



Router Plate Installation

#14102 Router Plate

Installing into the table...

The basic function of the router plate is:

1/ to suspend the router under the table without losing adjustable depth because of thick work top material

2/ allow the router to be easily removed from the table for purpose of changing router bits.

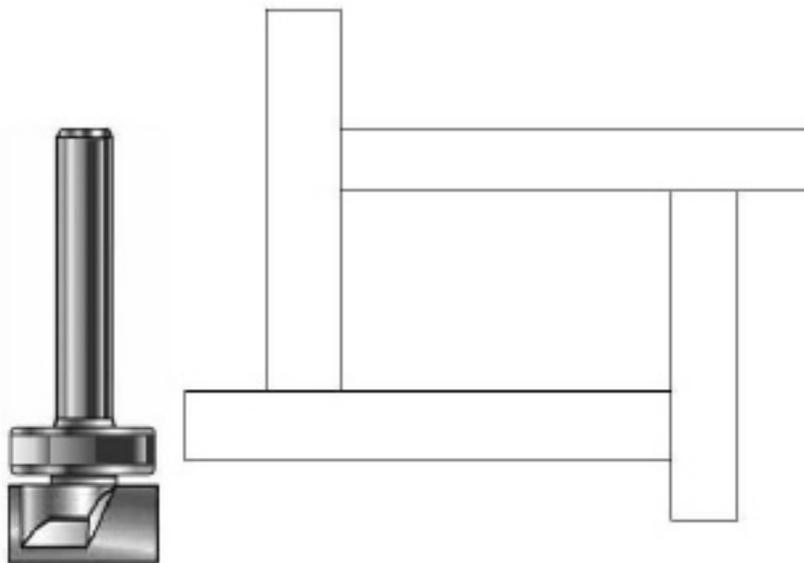
For these reasons the router plate is best if it is relatively thin and rests in a recess in the top of the table. A basic rabbet around the inside of the opening in the table top is the perfect support surface for any router plate. This rabbet needs to be made such that the router plate does not move excessively when resting in the rabbet.

The easiest way to create this rabbet is with the router and a top bearing trim router bit like the one pictured below. This style

of router bit has a cutting depth not much more than the thickness of the router plate and can be used to trace the exact size of the router plate into the table top.

To make a template to trace the router plate, flat stock is arranged tightly around the plate (see drawing below) where it is going to be recessed into the table top. It needs to be wide enough for the router to be supported and to be clamped to the table top. The material also needs to be of sufficient thickness to allow the bearing to ride on it and the router bit to not be too deep into the table top.

Once the rabbet is cut into the top, you can use any method you wish to cut the center hole through the table so the router plate can then be tested in rabbet. If the rabbet is too tight on the plate, move the appropriate bearing guide and trim the rabbet until the plate fits nicely.



Installing onto the router...

The router needs to be centered and attached to the plate. This is easiest done by removing the original router plate from the router and placing it on the new plate, both facing in the same direction upward. Center the original plate onto the new plate by aligning the center holes. One way is to use router bushings in both plates if the original plate accepts bushings and putting the smooth shank of a router bit or similar accurately machined pin through the holes.

No matter how they get centered, as long as they are centered to each other and clamped, the original plate's holes can be used as a drill guide to transfer the holes to the new plate. Counter sink or recess the holes in the new plate as needed to allow the fasteners to be flush with the top surface of the plate. Thread contact in the router is important. You don't want

the threads in the router to be stripped because the fasteners are too short. If the original fasteners are short because the new plate is thicker, obtain longer fasteners from your local hardware supplier.

The accuracy of the centering operation is critical on the successful use of jigs like dovetail jigs so take your time and center well.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact us.

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