

KIT & TOOLS

**HAVING TROUBLE SOURCING THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB?
HERE'S A SELECTION OF NEW AND ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE WORKSHOP**
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MINI TEST

Groovers and cutters

At the start of any project, however small, there's always the tooling up phase. It's a ritual I know I share with every other woodworker, furniture maker and engineer on the planet. The process can be as basic as grinding a few new edges and honing a few more so that our hand tools are all in good shape for the task ahead. It may, on the other hand, involve a little number crunching to see if a new machine or piece of equipment will in fact pay for itself by the end of the job and turn out to be a good investment.

Tooling up for me this month meant going in search of some fresh router cutters; a couple of groovers and a spiral downcut cutter for a box project. The groovers, a 2mm and 6mm, I probably already have tucked away in a drawer somewhere along with an assortment of bearings, which somehow never quite seem to be the size I need. Faced with that dilemma, or more to the point wishing to avoid it altogether I did what most of us do and headed online for the catalogue instead. With the right cutters identified and just to be on the safe side, I ordered a new arbor as well. In fact two new arbors, one long one short to cover all the bases. If that sounds a little extravagant bear with me as there's method in the madness when you consider how much faffing around there'd be trying to make up the right set from the jumble of parts I already have. Just as time is money, sharp is the best way to introduce accuracy into a process and a little investment up front generally pays dividends at the end. Oh yes, and next day delivery is not to be sniffed at either.

In short what this amounts to is the sudden realisation that (a) perhaps I need to take more care of my router cutters and (b) that maybe a dedicated storage solution might not be such a bad idea after all. Watch this space, who knows, I may eventually get round to it and even use the groovers in the process.

The argument against even considering such an uncharacteristic display of workshop organisation is to adopt a pragmatic approach and accept that tooling can also come under the heading 'consumables'. At a time when we're encouraged to re-use and recycle as much as possible how is it then that I'm holding on to a couple of kilos of mild steel and compressed dust? The items opposite along with some much-needed technical advice provided over the phone came from **Wealden Tool Company**. Other outlets exist of course, but you knew that already.

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