

Buying Guide – Router Bits

Router Bits – A must-have in woodworking

You have finally found the perfect router you need to complete your toolbox. Even though your router is high-tech and ideal for the job to be done, you need to find router bits you want. There are a myriad of types of router bits that exists on the market. Here's what you need to know to make the best choice of router bits to help you realize your projects.

Types of router bits

There is virtually as many types of router bits available on the market, as there are types of jobs and motifs you can do. Here is an overview of the most common router bits you can find.



Beading Router Bits : Beading router bits are used for decorative purpose. They cut quarter-round shaped bounded by fillets. Beading router bits create a bead like contour on the wood piece.

Our recommendation: [Freud - 1/16" Radius Beading Bit - 36-100](#)

Chamfer router bits: Chamfer router bits cut a bevel of a specific angle to ease or decorate the edges of a surface. They can also make the beveled edges needed to join multi-sided constructions.

Our recommendation: [Freud - 1-11/32" \(Dia.\) Chamfer Bit - 40-202](#)



Cove router bits: Cove router bits are a trim unit on which one edge has a curved radius. They are used to bridge the gap between the bottom of the wall and the floor.

Our recommendation: [Freud - 1-1/2" \(Dia.\) Classical Cove & Bead Bit \(Quadra-Cut\) - 38-362](#)

Edge-Forming router bits: As its name suggests, edge-forming router bits are generally used to cut a decorative edge. Many edge forming bits include a pilot bearing. Most of the time, these bits are used for final decoration of a project, where edges have already been established and can serve as guides for the bits.

Our recommendations : [Freud - QUAD TABLE EDGE BIT - 99-450Q](#) - [Freud - QUAD TOP EDGE PROFILE - 99-010Q](#)



Flush-Trim router bits: Like their name suggests, these bits are used to trim the edge of one material flush with the edge of another. Most of the time, they are guided by a pilot bearing that is the same diameter as the cutter. The bearing may be at the tip of the bit or at the base.

Our recommendations : [Freud - 1/2" \(Dia.\) Bearing Flush Trim Bit - 42-104](#) - [Freud - 1-1/4" \(Dia.\) Top Bearing Flush Trim Bit - 50-126](#)

Rabbeting router bits: The rabbeting router bits are guided by a spinning pilot bearing at the tip and are specifically designed to cut a rabbet (shoulder) in the edge of a workpiece often used to join pieces. These bits can be purchased in a set that gathers bearings of different diameters, allowing a single bit to make rabbets of different sizes.



Our recommendation: [Freud - 1-1/4" \(Dia.\) Rabbeting Bit - 32-096](#)



Straight router bits: A workshop staple, straight router bits make cuts straight into the mater to create a groove or dadoo (a groove across the wood grain) or to hollow out an area for a mortise or inlay. Straight bits come in a vast array of diameters and length.

Our recommendation: [Freud - 1-9/32" \(Dia.\) Double Flute Straight Bit \(Double Grind\) - 12-135](#)

Router Bit Materials

There are three different types of material that are used to make router bits. Each material shows how the router bits will and can be used and how expensive it will be. The more expensive they are, the longer they will last and the better they will perform.

High Speed Steel : The high speed steel router bits are usually designed for use in softer materials. The material that is used in these router bits is the softest of all the materials available so that they don't maintain their edge as long as the other materials. High-speed steel router bits are the least expensive on the market. However, they are perfect for recreational users who use routers from time to time for various tasks.

Carbide Tip : Unlike the high speed steel, carbide is a much stronger material and is used to create the cutting part of carbide tip router bits. Carbide tips can hold their edge much longer than high speed steel bits. They are also capable of cutting much harder woods and even metals. Generally, carbide tip router bits are used by professional woodworkers who are constantly using routers for their craft. Even though they are expensive, carbide tip bits tend to last much longer and offer more of a value to professionals who need them.

Solid Carbide : Even more durable than carbide tip routers and high speed steel routers, solid carbide routers are also the strongest of them all. Most of the time they are used for heavy duty tasks and on the hardest materials. Solid carbide bits hold their edge longer than the other types of materials and can be utilized for longer periods. Finally, they are more expensive than other router bits, but have the greatest longevity.

Check out our most popular brand for routers bits!

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Federated Tool – Retail Store

1581 Oxford St. East
London, Ontario, N5V 2Z4

Toll Free: 1-800-387-0608

Phone: (519) 451-0100

Fax: (519) 451-9376

Email: sales@federatedtool.com

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Phone: (519) 451-0100 **-Fax:** (519) 451-9376 **-Email:** sales@federatedtool.com