

TOOLS & MATERIALS

SHOP-TESTED

Get ultrafine routing accuracy in multiple dimensions

Trim/compact router plunge base \$399.95; edge guide \$219.95; LED kit \$79.95 (battery-powered kit \$29.95)

Every trim router comes with a base, so why would I even consider replacing it, especially with one that costs more than twice as much as the entire router? Because precision matters, and I've never used a router base—a whole system, really—as well-built and precise as Micro Fence. I replaced the plunge base on my DeWalt 1¼-hp compact router, and thanks to the silky-smooth plunge action and reliable locking knob, I confidently used this base to rout hinge mortises, inlay mortises, and grooves for inlay banding. What I like best is this base's microadjuster for bit depth, accurate to .001".

Add in the Micro Fence edge guide—also with a .001" microadjuster—and you have a router capable of routing to width and depth for a spot-on-perfect fit. No more trial-and-error test cuts. And if needed, you can back off the same amounts to repeat a two-step cut with ease and confidence.

These two products call for a big investment that, understandably, will put off some woodworkers. But if you value accuracy, you'll quickly forget the price tag and just enjoy the fuss-free reliability Micro Fence provides.

Micro Fence sells plunge bases to fit 18 trim, compact, and sub-compact routers, including several cordless models. Some models require adapter rings, at an additional cost. I recommend the optional LED ring (*insert photo*), which takes away all shadows and illuminates brilliantly. You also can add other accessories, such as circle and ellipse jigs and attachments for connecting to an aluminum tracksaw track.

—Tested by Bob Hunter, Tools Editor

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