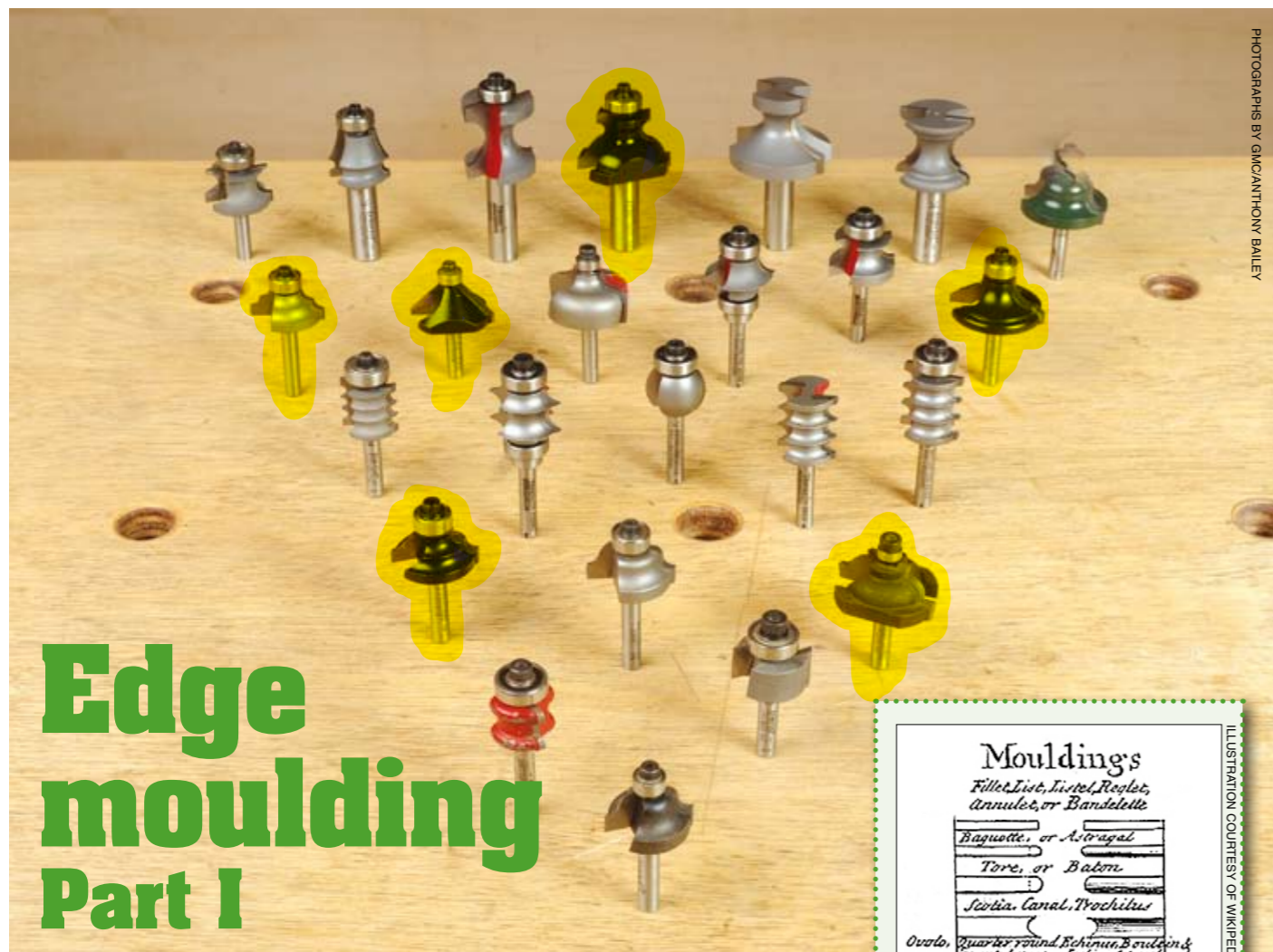


Router Know-how



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GIMCANTHONY BAILEY

Edge moulding Part I

They're one of the few types of cutters he hasn't yet covered – it's **The Editor's** guide to edge moulding cutters!

It doesn't matter how you slice it, router cutters are a big subject and though it seems I've got to grips with most of them, I haven't covered one of the most obvious types – edge moulding cutters. I thought this was a bit remiss and decided to sharpen up my act...

Typical uses

1 When you buy a starter set of cutters one of the most obvious types you will find are edge moulding cutters. There are several reasons for this. They don't have to be large and are therefore cheaper to make and easier to use. They can transform plain square shapes immediately into something more appealing and pleasant to the touch. An edge mould can be used to define the style



1 The cove on the left is contemporary, a traditional stepped bead on the right

of a piece of furniture e.g. a plain roundover for contemporary, or a classical mould for a traditional look. So, while edge moulding doesn't have any structural function, it does very quickly change the plain and square into a much more finished looking piece of work.

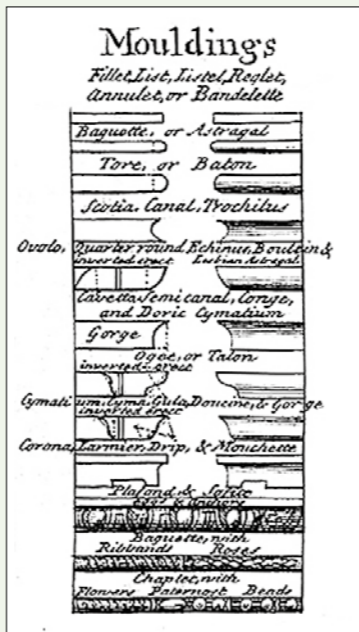


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In theory, the range of cutter designs is limitless, but in practice there are a number of well-worn moulding styles. Many or most of these are brought to us courtesy of thousands of years of history thanks to Greek and Roman influence and reinvented – or rather, re-found – down the ages as things have gone in and out of fashion. This was helped in particular by the likes of the architect Andrea Palladio (1508-1580) who reintroduced classical forms

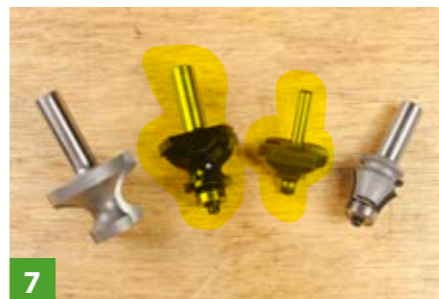
2 Some of the forms I will look at have already appeared before, because to me there aren't arbitrary lines drawn between cutter types – of course router cutter manufacturers have to do so or their catalogues would be a complete mess. Interestingly my idea of edge moulds doesn't tend to accord with theirs but that is just my interpretation of an edge. To be more specific, my definition would be a cutter that reshapes the 'arris' – meeting of face and edge – or the edge – short face – of a component.

3 We looked at roundover/ovolo and cove/corebox cutters in WPP 70 and they are indeed a part of this group, but we won't cover them in great detail here. However, they appear in every starter set to some extent. You should consider these first before adding other types. They are useful in a variety of sizes and can be used in a number of ways; you can even 'gang' components together for added effect.

4 V-point and bevel cutters can be used to take away the sharpness of an edge and are one of my favourite methods of improving the look and feel of furniture, especially oak (*Quercus robur*) which it suits far better than roundovers and often gives it a slightly 'gothic' feel.

5 The ogee group are another very common 'arris' type of edge moulding cutter. These are normally referred to as either Roman or Greek ogee, the former having a regular in-out curve form while the latter type has a more asymmetric sweep to its profile.

6 The bead and reed group of cutters is substantial and covers a wide range of curved shapes that alter the look and feel of wood in various



7 It's worth exploring cutter catalogues to see some of the more interesting profiles



2 Both these profiles mould both edge and face in other words removing the arris



4 A bevel cutter on oak is particularly effective and gives a crisp appearance

ways. Some of the simpler patterns can look contemporary while most are suited to traditional design.

7 There are a whole group of interesting cutter profiles which are less common but should really get used more. They are diverse in shape so I have put them together for simplicity. Among them is cavetto, bolection – used around sunken panel with a rebate on the reverse – lambs tongue, guttering – not for gutters! – splayed roundover, swept curve, etc. Some don't even have a name but they do have an appealing profile.

8 Modern materials demand different solutions and one requirement is machining Corian and other similar worktop materials, so there are dedicated Corian cutters with edge profiles that suit kitchen and bathroom use and can cope with cutting hard compounds. ■



8 Corian looks and feels tough, bearings are usually sleeved to protect it though



3 You can stack a variety of moulds and plain edged sections together and create an imposing cornice



5 Ogee cutters create a flowing edge as an alternative to both cove and roundover



6 Reed cutters are suitable for reproduction table edges and chair frame components

Manufacturers & suppliers

- Wealden** www.wealdentool.com
- Trend** www.trend-uk.com
- CMT** www.cmttools.co.uk
- Titman** www.titman.co.uk
- Makita** www.makita.co.uk
- Axcaliber** www.axminster.co.uk
- Whiteside** www.routercutter.co.uk
- Infinity** www.infinitytools.co.uk

In Part 2 we look at some top tips for working with these cutters.