

No. 111

Hands-free cutting with the router



A

Description

The router is easy to use for creative, artistic wooden surface processing. The tool is used hands-free without any kind of stop. Lines are drawn on the wooden surface either based on your own draft or with the use of templates. Then it's mainly a question of personal skill: following the lines to cut out the drawn motif, where possible without wobbling. The tool has to be guided with great care and very high precision. Wood with distinctive young and old tree rings require particularly exact router guidance because the cutter attempts to follow the hard old tree rings. For better illustration, the wood used is pickled dark prior to cutting.



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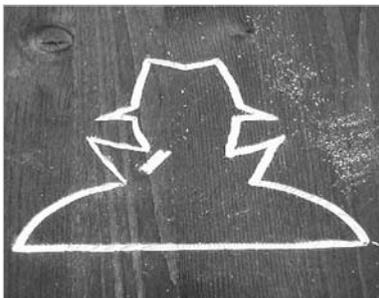
First a few examples:

- Engraving with the router. Plant motif cut with a script cutter. Can be used for decorations or for wood engraving.



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- Presentation of symbols as a decorative element



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- Orientation symbol, e.g. on a toilet door in a bar



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- Decorations can be used with an animal motif, e.g. for children's furniture



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- Signs with text

B

Tools/accessories



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Basic equipment:

Denomination	Order no.
Router (Festool OF 900 E, OF 1000 EB, OF 1010 EB)	*

*Please obtain the Order No. from the Festool main catalogue or from the Festool website.

For routing, the following cutters, among others, can be used:

- Script cutter
- V-groove cutter
- Flute cutters
- Groove cutter with small diameter

Use a dust extractor with extractor hose D 27 to ensure largely dust-free work and a clear view of the drawn lines.

For clamping the workpieces in this case, a multifunction table with clamping elements (accessories) is very suitable.

C

Preparation/set-up



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Fit the necessary cutter in collet of the router. A script cutter is used in our example. They are available in HW or HS.



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- Tracing contour lines using carbon paper onto the workpiece



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- Use the script cutter to move along the contour lines and cut out the contour in 1-2 work steps. Set the routing depth relatively low for the first work step; exact values cannot be specified at this point because this depends on the type of wood used. You should make a few trial cuts in advance with the same type of wood to find out by trial and error which routing depth is possible without any problems.



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- Guide the router with both hands. One hand is at the pistol grip and the heel of the other hand is on the workpiece and guides the router on the router table. This makes relatively exact guidance possible without any serious wobbling.



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A finished contour can look like this.



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Another option for cutting according to templates involves sticking a copy of the template onto the workpiece.



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- In this example, first cut all inner lines or elements and cut the contour of the face only at the end. Otherwise the template will slip.



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Great care must be taken when copying a flower from a template. This does not simply involve retracing a contour, but rather a ductile, three-dimensional effect should be created (see image 01).



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On the detail photo, you can see that the routing depth was changed while the flower was being cut.



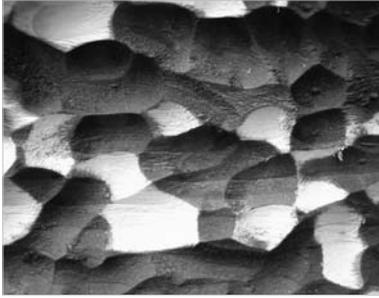
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A flute cutter allows you to achieve surfaces such as those created with a fluting carving tool.



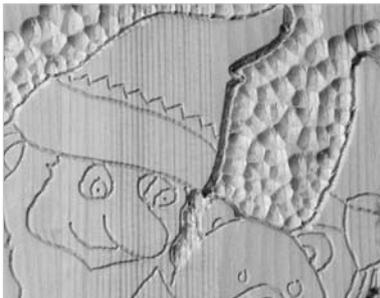
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- Raise and lower the motor section of the router while cutting. At the same time, you can also change the feed direction when fully plunged in the material. When cutting along existing edges, always ensure that you are working in the opposite direction.



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Experiment: a surface was "carved" with the flute cutter, then pickled red and then "carved" again in places. The three-dimensional effect becomes obvious.



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Here is an extract from a relief for a nursery motif. Engraving was carried out here with a script cutter and carving with a small flute cutter to produce the figures.



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A further ductile effect can be achieved if the wood is milled around a contour.



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In this example, a spiral groove cutter was used to produce the contour.

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