. The control over tolerances that your Micro Fence provides can produce silky smooth travel. Test cuts and measurement of the pin or tail dimensions will tell you how far to move the fence on successive passes to produce the results you prefer. (As a bench- mark starting place, include approximately .010” clearance).

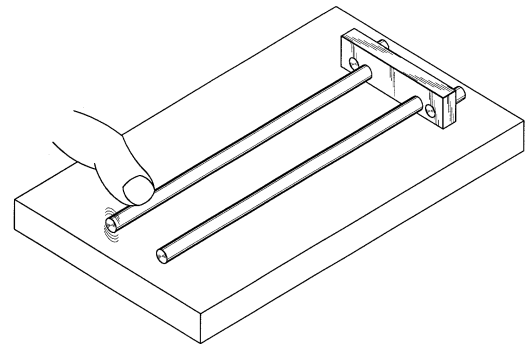
**MAINTENANCE**

Your Micro Fence has been thoroughly checked during it’s assembly for smooth and accurate operation. There are a number of alignments and tension adjustments that are critical to the unit’s proper functioning. In the normal course of use, you may need to check these settings and readjust them if necessary.

**Checking parallel alignment of the guide shafts**

The guide shafts (either 7” or 12”) must be parallel to one another in both horizontal and vertical planes (see [Fig 1, #9](#)). Test the vertical alignment by simply placing the mounting bar and guide shaft assembly on a smooth, flat surface (a table saw, jointer bed, etc.), and tap lightly on the end of each guide shaft with the tip of your finger. Any motion indicates a misalignment that will adversely affect the way in which the shafts slide through the body and spindle bar.

**Fig.4**



Apply pressure in the appropriate direction to correct the misalignment and re-test on the flat surface. Pay special attention to insure that the readjustments have not loosened the shafts in the mounting bar. If necessary, re-tighten, using the rubber pad and either your fingers or pliers to achieve firm tightness.

The horizontal alignment can be checked visually by simply installing the guide shafts in the main body of the Micro Fence. They should slide into the Delrin bushing without deflection, and pass on through the appropriate holes in the spindle bar without significant resistance, (though a little is OK). Fluid motion should be checked by sliding the guide shaft/mounting bar assembly back and forth a few times.

Be sure to tighten all threaded parts. A loose guide shaft will compromise the rigidity of your edge guide. This holds true for the mounting pins as well. **Keep all threaded parts firmly seated.**

## **Adjusting torque of the Lock Nut and Wave Washer**

The “feel” (tightness or looseness) of the adjustment screw ([spindle](#)) can be set by increasing or relieving the compression of the wave washer ([Fig 1, #15](#)), located between the two Delrin thrust washers ([Fig 1, #14](#)) under the nylock nut ([Fig 1, #16](#)). The lock nut requires a 7/16” wrench. The more tightly compressed the wave washer is, the stiffer the feel of the spindle as it turns. If excessively loosened, lateral deflection of your fence is possible. As a rule, the nylock nut should be as tight as possible without making the spindle uncomfortably difficult to turn with your thumb and forefinger.

## **Cleaning your Micro Fence**

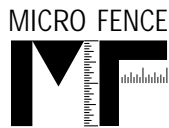
Keep your Micro Fence as clean and dust-free as possible with compressed air or a soft brush. An occasional drop of light oil under the spindle lock thumbscrew will keep the lead screw turning smoothly. Our choice is Phil’s Tenacious Oil, which can be purchased at many bicycle shops. We recommend cleaning and lubricating the stainless steel guide shafts with a good silicone-free dry lubricant. At our factory, we use Dynaglide during the assembly process. If you wish, it can be ordered directly from us by calling **800-480-6427**.

## **Router adjustments**

Router motors operate at high rpm, and typically are prone to vibration from even slight misalignments. Collet wear and accumulated dirt can have a negative effect on the way the bits rotate and cut. Other factors that affect a router’s cutting quality include the sharpness and accuracy of the bits’ edge grind, and concentricity of the bits’ cutting surface relative to the shank. Keep your router clean and in good working order and buy only good quality router bits. Use only sharp bits. (Easy-Off oven cleaner works well to remove pitch.)

Under normal circumstances, the brass thumbscrews that lock the stainless steel guide shafts and adjustment-screw spindle should withstand router vibration and hold fast. However, if there’s lots of vibration (some routers simply vibrate more than others), the thumbscrews may loosen and subsequently cause your edge-guide to slip out of position. If this occurs, we strongly recommend first checking the router’s collet for wear. Improper bit installation or over tightening can cause the collet to become “sprung”, and affect its gripping capability or the trueness of the bits’ rotation. Installing a slice of rubber tubing with ¼” I.D. under the heads of the thumbscrews can help to absorb excess vibration and prevent inadvertent loosening.

It is normal for the brass lock-screws on your Micro Fence to tarnish. Their original luster can be restored by polishing them with fine steel wool or Scotchbrite abrasive pads. We use a drill press or cordless drill with hand-tightened chuck to spin them while firm pressure is applied with the polishing material.



## **MICRO FENCE EDGE-GUIDE SYSTEM**

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Email: [microfence@microfence.com](mailto:microfence@microfence.com) Website: [www.microfence.com](http://www.microfence.com)

### **Replacing wood fences**

You can make your own wooden replacement fences, (or order them from us directly--**800-480-6427**). The wooden fences are attached with 8-32 X ½" fillister head screws. They are positioned on 2" centers and require 3/16" through holes with ¼" counter-bores, 3/16" deep.

**Tip:** *Use the hole spacing of your Micro Fence's stock wood fences as a pattern or template when making new or custom fences.*

### **READING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Hylton, Bill and Matlack, Fred – Woodworking with the Router, Professional Router Techniques and Jigs Any Woodworker Can Use**, Rodale Books, Emmaus, PA, distributed by St. Martin's Press, 1993. ISBN 0-87596-577-6 (hardcover)

**Kirby, Ian – The Accurate Router, Quick Setups and Simple Jigs**, Cambrium Press, Bethel, CT, distributed by Lyons Press, NY, NY, 1998. ISBN 0-9643999-7-0

**Warner, Pat – The Router Book, A Complete Guide to the Router and Its Accessories**, The Taunton Press, Inc., Newtown, CT, 2001. ISBN 1-56158-423-1

**Warner, Pat – Fast, Easy & Accurate Router Jigs**, Popular Woodworking Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, 1999. ISBN 1-55870-486-8 (alk. paper)

**Warner, Pat – The Router Joinery Handbook**, Popular Woodworking Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc., Cincinnati, OH, 1998. ISBN 1-55870-444-2 (alk. Paper)

**Warner, Pat – Getting the Very Best From Your Router**, Betterway Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc., Cincinnati, OH, 1996. ISBN 1-55870-399-3 (alk. Paper)