



Woodsmith **PLANS**

FLUSH-TRIM JIG



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An auxiliary router base supported by an easy-to-control guide takes the hassle out of flush-trimming the edging on a workpiece.

A hand-held router and a flush-trim bit make quick work of trimming the hardwood edging flush on a plywood panel — if you can keep the router steady. The challenge is trying to balance the router on the edge of the panel.

But with the flush-trim jig shown in the photo at right, trimming the edging flush is almost automatic. After clamping the workpiece in a bench vise, simply run the router along the edge.

THE JIG. As you see in Figure 1, the router is attached to an auxiliary base that replaces the standard base on the router. Adding a vertical guide and guide support stabilizes the router and keeps the bit perpendicular to the edging at the same time.

To make the auxiliary base, use your existing router base as a template for marking the mounting holes. Drill and counterbore these a little oversized (Figure 1a). This way, you can shift the router on the base when “fine tuning” later.

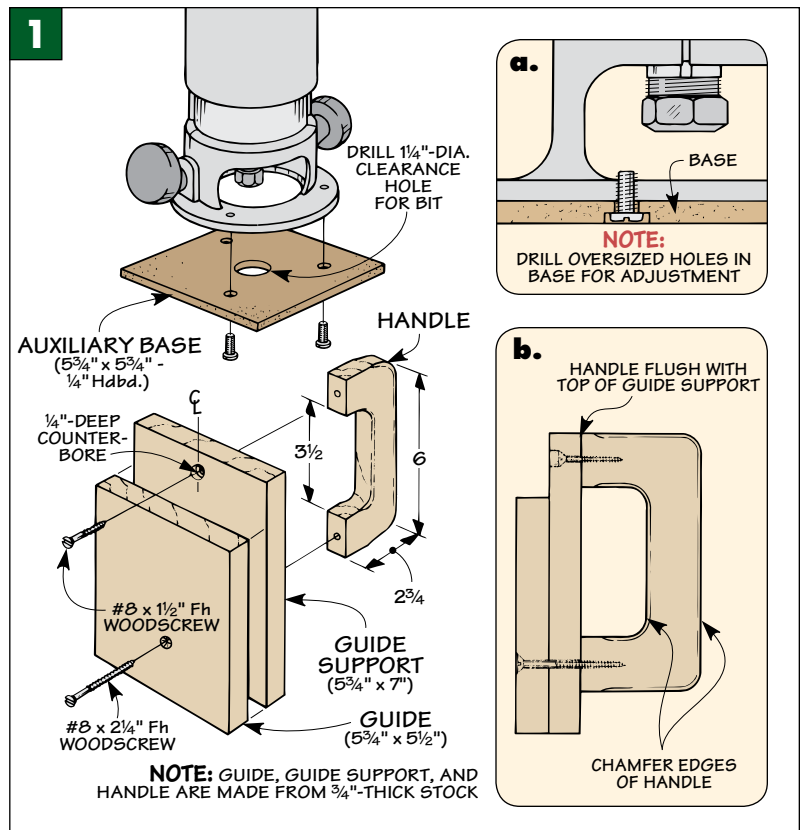
The guide and the guide support are the same width. But the guide is 1½" shorter than the support. This will form a “step” for bit clearance when you glue them together, as you see in the upper right photo.

Before attaching the auxiliary base, cut the handle to shape from ¾"-thick stock and screw it to the guide support (Figure 1b).

ASSEMBLY. When attaching the guides to the auxiliary base, it's important to align the inside face of the guide with the bearing on the bit. This way, the guide can do its job of stabilizing the router and the bit can do its job of trimming the edging flush.



▲ **Flush-Trim Bit.** A flush-trim bit makes it a snap to trim edging perfectly even with a piece of plywood.



First, mount your router to the base and position the guide assembly. With a square, align the guide with the bearing and draw a line to mark the location (Figures 2 and 2a).

After you have removed the router from the base, you'll need to turn the jig over to drill the pilot holes for the screws. To help keep the base from shifting out of place as you do this, attach a piece of double-sided tape to the base. Then use the pencil mark on the base to realign the guide (Figure 3). Finally, remove the double-sided tape and attach the guide to the base (Figure 4).

TEST CUT. After screwing the router back on the base, make a test cut on some edging attached to a scrap piece. Run the router along the face of the scrap and check the results.

If the edging isn't trimmed flush with the plywood, you'll need to adjust the position of the router. To do this, loosen the mounting screws and shift the router as needed.

