

TOP 10 ROUTER SET-UP TIPS

Whether you're setting up your router table or a hand-held router, here are some handy tips that will make the process faster and more accurate.

Sometimes, setting up the router — fussing with the depth of a bit or tweaking the position of a router table fence — seems to take more time than actually routing the workpiece.

Not that you want to sacrifice accuracy for speed. With a hurried setup, a workpiece can easily end up in the scrap bin, which means you've got even more work to do.

Still, there are shortcuts you can safely take that will make the process a lot quicker. So we decided to share some of our favorite tips for setting up the router. Whether you are

performing a hand-held operation or have the router mounted in the table, these quick tips will help you speed up your setups — without adding to your scrap bin.

Router Fence Micro-Adjuster

Fine-tuning a router fence can be a hassle. It's hard to see how much you're adjusting the fence, and there's no measuring tape like there is on a table saw. Plus, it's easy to "bump" the fence too hard (or not quite hard enough) so that a simple setup takes several test passes before it's right.

To solve this, I made a micro-adjuster that can be clamped to the edge of the

table top behind my router fence, as you can see in the photo here. The adjuster isn't connected to the fence in any way (so you can use it with just about any type of router fence). Instead the micro-adjuster simply pushes the fence forward (or acts as a stop that you can push the fence against).

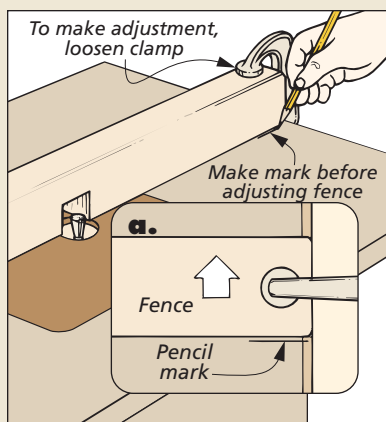
What makes the whole thing work is a hex bolt that runs through a common T-nut in the block, as shown in Fig. 1 below. A wing nut makes the bolt easier to turn, and a spring keeps tension on the bolt and prevents it from vibrating loose.



When using the micro-adjuster, roughly position the fence and clamp the adjuster to the table. Then with the opposite end of the fence tightened, you can fine-tune its position

by turning the adjuster. (If you need to back off the bolt, the fence will need to be pushed back against it.) Once the router fence is in the right position, simply clamp it down.

REFERENCE MARK



▲ When fine-tuning the router fence, it's hard to see how much it's actually being moved. So to make the adjustments easy to see, I make a reference mark beside the fence.

