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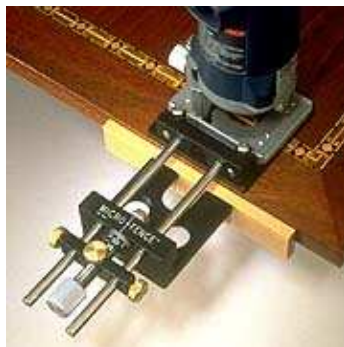
Industry Interview

Micro Fence: Machinist's accuracy meets woodworker's favorite tool

Michael Dresdner - May 31, 2005

It's often said that the best tools are the ones that do one job, but do it exceptionally well. That's what I feel about Micro Fence, an aftermarket router fence system that virtually defines the word "precision." Elegantly designed and flawlessly machined, this sleek router fence will satisfy even the most finicky woodworker with its wide range of setup options and a silky smooth micrometer adjustment that rewards and astonishes the user with absolutely no backlash.

When Micro Fence emerged onto the woodworking scene, it was unique enough that I still remember my first encounter with it. I was at the 1994 International Woodworking Fair (IWF) show in Atlanta, Georgia, and after turning it over in my hand and playing with it, I turned to its designer and said: "At every show you meet one exhibitor that stands out in your mind. For this show, you are it."



Micro Fence is the brainchild of sixty-one-year-old furniture maker and tool designer Richard Wedler, known to his friends, myself among them, as Rich. It reflects the marriage of a machinist's penchant for accuracy with a woodworker's need for precision. I'll let Rich explain how it came about.

"I had been working as a custom furniture builder and designer since the early 1970's," Rich told me. "My father was a machinist and tool maker, who often worked in my shop doing metal working and making jigs, fixtures, and accessories. In 1993, we started fooling around with the concept of bringing accurate measurement to the router, initially to fill my own needs. The result was the Micro Fence, a micrometer adjusted guide fence for the router. Basically, it is an extremely accurate adjustable edge guide."

"We went through some early iterations, but the real change came when I went to a woodworking show in Long Beach. I was showing the Micro Fence for the first time to see if there was any interest. Mark Duginske was there as an expert on tooling and machinery. I showed it to Mark, and he encouraged me to to replace my wooden prototype with an aluminum version."

"We made up an initial run of 500 units and



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