



Minimalist router table

THIS UNCOMPLICATED ROUTER TABLE is at the other end of the scale from those ultimate router tables replete with bells and whistles. It is just a router mounted upside down on a piece of plywood. The simplicity of the design makes it far more flexible than most router tables. You can build it in about 20 minutes and add a simple fence in another 10. Additional fences are made easily for special purposes.



Doug Stowe builds furniture in his Arkansas shop, and teaches and writes about the craft.

To make the table, start with a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-thick plywood about 2 ft. by 3 ft. Cut a hole in the center of the table. Make and install a

plastic insert to fit around the bit. Make additional inserts as needed to provide a close fit around other bits in your collection. Also, to prevent the insert from lifting when the router runs, screw the insert to the table. Attach the router to the table by running machine screws through the recess for the insert.

The fence is simply a 1x4 that pivots on one end and is clamped on the other. A small movement at the clamp provides very close and precise

movement at the bit, allowing for adjustment in the thousandths of an inch. When the standard flat fence does not fit the application, I just make a new fence. I use a tall fence for making lock miters and making raised panels.

To use the table, simply clamp it to your workbench with wooden hand screws. When you're done, just unclamp the whole fixture and store it out of the way to save space.

—DOUG STOWE, Eureka Springs, Ark.