

Tool Test

POWERHOUSE Routers

for the Router Table



By George Vondriska

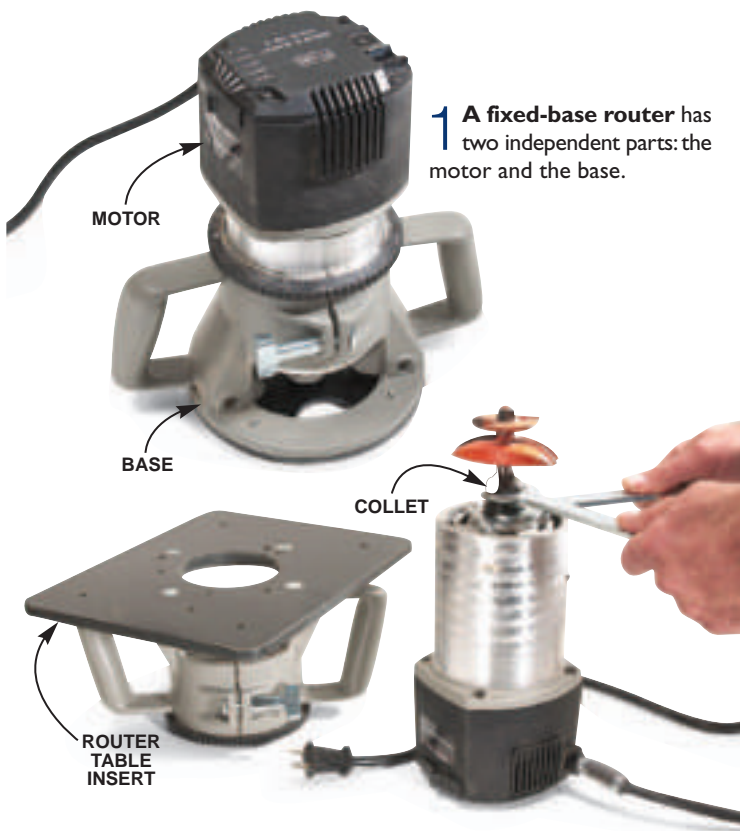
What's the one thing you need most when you're shaping dozens of raised panels on a router table? Power! These 3-hp monsters deliver plenty.

There are two completely different kinds of 3-hp routers: fixed-base and plunge. Both types have 15-amp motors with variable speed (a must for big bits), soft start (so your arm isn't wrenched when turning the machine on in a hand-held cut) and feed back circuitry (which helps the motor maintain rpm as it bears into a heavy cut).

There's a huge difference between fixed-base and plunge routers, however, in how easy they are to use in a router table. Adjusting some of these big routers can be a real headache. Few of them have been specifically designed to be used upside down in a router table, but some manufacturers are clearly catching on.

Fixed-Base Routers

A fixed-base router is our first choice for use in a router table. It has two distinct advantages: it's easy to change a bit quickly and it's easy to adjust the bit's height. Making a coarse height adjustment is a simple matter of loosening a clamping mechanism and twisting or lifting the router's motor (Photo 1). To change bits, all you have to do is remove the router motor from the base (Photo 2). The collet is right out in the open.



Plunge Routers

A powerful plunge router is a great tool for cutting large dadoes and mortises, but the features that make it handy for hand-held work get in the way when you hang the machine in a router table (Photo 3). Adjusting the bit height is awkward on most plunge routers because there's no coarse height adjustment. Instead, you end up turning and turning a micro-adjust knob. Changing bits can be even more of a hassle, particularly when the bit has a large diameter, like a panel-raiser (Photo 4).



Router Table-Friendly Features

Discombobulating problems crop up when you turn a router upside down and tuck it under a router table. Labels are difficult to read. Switches are backwards. Whether you choose a fixed-base or a plunge router for your router table, here are some features that make any machine safer and easier to use.



MIKE KRIVIT

5 A **micro-adjust knob** is a must-have on a plunge router. It should project beyond the motor so you can easily wrap your hand around it. These knobs are included on some routers, but cost about \$25 as an accessory on others.



MIKE KRIVIT

6 The **speed control** should be front and center, right where you can see it. Your safety depends on having a big bit spinning at the right speed, especially when it starts up. Some speed controls are mounted on top of the motor, out of sight when the router is upside down.



MIKE KRIVIT

7 The **On/Off switch** should be easy to reach and easy to read. A router ought to be unplugged when you change bits. It's usually pretty dark under a router table, though. Can you be sure the router is turned off when you plug it back in? A big slider switch like this is the next best thing to having an externally mounted switch on your router table.



MIKE KRIVIT

8 The **hole through the router's metal base** ought to be large enough for big bits to pass through. Many metal bases have holes that are too small because they're designed to accommodate template guides. Changing big bits is difficult with a plunge router that has a small opening (see Photo 4, page 58).

2 Fixed-Base Routers

Unfortunately, there are only two 3-hp fixed-base routers on the market. The Porter-Cable 7518 has been around for quite a while, and was our Editors' Choice when we last tested 3-hp routers in AW #78, February, 2000. The new Milwaukee 5625-20 is even better. Both routers pack plenty of power, but the Milwaukee is easier to adjust in a router table.



Milwaukee 5625-20

\$330

Without question, the Milwaukee is the finest machine to mount under your router table. It combines the brute strength of a very powerful 3-hp router motor with the finesse of an elegant bit-height adjustment mechanism.

This machine has both coarse and fine height adjustment. For a big change in the height of your bit, you simply unsnap a quick-release handle on the motor and press a quick release on the height adjustment. For a small change, you turn a micro-adjust handle with a T-wrench from a convenient position above the table (see photo, right). The motor travels straight up and down within the base, so the cord doesn't end up twisted around the motor. The handles are removable, so there's no problem getting this router into a table. The hole in the base is a generous 4-1/8-in. diameter.

Source

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp
(262) 781-3600, www.milwaukeetool.com



STAFF



Porter-Cable 7518

\$280

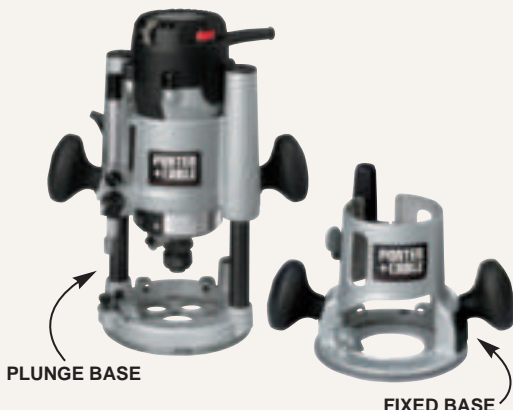
This classic router is still a great choice for heavy use in a router table. It's not quite as convenient as the Milwaukee, but easier to set up than most plunge routers. There's no micro-adjust knob. You change the height of a bit by rotating the router motor, which is basically a coarse adjustment. For fine-tuning bit height you simply give the motor a little nudge. All this involves constantly turning a wing nut that tightens the motor to the base. We wish this nut was a quick-release clamp instead.

The sliding speed control reads in real rpms, which is handy (other machines have arbitrary scales that require a chart to translate). However, the speed control is located on top of the router, along with the On/Off switch. Both are very difficult to see when the router is hanging under a table. The hole in the base is huge (4-1/2 in. diameter).

Source

Porter-Cable, (800) 487-8665, www.porter-cable.com

You Should Also Know About... Mid-Sized Combo Kits



PLUNGE BASE

FIXED BASE

A 15-amp, 3-hp router isn't the only good choice for a router table. Mid-sized routers with 12-amp, 1-1/2- to 2-hp motors work perfectly well for light-duty jobs and occasional raised panel work.

Our favorite routers in this category are combo kits. For about the same price as one of the less expensive 3-hp routers (\$220 to \$250), you get one motor that fits a fixed base *and* a plunge base. You can have the best of both worlds by leaving the fixed base in the router table and using the plunge base for virtually all hand-held work.

For more about combo kits, see our Tool Test in AW #99, March 2003, page 64, or go to www.americanwoodworker.com.

9 Plunge Routers

There are three significant differences among 3-hp plunge routers: actual power under load, the depth-of-cut guide system and dust collection. Of the three, power is the one that counts in a router table. The other two features are only important in hand-held work (see “Plunge Routers Off the Table,” page 64).

We cut dozens of raised panels with these plunge routers and noticed a distinct difference in how much power each one delivered, even though they have the same specs. With the best machines, we could feed faster and take fewer passes. All the routers could get the job done, however, and we didn’t notice any difference in the quality of the cut. For extra power, three plunge routers stood out from the rest: the DeWalt DW625, \$230; the Porter-Cable 7539, \$340; and the Triton TRC001, \$320.

Bosch 1619EVS

\$310

The Bosch is easier to set up and adjust in a router table than most other plunge routers. The hole in the base is exceptionally large (3-3/4-in. diameter), making bit changes easier. You can override the spring-loaded plunge mechanism and make both coarse and fine adjustments in the height of the bit. On the downside for router table use, the speed control is on top of the motor and is difficult to see. The micro-adjust handle is inconveniently short. The depth-of-cut scale is clearly legible and can be zeroed. A dust shroud is included.

Source

Bosch Power Tools, (877) 267-2499, www.boschtools.com



Craftsman 26835

\$250

The Craftsman comes with a micro-adjust knob and has a decent depth-of-cut scale but you can’t zero it out. No dust shroud is available. An easy-to-use spindle lock disables the On/Off switch—a good safety feature. There’s a chance of confusing the On/Off switch with the plunge lock, as they’re both built into the handles. The hole in the base is 2-1/2-in. diameter. Craftsman does not recommend using a bit larger than 2-1/2-in. diameter on this machine.

Source

Craftsman, (800) 377-7414, www.sears.com



DeWalt DW625

\$230

For a standard plunge router, the DeWalt is about as good as it gets. It’s got loads of power and many of the key features that make router table work easier. The speed dial and On/Off switch are quite good. A micro-adjust knob is a \$25 accessory. The opening in the base is an average size (2-1/2 in. diameter).

This router really shines at hand-held work. The handles are well-placed, giving it a conveniently low center of gravity. It’s got a clearly legible scale that can easily be zeroed. The cursor line is very thick, however, making it difficult to read precisely. The router comes with a dust shroud.

Source

DeWalt, (800) 433-9258, www.dewalt.com



Fein RT-1800

\$300

This router is well-balanced. It’s easy to guide for hand-held work. The depth-of-cut scale is easy to read and can be zeroed. It comes with a dust shroud and a small micro-adjust knob (a larger knob that’s recommended for router table work is \$20 extra). The speed control is mounted on top of the motor and is hard to see under a router table. The base has a 3-in.-diameter hole.

Source

Fein Power Tools, (800) 441-9878, www.feinus.com



Plunge Routers Off the Table

Our favorite 3-hp router for a router table is a fixed-base machine, but when you want to stretch your tool dollars as far as they'll go, a big plunge router makes a lot of sense. You can't make stopped dados and mortises with a fixed-base router, after all.

Out of the table, a 3-hp plunge router is large and heavy (most weigh 12 to 13 lbs.), but it's a great machine to drive big bits. Take a wide roundover bit, for example (see photo, right). It's risky and impractical to make this huge cut in one pass, but with a plunge router you can lower the bit in stages, taking one small last bite for an ultra-smooth surface. Of course, you can do this with a fixed-base machine, too, but a plunge router has a multi-step depth stop that allows you to repeat the same series of measured cuts over and over again.

Setting the exact depth of cut is certainly critical when you're using a plunge router to make dados and mortises. A good depth guide makes a huge difference, and they vary widely in quality from one machine to another. The best ones have a clearly marked scale that can be adjusted to the zero mark



when your bit is even with the bottom of the router (see photo below, left). Then you lift a rod connected to the scale to directly indicate how deep the cut should go. The scales on other routers cannot be "zeroed out," so you must count off 1/16-in. marks from an arbitrary starting point on the scale to set the depth of cut.

A dust shroud is a fairly new and very welcome addition to many plunge routers (see photo below). The shroud directs chips and dust to a small exhaust port. Hook up a vacuum and you can rout virtually dust-free.



The depth-of-cut guide on a plunge router should be legible and easy to "zero out," so you don't have to make a lot of test cuts to hit an exact depth.



A dust shroud keeps that obnoxious stuff from flying all over your shop. Cutting dados and mortises is pretty much dust-free.

STAFF

STAFF

Freud FT2000EP

\$185

The Freud has three good router table features: a micro-adjust knob is included, the On/Off switch is quite accessible and the speed control is easy to see. The opening on the base is only 2-3/8-in. diameter, though. It's a mixed bag for hand-held work. The depth-of-cut system can't be zeroed (see "Plunge Routers Off the Table," page 64) and the scale is hard to read, but you do get a dust shield.

Source

Freud USA, (800) 334-4107, www.freud-tools.com

Hitachi M12V

\$160

The Hitachi is a good, no-frills machine. In the router table, the On/Off switch and speed control are easy to see and use. A micro-adjust knob (highly recommended) is a \$25 accessory. The hole in the base is very small (2-in. diameter). For hand-held use, the depth-of-cut scale is clearly legible and can be zeroed, but a dust shroud isn't available.

Source

Hitachi Power Tools, (800) 829-4752, www.hitachi.com

Makita 3612C

\$250

This is the only machine with a brake, a feature we'd like to see on more routers. This router's small size makes it very comfortable to use for hand-held cuts. It comes with a micro-adjust knob. The speed control is very easy to see under a router table. The depth-of-cut scale is difficult to read and can't be zeroed. The dust shroud is a \$23 accessory. The hole size in the base is 2-3/8-in. diameter.

Source

Makita USA, (800) 462-5482, www.makitatools.com

Porter-Cable 7539

\$320

This is one heck of a powerful plunge router, but adjusting it in a router table can be awkward. Thank goodness it has a large hole in the base (3-1/2-in. diameter) for big bits, but adding the micro-adjust knob (a \$25 accessory) involves removing some small parts that you'll need to reassemble for hand-held work. In a table, you must use two hands to adjust the bit height: one to turn the handle and the other to depress the plunge-lock lever. The speed control is on top of the motor where it's difficult to see upside down. The handles span 11-1/4 in. It may be difficult to fit this router through some router table openings.

Every other 3-hp router weighs a hefty 12 to 13 lbs., but this machine tops the scale at 17 lbs. It has a decent depth-of-cut scale that can be zeroed. A dust shroud is a \$45 accessory.

Source

Porter-Cable, (800) 487-8665, www.porter-cable.com

Triton TRC001

\$320

This unusual machine stands head and shoulders above the plunge-router pack as the easiest to set up and adjust in a router table. It's got plenty of power, as well. To change bits, you raise the collet above the surface of the table. No other plunge router can do this, and it means you don't have to remove the router from the table to swap cutters. The Triton is also the only plunge router with a rack-and-pinion system for raising and lowering the motor. This system gives you both a coarse adjustment and a fine adjustment micro-dial. The speed control is easy to see under the table. A dust shroud is included. The hole in the base is 3-1/8-in. diameter.

Unfortunately, the Triton is not equally good for hand-held plunge routing. It's top-heavy and tippy. Its handles are mounted too high for easy control. The depth-of-cut system is easy to read but can't be zeroed.

Source

Triton, (888) 874-8661, www.tritonwoodworking.com



AW

Tool Test: **Do-Everything Routers**

While some woodworkers have the luxury of changing routers instead of bits, most of us start off with one machine, and we want it to do as much as possible. This leaves many woodworkers asking, “Should I buy a fixed-base or plunge-base router?” With the tools we tested here, the answer is “Yes!”

We tested four brands of routers with interchangeable fixed and plunge bases, from Porter-Cable (who pioneered this category), Bosch, DeWalt and Makita.

These are Fantastic “Regular” Routers

Leaving aside their use as plunge routers, these machines are hard to beat as day-in-day-out, general-purpose, fixed-base routers. They have variable speed and plenty of power, convenient features such as self-releasing collets and easy bit changing, plus excellent balance and comfortable handles. For common everyday router operations such as edge-profiling, template work, trimming, and so forth, they are ideal. These are all top-of-the-line, professional-quality machines that will serve you for many years of woodworking. We know, because we’ve used them for years in our own shops.

Electronic variable speed is an important feature of these tools. It’s essential for safely using larger diameter bits, such as big round-overs and panel-raising bits, which need to be run at lower speeds. It’s also very useful to use a low

rpm with smaller bits. The low rpm gives you a feeling of greater control over the router. In some situations it also reduces burning of the edge.

Do They Cut it as Plunge Routers?

A plunge router is great for mortises, stopped dados and inlay work; any place where you need to make a cut with a distinct starting and stopping point. The question is, how well do these machines stack up against dedicated plunge routers?

The answer is: just fine. In fact, the turrets and depth-stop rods on these machines are better than on some dedicated plunge routers. All of these routers permit fine-depth adjustment and smooth plunging. Although some are better in these regards than others (see chart and descriptions, pages 68 through 71).

(Almost) Perfect for Router Tables

Routers like these are great for router table use. First off, it’s easy to change bits because you can remove the motor. Second, the powerful variable-speed motors allow them to handle big bits such as panel raisers. And finally, you can purchase a second fixed base for \$40 to \$70 and mount it in your table permanently. That way, you can jump from hand-held routing to using the router table in seconds, just by swapping the motor. Not essential, but mighty handy.

The only reason that these routers aren’t perfect for router table use is that

they’re not powerful enough for prolonged heavy use.

The Perennial Issue of Power

The horsepower ratings given by the manufacturers of these machines show a range from 1-3/4 hp to 2-1/4 hp. Don’t get caught up in these numbers, however. If you compare the amperage draw for these machines (see chart, pages 70 and 71), you’ll see they’re very close. As part of our tests, we made oak raised-panel doors using each router and found that all four are up to the job, as long as you use the lowest speed and make several passes. (In oak, we took three.) We could detect no difference in power between the different brands.

Although these routers are plenty powerful, if you want to make doors in large quantities or very quickly, none of these machines is the best choice. You’ll be better off with a 3-hp router or a shaper. (For a review of 3-hp routers, see AW #78, February 2000, page 75.)

Look at the Whole Package

Each of these routers is available as a package with at least the motor, a fixed base and a plunge base. Accessories may or may not be included (or even available) and the prices for them vary. We’ve listed two prices for you: the basic price and the “package” price that includes major accessories. This gives you a second way to compare the cost of these machines. Note: Manufacturers could change these packages or prices at any time.

High-tech routers with interchangeable bases can do just about everything



fixed base...



plunge base...



and router table

By George Vondriska

Features of All Four Brands



Variable Speed and Soft Start

Electronic variable speed (EVS) allows you to dial the router to a given speed, while the circuitry monitors the motor to ensure it maintains that speed. With a heavy load, the circuit sends more juice to the motor so it can maintain the speed you selected. Along with EVS comes “soft start,” which ramps the router up to speed slowly instead of instantly accelerating from 0 to full rpm. This makes hand-held cuts less unnerving.



Cam-Lever Base Clamp

A lever-operated clamp on the fixed base makes it easy to adjust the motor and lock it in position. Snap it open, snap it closed, and you're good to go. This is a huge improvement over the threaded locks found on many older fixed-base routers.



1/2-in. and 1/4-in. Collets

These collets allow you to handle both large bits, which are only available with 1/2-in. shanks, and small bits, which might be difficult or impossible to find with the larger shank. Whenever you can, though, you should buy bits with the 1/2-in. shank; they're stiffer and stronger.

All of these routers have a self-releasing collet. When you loosen the collet, it pops the bit free. Very handy.



Easy Bit Changes with Removable Motors

Obviously, in order to change bases, you have to be able to remove the motor from the base. This feature is found on all four of these routers, but not on fixed-base routers in general.

A removable motor makes it much, much easier to change bits, especially in a router table.



Standard Plunge Features

When in their plunge mode, all four routers have all the plunge-router features. They have turret stops for making cuts of increasing depth, and an adjustable depth stop.

Differences Between the Brands



Tool-Free Base Change is Handy

On the Bosch and DeWalt routers, you can change from fixed-base to plunge-base with no tools. The same cam-lever clamp used on the fixed-base is on the plunge-base. This is the system we prefer. The Makita and Porter-Cable machines require a screwdriver and Allen wrench, respectively, to lock the motor in the base. The process is especially cumbersome on the Porter-Cable machine because of the awkward location of the locking bolt.

While you won't be changing bases every time you handle the router, the easier it is to make the switch, the better.

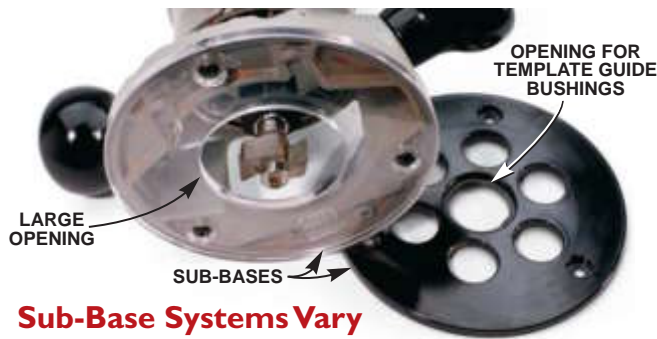


Below-Base Dust Collection

Routers make dust, and being able to capture it at the source is an important feature.

All four of these machines have excellent dust collection during plunge-base applications. When a shop vacuum is connected to the dust shroud, little or no dust will be left in a dado or mortise.

For fixed-base applications, two systems are used for dust collection. One involves a shroud that fits above the base (DeWalt and Makita). In our experience, this system is less than effective. The approach we prefer is a basket that attaches to the base and surrounds the bit. It is available on the Bosch and Porter-Cable systems, although the Bosch version is the easier of the two to attach.



Sub-Base Systems Vary

The plastic sub-bases on routers must perform two functions. They must have an opening for the bit—even a very wide bit—to pass through, and they must be able to hold screw-in template guide bushings. Three models, DeWalt, Makita and Porter-Cable, have two interchangeable sub-bases, one with a large opening, one with a smaller opening that accepts guide bushings. The Bosch system is simpler: One sub-base, with a large opening, and guide bushings that fit this opening with an adapter. No changing of sub-bases required.



Does the Switch Rotate?

On two of the routers, the Bosch and DeWalt, the switch stays in the same position relative to the handles as you change the depth of cut. This is the system we prefer, for safety and convenience. On the Makita and Porter-Cable routers, depth-of-cut adjustments are made by rotating the motor. You're basically screwing it in and out of the base, and because the switch is on the motor, it may end up at any position, including places where you have to remove one hand from the tool to turn it off.

Centering the Router

Few router motors are perfectly concentric with the router base. Is this a big deal? Sometimes, maybe; usually not.

Concentricity is not a factor when using router bits with bearings. It does come into play if you're using a template guide bushing, or guiding the router by running the edge of the base against a fence. In these cases, if the motor and base are not perfectly concentric, any rotation of the router base during the cut can slightly shift the position of the bit in the cut.

You can learn to keep the handles and the base in a consistent position during a cut, but why take a chance?

Bosch, DeWalt and Makita routers do away with this problem altogether by allowing you to center the sub-base on the motor. It's easy to do and once done, you don't have to think about it. This is a secondary feature, but it's worth considering.





Bosch I 6 I 7EVSPK

Pros

- Very comfortable plunge-base handles, and big, comfortable wooden handles on the fixed base.
- One of only two machines in this category that offer a below-the-base dust collection basket (\$40). It's very effective at grabbing the dust made when you're doing edge forming.
- The cursor on the plunge-base is very easy to read and use, and is head and shoulders above others in this class.
- The on/off switch stays in a fixed position as depth-of-cut is changed.
- The Bosch router has the largest diameter base. This makes it easier to keep the router flat on your work.
- Tool-free design makes base swapping easy.
- This is one of only three machines that allow centering the sub-base on the router.
- This is the only plunge base with dust shields on the columns. They prevent dust from clogging the plunge mechanism.
- This router has the only fence (\$40) that also performs as a circle-cutting jig. The fence includes a micro-adjust for fine-tuning position.
- The Bosch accessory fixed-base (\$60) includes extra-long screws for router-table mounting. It also comes with an extension handle for the micro-adjust.
- Sub-base with large opening, which accepts template guide bushings, even other brands, with an \$8 adapter.

Cons

- The base-centering cone (\$8) is not included with the router package.

Bosch I 6 I 7EVSPK	\$240
Motor; fixed base, plunge base	included
Sub-base with large hole	included
Fence	\$40
Extra base for router table (RA I 164-includes extension handle)	\$60
Dust-collection kit (RA I 173)	\$40
The whole package	\$380



EXTENSION
KNOB

An accessory fixed base (\$60) is designed for router-table use, with extra-long screws and an extension knob for easier adjustments to cutting depth.



The depth-of-cut cursor on the Bosch plunge-base is extremely easy to read and adjust.

DeWalt DW618PK

Pros

- This machine is the newest entry in the category. The removable cord is an innovative convenience, especially when disconnecting power for bit changes.
- Setting depth-of-cut in the fixed base is easy, and the on/off switch is easy to reach while keeping both hands on the handles.
- All the sub-bases are clear, making it easy to watch the cutting action.
- This machine allows sub-bases to be centered on the motor.
- Tool-free base changes make base swapping easy.
- The fence includes a micro-adjust to simplify fine-tuning the fence position.

Cons

- No below-the-base dust shroud available.
- Plunge-base cursor is somewhat hard to read and use.



DeWalt DW618PK	\$250
Motor, fixed base, plunge base	included
Sub-base with large hole	included
Fence (DW 6913)	\$45
Extra base for router table (DW6184, avail. Feb. 2003)	\$45
Dust collection for plunge base	Included
Below-the-base dust collection	N/A
The whole package	\$335

The cord on the DeWalt machine can be removed. Unplugging the router for adjustments and bit changes can be done right at the motor. A lock guarantees the cord won't fall out when the router is being used.

Makita RF1101KIT

Pros

- This is the quietest motor in the bunch, but, as with all others, you'll still need hearing protection when using it.
- The fence is included.

Cons

- Swapping the motor in and out of the plunge-base requires a Phillips screwdriver to lock it in place.
- The sub-base can be adjusted to center it, but there is no centering cone available from Makita.
- No below-the-base dust shroud available.




Makita RF1101KIT	\$260
Motor, fixed base, plunge base	included
Sub-base with large hole	included
Fence	included
Extra base for router table (193103-8)	\$70
Dust collection for plunge base	Included
Below-the-base dust collection	N/A
The whole package	\$330

Recommendations

These machines are remarkably similar in features, high quality and price, more so than any group of tools we have tested in the last five years. A woodworker would be


extremely well served by any of them. Given that they're all expensive, if you can get a great deal on any of them, go for it. With that said, if you pushed us to the wall

and said "Choose one!," it would be the Bosch system. We find it a very comfortable, convenient machine, with many thoughtful design details. We liked the feel of the wide base

Manufacturer	Model	Price	Package Price ¹	Horsepower	Amps	RPM Range
Bosch 	1617EVSPK	\$240	\$380	2-1/4	12	8,000-25,000
DeWalt	DW618PK	\$250	\$335	2-1/4	12	8,000-24,000
Makita	RF1101KIT	\$260	\$330	2-1/4	11	8,000-24,000
Porter-Cable	693VSPK	\$210	\$326	1-3/4	11	10,000-27,000

1. Package Price includes fence, extra fixed base, sub-base with large-opening, and below-base dust collection (where available) See pages 68 through 71 for details.

2. Centering cone used to center sub-base not available from Makita. Cones available from Bosch and DeWalt will work.

 = Editor's Choice

Porter-Cable 693VSPK

Pros

- This machine has a long history of reliability.
- The included fence is easy to use. It has a great micro-adjust for fine-tuning the fence position.
- Lowest cost of basic machine.
- One of two brands with below-the-base basket (\$45) for dust collection.

Cons

- Swapping the motor in and out of the plunge base is made tedious by requiring an Allen wrench in a slightly awkward position.
- Dust collection kit is the most cumbersome to put on.



Porter-Cable 693VSPK	\$210
Motor, fixed base, plunge base	included
Sub-base with large hole	\$14
Fence	included
Extra base for router table (1001P)	\$57
Dust collection for plunge-base and below-the-base dust-collection kit (39690P)	\$45
The whole package	\$326

and handles, the easy-to-install dust-collection basket, and the superior depth-of-cut indicators in plunge mode. It also had some nice small features, such as the ability to accept

widely available Porter-Cable-style guide bushings without removing the sub-base, and the ability to center the sub-base. The only real drawback is that the total package, with all the

accessories, is \$50 more than the other three. **AW**

	Tool-Free Base Change	Micro-Adjust Fence	Below-Base Dust Shroud	Sub-Base Centering	Switch Position Constant
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	Yes ²	No
	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

Contacts

Bosch: (877) 267-2499, www.boschtools.com
DeWalt: (800) 433-9258, www.dewalt.com

Makita: (800) 462-5482, www.makitatools.com
Porter-Cable: (800) 487-8665, www.porter-cable.com