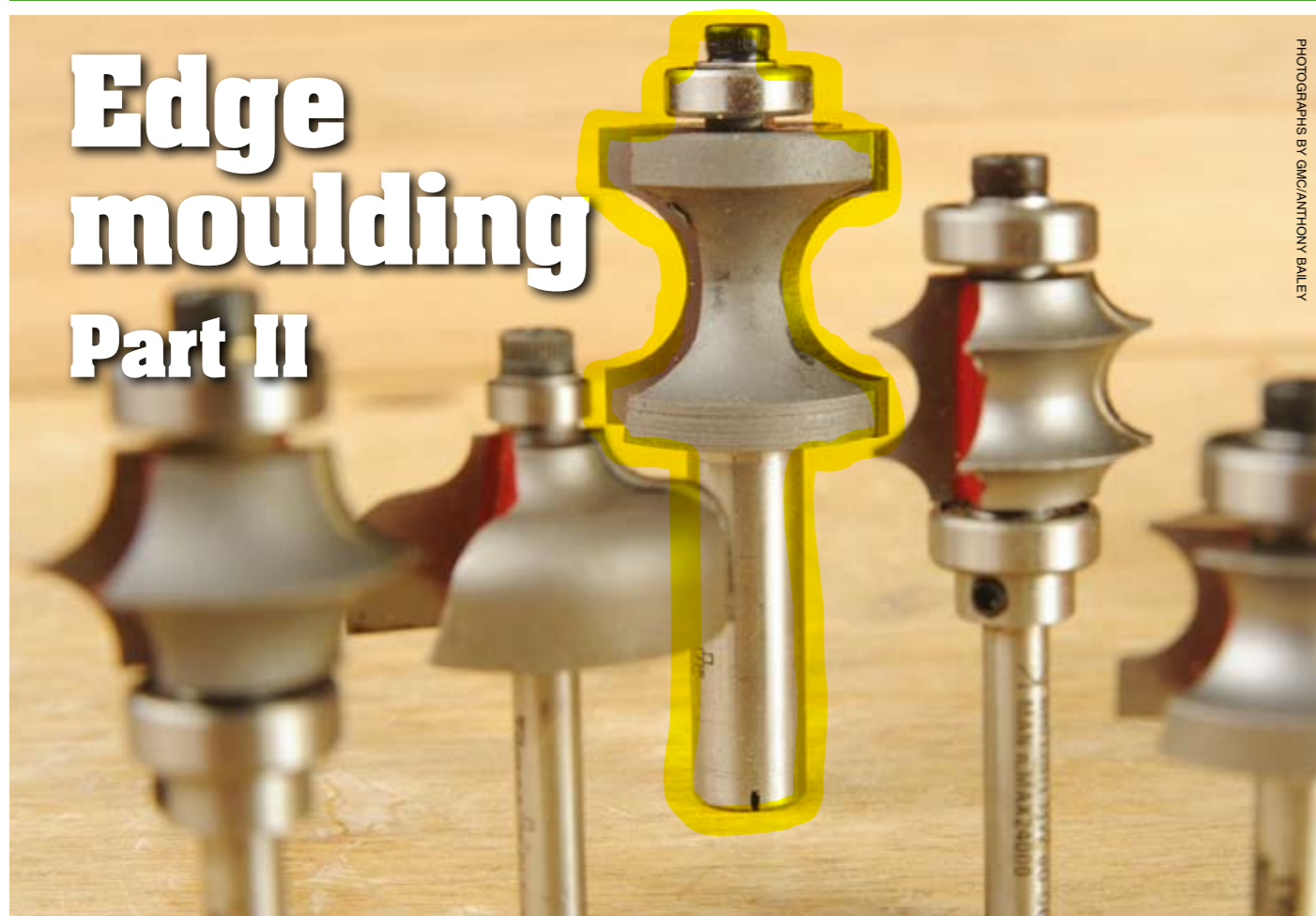


Router Know-how

Edge moulding Part II



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

The Editor wraps up the Router Know-how series with these tips for working with edge moulding cutters

Edge moulding cutters are some of the most important in our cutter sets. Although largely they're for creating an aesthetically pleasing result, it is that effect that transforms plain, square looking furniture, so the power of such mouldings cannot be underestimated in good design.

In the last issue I discussed the various types and uses of edge moulding cutters; this time, we finish off the Router Know-how series with some tips for working with them.

Top tips

1 Edges by their very nature are narrow, which means making choices about cutter guidance. Bearing guidance is possible if enough edge is left for it to run against. You may need to use a template if there isn't that option.

2 If you are simply removing an arris, say with an ogee or ovolo, that isn't a problem if the bearing has something left to run against. However, say in the example of a mirror frame you will have a moulding and a rebate, so when the moulding is done there may be no 'land' for the rebate cutter's bearing to run against.

3 The best option which is also more precise is to use a router



2 Take care in choosing the correct cutter size and minimising the required rebate depth, making sure you have enough running surface for the bearing



1 This workpiece has been turned upside to show the result; the MDF runs against the bearing of course



3 This quite ambitious bolection moulding – panel frame with rebate – needs plenty of support and multiple passes



4 Bench Cookies are one of several handy non-slip work supports which allow cutters and bearings to hang down lower than the workpiece underside

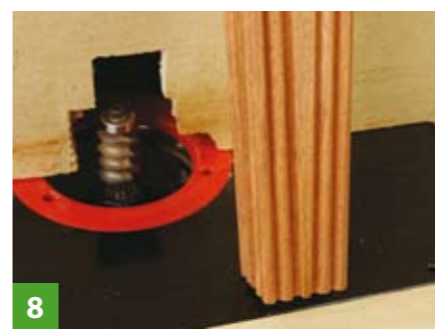
table with a fence. This is fine for straight edge work as you don't need a bearing which gives more choice of cutters and you can stick some veneer edging tape or a thin fillet on the outfeed side to support the edge properly if it is to be fully moulded.

4 If you need to work freehand then you must take care that the bearing on a cutter doesn't foul the bench, some form of support is needed to lift the workpiece up.

5 Thin edge mouldings are best done by working off the edge of a wide board, cutting the moulding off and repeating the operation as many times as required, ensuring the wood won't chatter and break up easily.

6 Conversely, with large areas such as table and cabinet tops, it can be easier to glue square solid lippings on to veneered boards and machine the profile in situ. You need to make the lippings a tiny fraction thicker than the boards they are being glued to so they can be carefully sanded flush before moulding.

7 The corner bead cutter is one I've always kept in my arsenal if only to disguise the meeting between two



8 The result of moulding from both edges creates a visually pleasing effect especially when performed on all the adjoining component faces



5 Edge moulding a board and then cutting each piece off means the new raw edge will need planing before the next moulding is done

doors. It is quite difficult to achieve a totally even door gap especially with big or long doors such as on a wardrobe. It is also not unknown for a set of doors to be slightly out of 'wind' meaning twisted because that's how wood is! The corner bead disguises very well and is completed by a rebate on the opposite door so you get a dust and light tight closure.

8 Bead and reed cutters change the look of components such as the legs on reproduction furniture or the edge of a table top. Because of the thickness, or rather thinness, of the stock you will normally need to run the cutter bearing off a template. Legs most often will taper while cutters do not of course. In this case your only option is to machine from both sides so there is a narrow tapering area of unmoulded 'land' in the middle.

9 Many edge mould cutters create profiles that look good when stacked, i.e. built up into projecting layers to make impressive cornice and other 'statement' profiles. This is a lot easier and safer than machining wide sections and allows the mouldings to project more than by other means.

Although not every cutter type or profile has been covered in this series,



9 With just two stages machined you can get the idea that with further mouldings and alternating plain flat sections you can make an imposing cornice



6 Any router is suitable, a small trimmer can be used one-handed for this work



7 Normally this 'meeting' would be rebated together to make it dust- and light-tight and let the doors close together properly

hopefully it will give you an appetite to explore the vast variety of cutters on the market. It is worth getting hold of catalogues so you can choose based on comparable information and buy economically while creating a wider, more balanced set of cutters.

You'll have noticed the start of our new series 'RouterCentric' – projects using a variety of woodworking methods but with routing at the core. We will show you how to use your router and cutters to best advantage with jigs and various tips thrown in for good measure, so stay with us and enjoy the ride! ■

Manufacturers & suppliers

- Wealden www.wealdentool.com
- Trend www.trend-uk.com
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- Titman www.titman.co.uk
- Makita www.makita.co.uk
- Axcaliber www.axminster.co.uk
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