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Subject: First routing experiences less than rousing

Posted by [lon](#) on Sun, 01 Aug 2004 19:24:34 GMT

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I am using a rotozip-type tool with a 3/8 rabbeting bit on a 1/4 shank and collet. As might be expected, this tool has its prob.'s from being too lightweight to do much. The bit is cheap too because this is all trial work for me on a first-from-scratch project. So before I make any more pieces just suitable to roast weenies over, my first question is this: I'm using the tool counter-clockwise in the prescribed manner but I'm getting way too much tearout on the edges to make these baffle cuts worth finishing off. Also there's some smoke involved and the bit edges have blackened. The material is birch ply from the local home Depot. I have a few blanks left to get this technique down. How can I eliminate the tearout? Is it just a dull bit or something to do with grain direction? Or is it a problem handling the tool itself? A couple of my samples turned out pretty good with rabbets front side and chamfers on the rear. But I can't get any consistency. One practice piece looks like a daisy from what looks like hitting a knot. :-| Well enough of that for today. I have a filing cabinet to put together of the "Insert Flap "A" and Throw It Away" type. :-)  
lon@athenet.net

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Subject: Re: Insert flap "A" and throw.....

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Sun, 01 Aug 2004 21:37:01 GMT

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....the Roto-zip away. Hopefully you bought it at the Depot as well. In which case you can return it and the accessories and get a 40 or 50 dollar Ryobi plunge router which will do all you need. If not possible, hold on for dear life and make several passes that are maybe 1/4" of the rabbet at a time. Then make the finish pass and finally, go clockwise, known as a "climb cut" to finish the edges. The Roto and Dremel tools are for making outlet cuts in drywall and thin sheet metal. Also OK for polishing and small grinding. Everything else is wishful thinking.

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Subject: Gee, they work so well in the ads....

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 01:55:01 GMT

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Subject: Re: Insert flap "A" and throw.....

Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 02:50:50 GMT

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That's a good tip on back-cutting clockwise. Was wondering if I was using too much pressure laterally too. The machine has got a good enough workout that returning it would be real problematic. There's still a laminate gizmo to play with for flush trim and a circle cutter. The wholeshebang only cost \$30... not including the standard router bits I bought. I have a diamond stone... may I can touch up the bit and get the -- melted glue or whatever black crud is on it. File cabinet is upright. Drawers not done yet-- too hot here.

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Subject: Re: Gee, they work so well in the ads....  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 02:55:43 GMT  
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Bwhahahahahaha! No ads for this one-- it's the Tool Shop brand packaged for Menards. I have this thing set up in a spare room where I live. If I got \_real tools\_ management might blow a gasket. As it is I do my couple of passes when the parking lot is empty. I'm like Bob Brines who also practices the craft in an apartment.

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Subject: Mine works fine  
Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 18:59:09 GMT  
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On drywall, that is- wonderful for making electrical box cut-outs. If you're going to do any serious routing here's the skinny: Don't bother with less than 2 horsepower, go 1/2" collet size and run only carbide bits. Burning comes from overheating the workpiece and that happens when the bit is cutting too slow; you either need more power or less cutting depth so that you can keep the bit moving at a proper pace. Like all tools a nice one is a joy to work with, a cheap one is not worth having.

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Subject: I learned some things Re: Mine works fine  
Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 03 Aug 2004 20:05:09 GMT  
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I think Mr. Epstein also had some help with the routing stuff so here is my update on what I learned. First I sharpened my bits on a simple kitchen knife diamond stone... it is getting pretty worn down anyway. Then I did incremental cuts which improved things immensely. The peculiar thing I noticed was that the cut would consistently be uneven-- one side higher than

another. It must have been my technique so I just worked from the opposite side of the piece so the pressure was evened out. Result: a smooth even cut which I was able to edge sand to get the tear-out smoothed. No smoke this time. ;-)  
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