

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I would classify this accident as a fall. I was routing a table top edge free hand, when I stepped around the table with the router still running. I slipped on the sawdust on the floor and fell forward with the running router in my hands. I was able to land with the router out stretched and the bit away from me - but I think this was just lucky. I was badly bruised from the fall, but was not cut by the router bit. There was a lot of saw dust on the floor because I had been routing for a while. My advise is to either clean up as you go or put a non skid surface down. The floor I was working on was wood. Now I have rubber mats in place at places where I need extra traction in high sawdust areas.

**Advice**

There was a lot of saw dust on the floor because I had been routing for a while. My advise is to either clean up as you go or put a non skid surface down. The floor I was working on was wood. Now I have rubber mats in place at places where I need extra traction in high sawdust areas.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I have a 1.5 horse Craftsman router & a table. It uses 1/4" bits only. We had a Moores lumber yard go out of business this spring. They had Amana bits 70% off retail & I bought several. One that I got was the rabbeting bit. It is big & heavy. I was milling in hard maple rails for a door frame. The first 3 did just fine, but the last one went bad. As I was starting my run I noticed that alot of wood was flying out, but I kept going. When I finished the 22" part the bit came out the top of the board. I looked and the bit had pulled up out of the chuck almost the full length of the shaft. Well I ducked down & shut off the router. If it had come out I would have been hurt I'm almost sure. I had it as tight as I always do. Then I remembered that I talked with a tech support person at one of the major bit companies, he told me that their 1/4" panel bits worked just fine, then he asked me what router I had & I told him & he said OH. He said Sears was the only routers they had any trouble with, because they did not hold the big panel bits well. I think it must go for any big heavy bit.

**Advice**

Now I will get a 1/2" router for the big heavy bits & use my Craftsman for small bits only.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was routing 3/4" tenons, with a number to do. I completed all of the operation safely, because I was using a set up including a guard, and featherboards, etc. I removed all fixtures from the router table to set up for the next operation, and then discovered the one that I had inadvertently only routed on just one end. I figured I could push it through without reinstalling all the safety fixtures. Big Mistake. Kickback occurred...QUICKLY...my push motion continued without the wood right into the bit. My middle and ring finger on my right hand were turned to hamburger for about 1/2". There was NOTHING to stitch, all the doctor could do, was cut off most of the mangled meat, and pull flaps of skin over, hoping for the best. Took weeks for healing to occur, and fingers were very sensitive for a long while after. Still sensitive in cold weather! But they do work, a bit shorter than they were though.

**Advice**

Take whatever time is needed to set up, or in this case re-setup safety fixtures, featherboards, guards, whatever will keep your fingers away from the cutter. Any time that you think will be SAVED, will quadruple in a trip to an emergency room. Check all parts before taking a setup down, assuring that all are done.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

This was my father-in-law -- I was watching. He was routing the end grain of a piece of wood on a table mounted router. He was holding the piece too close to the end, and the piece was too small and he was working when he was too tired. Ripped one finger off, chewed up a couple others.

**Advice**

Don't work when you're tired!!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was machining the female portion of a sliding dovetail with a table mounted router and a fence. The bit was captured within the wood as the piece was fed from right to left. Everything was chuggin" along just fine, until the bit exited the end of the workpiece and finished its work by machining a half dovetail in the end of one of my fingers. Got part of the fingernail and part of the flesh, but did not cut to the bone.

**Advice**

Pay attention and think the process through and always use a push stick and-or other devices to insure that no apendages will be in the "line of fire"!

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

Routing freehand with a non-slip pad underneath workpiece. As router went around to opposite side of workpiece the bit caught a portion of the pad which was bunched up and sticking up just high enough for the bit to latch onto it. The bit picked the pad from underneath the workpiece and commenced to flail me severely about the head and shoulders. Slapped me sillier and then slapped some sense into my head.

**Advice**

Don't presume that just because something is lightweight and simple to use that it is at all times safe to use without a little thought. I should have checked before I started the process to insure no part of the pad was sticking up. Easy lesson, no damage, but it hurt the heck out of my pride.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was template routing an arch in end grain of an oak board, on the router table, to make a Shaker step stool. The fact that I'm not quite sure of what happened leads me to believe that I had a lapse in concentration; anyway, the board was whipped out of my hands and onto the floor, with a 1" or 1 1/2" by 1" piece literally ripped out. My best guess is one of two; either I fed the board too fast, or, more likely, I was trying to route up against the grain.

**Advice**

Whenever you have to route endgrain, if you're not routing straight across be sure to route "downhill" so the grain won't catch in the bit.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

This is really stupid and happened on my router table. I was putting an ogee on the edge of an oak strip one day and somehow 'cause I was feeding it too fast or not holding it down evenly, I could tell I missed a spot halfway into the cut. I was just using my hands to feed the piece since it completely covered the router bit and I didn't think I needed any safety equipment. Here comes the stupid part. When I realized I didn't shape one spot completely, I decided to back the piece up instead of picking it up and starting over. AS I slid the wood backwards, the router caught it and flung it behind me. My left ring finger fell into the bit removing about 3/8". At the emergency room, the doctor removed the rest of the nail and stitched the skin back over the end of my finger.

**Advice**

Especially when you think it's safe, it isn't! Use push blocks every time and never try to climb-cut on a router table - period!



**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

using a router table I was changing over to a rabbeting bit when my brother dropped in for a visit. We talked for a bit then it was back to work. when I started the router there was an increasing noise and the little benchtop router table started moving across the bench. I pulled the plug and there was the bit still in the router with a 45 degree bend in its shaft. I hadn't tightened it in the router. I hate to think what would have happened if it came out.

**Advice**

Finish what you are doing before you stop to visit or do anything else. I won't even answer the phone now. Also I put the wrench away after every change. That way if I don't see the wrench in it's place I would recheck if I had tightened the bit or not. I have done alot of rechecking but it's worth the extra time.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

One often has to perform repetitive tasks with a router, in which one routs some wood, adjusts the setup, and routs some more. It's easy to get into a rhythm that encourages economy of motion in setting the router down, and not wanting to wait for the bit to stop spinning before starting the next action. One of my routers is a Sears, with a nice flat top, perfect for setting down while the bit spins down. I gave myself a real scare a few years ago when the back of my mind (the part that hadn't been bored into catatonia) noticed that I was routing, quickly placing the router onto its head while it spun down, and dragging my right wrist across the still-spinning bit while reaching down to the work. I was only avoiding an inadvertent suicide by a few millimeters.

**Advice**

When I use power tools, I now follow a new rule. After shutting off the power to a tool, I do not move my hands until all motion has ceased, whether it's a router, table saw, bandsaw, or anything else. Perhaps it takes a little longer, but not as long as driving oneself to a hospital, or learning to do woodworking with fewer fingers.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

My Sear's Craftman ex-router has a slide on-off switch instead of a "dead-man" switch. After changing bits, I must have inadvertently slid the on-off switch to the on position. When I plugged the router in, it turned on and jumped out of my hand onto the workbench than onto the floor.

**Advice**

Do not by power tools that do not have spring loaded (dead-man) switches. Also make sure that you have a firm grip on a hand-held power tool when you plug it in.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had routed a groove in a board on a router table, but needed it to be a tad wider. I moved the fence forward a bit and fed the piece right to left again. But this time it was a climb cut and the bit grabbed the board and shot it through. My left hand didn't keep up with the board and went into the spinning bit. Took a groove out of the inside of my left middle finger which has healed, but it is still numb.

**Advice**

Use push blocks instead of fingers. Carefully consider feed direction on a router table. Be aware of where the wood will be removed and feed accordingly. Better yet, if your bit isn't the right size, use a dado head in the table saw instead.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

Using a plunge router I had cut some slots using an edge guide that is held in place with wing nuts. I then switched to routing the edges of the piece, removing the guide, but not the wing nuts, because they have quite a few threads and are a pain to get started. After routing for a while, one of the wing nuts had vibrated loose and fell into the routing chamber. Lucky for me, the router flung it away from me, out the back of the chamber. This could have been very bad, metal being flung at that rate could have done some real damage. The wing nut has a nice gouge in it as a reminder.

**Advice**

Set your tools up for the operation at hand, no matter what the time cost is. Think, think, think....

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

was widening a groove cut in a board using a cove bit mounted on a router table. Viewed from above, passes were from right to left so the spinning bit held the board against the fence. When widening the groove on the side nearest the fence, moved the fence closer to the bit and again fed from the right. Router (3hp) grabbed board and flung it 20 feet.

**Advice**

Always think of bit rotation prior to using a router. While the direction was correct for making a groove, when \*widening\* a groove as described above all the cutting action was on the side of the bit going in the direction of rotation, which caused the bit to grab the board. The correct direction would have been from left-to-right when widening the groove, with a featherboard clamped to hold the board against the fence.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Well I was cutting a 3/4 inch dado on the router table with some 2x pine stock. the wood climbs and basically my left middle finger went into the 3/4 inch bit. Shattered my nail along with my bone. I then went to the emergency room. They stitched up my nail and stabilized my bone. Took over a month to heal the finger. Still hurts today.

**Advice**

Keep your fingers away from the bit. If possible use a push stick!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was rounding over some edges of a proposed picture frame for my sister. She was with me helping to feed the pieces. We were using feather boards to hold the piece against the fence but not to hold them to the table as they were quite small (too small to do safely?), and there was little to no room to use push stick if the hold down featherboards were used. I was using a push stick to guide the last foot or so into and past the blade, when as the piece neared the end, the push stick contacted the blade. The push stick was splintered on the end and as it happened my hand followed it towards the bit, narrowly missing it by maybe 1/2". It certainly scared the crap out of me, but, my sister who is totally inexperienced with power tools will probably never touch one now. cause. Using a push stick that was too thin-small (a piece of readily available un-milled scrap), and not using the proper hold down set-up. Perhaps as well I should have done all possible rounding and rabbeting prior to ripping the pieces.

**Advice**

Make and use proper push sticks (as well as any other safety devices), improper or under sized safety equipment ....isn't safety equipment!



**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

It was late, but I decided to make just one more dado cut. After feeding the wood across the table and completing the cut, I turned off the router and looked at the cut. For some reason I then looked back at the table and noticed that the bit was no longer raised above the table. I realized the router was slipping out of its base and reached under to grab hold of it. Just as I reached in, the router completely slipped out. The bit rolled across the palm of my right hand. Although I had turned off the router, the bit was still spinning, slowing to a stop. I needed 6 stitches. It healed pretty well, but the scar is visible.

**Advice**

No matter what, wait until the tool comes to a complete stop before even thinking about doing anything else. I keep my eyes on it until it stops, then continue. Also, check twice to ensure that the router is locked securely in its base before turning it on.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Hand holding a small piece of wood while cutting a deep groove on the router table, the piece of wood suddenly stopped when it caught on the table insert (which after close inspection after the accident it is obvious the insert is slightly lower than the height of the table). Three of my fingers proceeded to get shoved into the cutting bit! Ouch. Lots of blood, very painful, but fortunatinly no serious permanent damage expected. (Fingers are still very tender 2 months after the injury, but improving).

**Advice**

Never hand hold small pieces of wood when working with your router table. Always find a device, jig, etc. to hold the wood for you. Check the table insert. If it is not perfectly smooth at it's interface with the table, either get a new table or build a new table or build a new table surface.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Have been around tools and routers for several decades. Routing splines in 1 3/4" white oak for a table, by hand, 3.25 HP router, 1/2" shaft on a spline bit. End of 10 hour day, just two more cuts to make, SWMBO is waiting to go to dinner. Finish the last cut turn the router off and HISDOPINESS lowers the router to his thigh!!! Good thing I was wearing an apron. The bit grabbed the apron and proceeded to climb toward my crotch area at which point the bunched apron jammed everything to a stop. 1) Needless to say the apron is ruined 2) Not as ruined as my love life would have been As thoughts of Wayne Bobbit went through my head

**Advice**

DON'T WORK WHEN YOU'RE TIRED OR IN A RUSH TO DO OTHER THINGS. Regardless of how many years you have worked with a tool, remember to pay attention to all aspects, spinning down, rest area, don't rush and keep tools away from body, whether power or hand, sharp or dull. Establish habits to maintain safety and body parts.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I've been using machine tools for 40 years. I had just finished about 70 small pieces on a router table and was changing bits for the next operation. While holding the bit between my thumb and forefinger (in the router) I stepped on the footswitch!!! Fortunately it was a soft start router. I got away with about 15 small nicks in my finger and thumb.

**Advice**

Repetitive cuts tend to automate your body, you become part of the machine. They also make you do really STUPID things - without thinking. Keep your mind on your work at all times, take breaks, pay attention! Unplug your machine before changing bits or blades.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was using a Porter Cable router mounted underneath a Porter Cable router table. For those of you who are not familiar with this particular set up, the power cord on the router plugs into a receptacle that is mounted underneath the table. The table has its own "on" "off" switch and power cord which plugs into an electrical source. The "on" "off" toggle switch on the router is left in the "on" position. This allows you to turn the router on & off by the switch that is attached to the table. When I was finished with the router table I removed my router from the table, cleaned it off & put it back in its case. I also forgot to switch the router's toggle switch to the "off" position. The next time I took my router out to use it I sat it on my workbench & plugged it into an electrical outlet. I don't have to describe what happened next. With the toggle switch being left in the "on" position from the last time it was used, the router flipped off the workbench, hit the floor & broke the cast base. Never in my life have I unplugged an electrical device so fast. My wife was standing right by me when this incident occurred. Luckily no one was injured.

**Advice**

This incident taught me a very valuable lesson. Before I plug my router into an electrical outlet I ALWAYS make sure the toggle switch is in the "off" position.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

My accident occurred because I violated safety rules and common sense. I was rounded over the edges of boards using my router upside down. I held the router and switch with my right hand and the wood with my left hand. The blade caught the wood and pulled my middle finger past the bit. It removed a very thick layer of skin off of the tip of my finger. It could have been much worse. I spent \$400+ at the emergency room. The correct tool to have done the process safely was a fraction of that. My finger has healed up to nearly 100%. I was fortunate.

**Advice**

If it looks dangerous or stupid it probably is. If someone tells you it is dangerous, listen. Review all the safety information you can about a power tool before you use it. Also review information such as this to identify other possible dangers.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I bought a drum sanding attachment for a drill press and mounted it in my router table to finish the edge of a curved part of a project I was working on. I turned the router on and as it came up to speed I watched as the attachment spun itself apart and flew across the room. The part was not meant to turn at 30,000 RPM.

**Advice**

Don't put anything into your router that wasn't designed for it.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

1800w Router secured upside down in Router Table. Biscuit jointing cutter fitted (4mm thick). Whilst feeding well seasoned beech into the cutter I used my right hand to keep timber against cutter blades, can you believe this?! Timber caught and `kicked out by blades, allowing my forward position to feed my own hand into the cutter. Two choices 1. I could neatly joint my right little finger to the workbench 2. Attend Accident and Emergency. I chose the latter. It transpires that I chose the wrong bit to stuff my finger into not, of course that there is a correct one. Because of the narrow depth of the bit I removed a no10 sized biscuit joint from that finger. To cut a long story short nine months later I have had that finger amputated. The finger was initially closed by stitches and I was referred to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in England the following day.

**Advice**

Get wise on safety. Always but always use a feather board and all appropriate guards on a Router Table . It might take you an extra five minutes or so to set up, that is nothing compared with the consequences of not doing so.



**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Using rabbeting bit mounted in table-mounted router to take an initial "light pass" on a picture frame molding. Doing as I read many times to do by passing the stock through the machine in the wrong direction to minimize or avoid chipout and tearout (i.e. passing the stock left-to-right instead of right-to-left). The bit caught and almost instantly ejected the stock from between my hands and the bit. My right forefinger has a small 3/8 x 3/8 hunk cleanly removed from the right forefinger. Fingernail was not effected. Took 6-8 stitches. Still maintain functionality, although have reduced sense of feel and increased sensitivity to cold on effect digit.

**Advice**

1) Don't pass stock the wrong way through the router unless you are completely prepared to deal with the consequences of the highly probable total loss of control of the stock! 2) Always use safety guards over bits and blades. If I'd had a small plastic hood over top my rabbeting bit that day, my finger probably would not have gotten near enough to have been cut. 3) Always use push-sticks and such to hold the work in position. Avoid putting hands anywhere near cutting edges in motion.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

Several years ago I was using a "multi-part" router bit: shaft, cutter, and bearing. The bit was mounted in my router which was mounted in my router table. While attempting to route a decorative edge on a piece of common white pine, I hit a knot and the bit disengranted, sending flying pieces of router bit across the shop. Fortunately I was not struck with pieces of the broken bit.

**Advice**

Don't feed your work too fast into the tool. Make multiple light passes where needed. Watch for defects in your material and think about how they will affect the operation you are about to perform.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was taking a small amount of material from some edge banding that I was going to install on some shelves. 3/4" plywood is not 3/4", after all. The piece I was working with was 3/4" wide, 1/4" thick, and about 14" long. I needed it to be slightly less than 3/4" wide. I had set up the router table to remove about 1/16", and I was using the fence in conjunction with featherboards (as I had read.) This was the first time I ever used a router table in my life, and I had read a lot about how to proceed safely. Of course, no one mentioned that you can NEVER let go of the work until it's past the bit. I released the workpiece in order to reposition my hands, the bit grabbed it, and launched it across the driveway (40 feet.) If my car would have been next to my table set-up, I'd be replacing glass. Lucky for me that no damage occurred.

**Advice**

While it is important to keep your hands clear of blades and bits, NEVER release the work while it is near moving parts. Think about how you will pass the work past the bit BEFORE you start, and make sure to have the proper pushsticks, etc. ready. While I was not hurt, and no damage occurred, this could have been very serious.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was using a table mounted router to round the edges of the slats of an outdoor setting chair. The safety guide was not on. As I began to pass the timber over the bit from right to left a small defect grabbed. It kicked back and dragged my left hand across the bit. Three fingers and my thumb were badly damaged, my ring finger the worst. It was very messy. After around 15 stitches and months of recovery I have scars, a deformed nail on my ring finger and most of my movement back in them.

**Advice**

ALWAYS use all of the safety guides and other implements. It only takes a moment, you save a lot of blood and body parts- so do it.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had just purchased the 3 1/2 hp router and wanted to see it do something. I took a 3/4 inch dado bit adjusted it to about 1/2 inch deep and started a "free hand" cut into an old and moldy piece of counter top found in the shed. The router did a "climb-cut" and twisted sideways in my hand. As it did so it blasted me in the face with debris from the cut. My glasses acted as my safety glasses but I instinctively turned my head. That allowed the debris to come in from the side of my glasses. My right eye was hit pretty good with dust. The dust consisted of particle board and it's gluing agents and mold covered Formica. The incident required medical attention and considerable discomfort for about a week. My eye is okay now.

**Advice**

I figure I made three errors on this fiasco. Number one, I should not have used the router bit set for a hog cut. Number two I should have used either an edge guide or clamp guide but no free-hand attempt should be made with a router this powerful. Number three, I didn't ask myself a question I have relied on for years to keep me out of trouble. "What if". My eye-glasses would have protected me from this stupid incident had I not turned away and allowed the dust in the side area.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

DeWalt 1.5 hp fixed speed, table mounted, 1" Jesada straight bit, 1/2" dia., Only doing a slight edging cut. The small screws holding the router to the table insert worked loose and the router tipped into the insert opening, then fell out below, continuing to run. Tore a wider opening in insert, and chipped the router housing near on-off toggle switch. Thankfully, the bit didn't hit the cement floor or me.

**Advice**

1. Don't use this router in table without replacing the screws with longer ones. 2. Use better wisdom than I did when I selected too large a bit for a fixed speed router. I think that size cutter contributed to screws working loose. 3. Be sure router switch is turned off before plugging back in. I stopped my router by pulling plug. Then, still being shook up, after I picked router back up and it was on table upside down - plugged it in without checking the switch! Second dumb mistake! It bounced on the floor again, and I lost another few heartbeats. Again, lucky the bit didn't hit. Be careful!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had to create a 1/4" wide 3/8" deep, slot in the rails and stiles of a door I was building.(Pine) I was using a 1/4" carbide spiral bit. I made the first pass without any problem. When I did the fit, the slot was just a hair too narrow for the panel. I needed to take another pass to shave off about a 1/32". I reset the fence etc. Widened 5 slots no problem. All of a sudden there was a wicked pain in my left hand ring finger. I never knew what hit me. To make a long story boring, I broke the finger in 2 places and had to get 5 stitches to hold the finger together. I was lucky, I will recover and have the use of my finger in about a month.

**Advice**

Always try to use a featherboard and hold down. When your doing a though slot as I was doing, use a push stick or a piece of scrap to mopve the stock. Better yet, don't try to do this type of cut shaving off a little with a spiral bit or straight bit. Catch the bit wrong and it flies through the tool leaving your hand to hit the cutter. Next time I will use a slot cutter. If I need a wider slot, I'll just raise the bit. I'll also use hold downs. I saved 10 minutes without the hold downs, now I'm messed up for several weeks.. Not a bargain. I'm not a rookie, I've been using Power Tools for 30 years without a mishap. I got religion now. I was lucky,,, you may not be..

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Using router, failed to unplug, loosened lock to adjust depth of bit, when the housing slid down it pulled on cable from trigger, started it up and then it fell apart and the bit cut into leg and thumb of hand that I tried to catch it with when it fell. The bit got caught up in fabric of my workpants and helped slow it down. Managed to bandage myself up and live to see another day.

**Advice**

Don't ever be stupid, pay attention and follow all safe work practices and always, always think before acting. And don't ever try to operate anything when you are tired.



**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was routing a hole in a panel when I placed my hand in front of the router. The straight bit grabbed and flung the router into my outstretched hand. I did drive myself to the hospital, and have alot more respect for routers.

**Advice**

Always leave both hands on tools that require them. And secure what your working on, so you don't have to hold it down, and put a router into your hand.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I needed to round over a corner with a borrowed router but didn't have a router table. I held the router upside down on the floor with one hand while I tried to run the small parts by the bit with the other hand. The board slipped and one of my fingers went into the bit, nearly severing a tendon.

**Advice**

I learned my lesson to never use a router this way. A cheap router table, even if it's only a board and a clamped on fence is better than trying it hand-held upside down.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was routing a simple straight edge on a Hitachi TR-12 in a router table when I caught the movement of my dog out the corner of my eye. This distracted me long enough to feed my finger into the bit. My finger, hand and arm were flung out at incredible speed, slightly pulling a muscle in my shoulder. Amazingly, the finger was bruised but not cut or damaged at all. The Irish are right, the good Lord does look after drunks and fools. One good fright has made me very aware of myself around my tools. When cutting or when requiring close concentration I now close all doors (and the dog is outside). I realise that I too am vulnerable - and occasionally stupid!

**Advice**

Don't let your environment interfere when you can avoid it. If laziness did not exist as part of human nature, there would be more fingers in this world.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was routing a part with an 45&#778; lock miter bit and there was enough of a knot, that I never knew it was there until I cam back the next day to look at the seen of the accident, it grabbed the part and through it to the right and my left hand followed and getting my 1st. and 2nd. fingers. I went to the emergency room and got all bandaged up. I lost my 1st. fingernail and cut up my coital fairly bad, couldnt put stitches in. In the end my nail came back my coital healed up better than I expected. All-in-all I was one lucky guy, thank God for the good outcome and a good awaking.

**Advice**

Use all the safety items, don't take anything for granted, and be more aware of the wood your working with.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Having used routers for several years without incident, I had been lulled into a tranquil daze while using them. Unfortunately, they can be quite a bit more dangerous than they look. I was using a 45 degree champher bit in a router mounted in a table with a fence and cutting a champher on a small piece of stock. When My hand was directly over the bit, I hit a "snag" in the wood, and it kicked back (a hazard I thought was reserved for the table saw). The wood shot right out from under my hand, and my left hand ring finger went into the spinning bit. I reacted fairly quickly, but not fast enough to avoid making a 45 degree champher on my finger. Needless to say, the cut was not a clean one. The tip of my finger was pretty much turned into hamburger. Lucky for me, It didn't get any of the bone. The Dr. fixed me up pretty good. I still have that 45 degree champher on my finger tip, and it sometimes hurts when it is cold or if i bump it.

**Advice**

1. No matter how comfortable you are with a machine, you always need to have respect and a healthy fear of it. 2. When working with a small piece of stock, it is almost always better to attach it to a larger piece. 3. If you have a accident in the shop, learn from it. Hopefully, this will be my first and last.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Was making a pass over the router to clean up an edge, my daughter came in and spoke, I continued to push the piece past the bit and felt pain. The end of my first finger on my right hand was gone to the 1st joint. I sorta stared at it for a while while I tried to figure out what had happened. It was SO quick.

**Advice**

Pay attention at all times

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was trying to route small blocks to make drawer pulls on the router table. I held the small block in a Quick clamp but was pushing down on the block to keep it on the table. The block shot out of the clamp and my thumb hit the router bit. Took a chunk out of my thumb. Needed several shots and it will be a long recovery before I can get back to work. Fortunately, I didn't uncover bone, which would have been more serious.

**Advice**

I have just ordered a small parts holder. I also realize that I could have been using a piece of wood or a pusher stick instead of my thumb to hold the piece down on the router table.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

Piece of wood thrown by table router. My thumb passes over the router bit and sliced through the fleshy part of the tip of my thumb. I ended up in the emergency room of the hospital and needed 10 stiches...no permanant injury, but came real close to losing the last 1 inch of my thumb

**Advice**

use push sticks



**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

Changing router bit inserted new bit got called away came back switched it on bit spun away hitting a wall near plate glass window.

**Advice**

Finish all tightening adjustments to all tools before u leave Check all tools when u have left even for few minutes trust nothing including yourself. This after 30 yrs use of routers. All my fingers r intact after working many years i a joinery shop

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

On feb 24, 2002 I was making some raised panels with my router table. After doing about 3 passes I needed to raise the router about 1/16". The router would not raise so I reached around and pulled on the bit to raise it. The next thing I knew the router came on doing damage to my right thumb. My wife took me to the emergency room and later I was taken by ambulance to Minneapolis. About 200 miles. To make a long story short, they had to fuse the joint in my thumb and I will be out of work for about 3 months.

**Advice**

Allways unplug your router when doing any adjustments or bit changes

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was routing a dado in a long 1"X2" boards, making drawer runners. I was not using featherboards. As i neared the end of the board, I releaed with my right hand to grab the push stick. The router very quickly pulled the remainder of the board through the bit, including the tips of two of my fingers (38 stitches).

**Advice**

I recoment cutting dado's in long boards with dado blades on a table saw, but if you must use a router table, use featherboards from both the side and above to tightly control movement of the board over the router bit. Also, only cut about 1/4" at a pass, making several passes to the proper depth.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

i was holding a piece of wood in my left hand and routing with my dremal on my right when it all of a sudden kicked back and hit my left thumb nail. it put a gash all the way through. but luckily it grew out and i am fine now.

**Advice**

do be careful and aware

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was working in a wood shop at a military base in the Middle East while stationed there. The tools were old and poorly maintained which sometimes made for less than ideal conditions. I was working with a small hand router that had worn collets and sometimes made bit changes difficult. On this day I had just replaced a bit and had started routing a profile on the base of the cabinet I was working on. I had tightened the bit as best I could, but apparently this was not enough with this particular collet. There was a small explosion of noise, and pieces of wood and metal fragments flew everywhere. The bit had come loose and disintegrated, taking along part of the base of the router and a section of the cabinet I was routing. I had some small metal and wood fragments imbedded in my hand and face, but luckily was wearing safety glasses and a dust mask which very obviously protected me from further harm.

**Advice**

Don't use tools beyond their useful limits. Replace worn or damaged items and always, always wear proper protective equipment!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Was changing the router bit and didn't unplug the router. Accidentally hit the switch on the router table and the router climbed up my right arm...looked awful and still does 5 months later.

**Advice**

ALWAYS unplug your router before changing bits!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

The story begins with using the router table and a 1" pattern bit to trim a curve into the feet of my monitor stand project. I was using a special clamp to hold the workpiece and the template was secured to the stock using two sides woodworkers tape. Toward the end of the routing I began to make a climb cut (cutting right to left on a router table). Just as the piece made contact with the bit, the left vertical handle on the clamp snapped off throwing the workpiece and my left hand into the bit. I instantly turned off the router took off my tool belt and went inside to tell my wife to drive me to the hospital (while throwing a few curses in here and there). The doctor came in to examine my finger. She then promptly called a friend at the Curtis National Hand Center at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD. Once at the Center a specialist examined my finger. He then reattached the tendon and cleaned out the injury.

**Advice**

Just be careful and know that accidents can happen when when you're being careful. Wear protective gloves if you can, it probably saved my finger!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was making some small wooden wheels for a toy truck. I didn't have a way to secure the small piece so I turned the router upside down to use it as a router table and the piece got away from me pulling my left index finger into the cutter bit. 3/8th to 1-2" gash in tip of finger, lots of blood flow. I went to the ice box and stuck the wound in a tray of ice that stemmed the flow of blood as long I was touching the ice. I kept finger in the ice tray and drove myself to the local ER, got a couple of stitches which were removed in about a week.

**Advice**

Make sure small pieces are secure, make a jig or a hold down or some kind, it doesn't have to be fancy like you see in the magazines. A piece of double side tape on a scrap of plywood is good enough for making just a couple pieces, or better yet, use short coarse, drywall screws. Or rout 3/4 oak on a piece of 1/2 ply scrap held in place with a 3/4 pin nailer through the bottom of the ply scrap. Only 1/4" of the brad went in the oak from the back side that wouldn't be seen. I have done the same with drywall screws - works great for softwoods.



**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

I had been using my table-mounted router and profiling bit to make chair-rails. The weekend before, I had made several lengths and was confident I knew what I was doing. This weekend though, I set the fence up with featherboards but something looked different - I obviously wasn't thinking: I stupidly tried to pass the board BETWEEN the bit and the fence. The bit grabbed the board and launched it at high speed into a concrete wall. The board scraped my fingers on its way out of my hands.

**Advice**

1. If the set-up looks unfamiliar, it's probably wrong. 2. Just because you've done something right once, doesn't mean you'll do it right the next time. 3. Remind yourself of the direction your router bit spins everytime you approach the machine.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Doing a climbing cut on a router table with a fence. In other words feeding the stock left to right against fence. The router grabbed the piece of wood and now my arms and body weight went into the fence. No flesh hit the spinning bit but this did end my day in the shop as I now had an extreme case of the jitters.

**Advice**

Understand that a climbing cut can jerk the wood right out of your hands similar to a kickback on a table saw. Use guards and tested techniques for routing.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

### **Description**

I had read a thread the other day about climb routing and thought I was fully aware of what climb cutting was. Unfortunately, I didn't understand the concept fully as it relates to the router table. I took shallow passes (1-8") with each cut, until I had reached the full dado depth (it took 4 passes). I checked the dados with my dial calipers, and wouldn't you know it, some grooves were measuring .02" larger than others. In order to clean up the dados so they were all equal, I moved the fence closer to the bit by about 1/32". That was my fateful mistake. I proceeded to push the wood through the bit with my right hand pushing along the fence and my left hand guiding the wood so it didn't come off the fence. The split second the wood made contact with the bit the wood was thrown from my hands. I looked down at my left hand and all I could see was a bloody mess. I immediately put pressure on my fingers by pressing the back of my hand into my shirt. My wife drove me to the ER while I continued to keep pressure on the wound. 4 hours and an unknown number of stitches later, I was released. The nurse that did my stitching had a difficult time finding where to attach the skin since it wasn't cut but was more like ground up. The x-rays showed no bone damage, but they do show the tendon in my ring finger is "gone". The ER doctor explained that what they'll need to do is remove an unnecessary tendon from my thumb (apparently, it's not used), and use that to repair my finger.

### **Advice**

Make sure you think each cut through beforehand. I thought I did, but still wasn't cautious enough. If you ever push wood between a router bit and the fence, the wood is trapped and you have a climb cutting situation. Back up all cuts with a sacrificial block or push block to keep your fingers away from the cutting bit.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Just as with most - if not all - of these reports - it was near the end of a woodworking session in my garage. I was trying to cut a 1/4" groove in the edge of rails and stiles for a flat panel door (my very first). Rather than take the time to do the cut in incremental passes, I cranked the narrow bit up to the 1/2" depth and started forcing the stiles through. The first two stiles went well, but, in the middle of the third, the bit snapped. I didn't know where it went, but, nearly a month later, I found a small hole in the sheetrock of my garage wall. There, completely inside the wall, was the snapped half of the bit that had traveled about ten feet with enough force to punch a hole in drywall. Good thing that didn't hit me!

**Advice**

Like that old commercial says "Take Human Bites!" A series of shallow passes gets the job done slower - but far safer - than forcing work past a spinning bit.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

At the time I never had a router table so I thought that I could do the same thing by up turning the router in a workmate, this was to cut a simple rebate. As soon as the wood touched the cutter it grabbed the wood and my finger too. All because I wanted to get the job finished as it was getting late instead of finishing it the next day. I was lucky it took the top off my finger down to the bone, but with the right treatment you wouldn't know now that it happened.

**Advice**

DON'T EVER cut corners or it may be a little more than the wood you shave off. Don't worry about getting the job finished today, it's always better to start the next day with a fresh mind. The old saying is "Measure twice, cut once" well we should just spare a thought for ourselves and "think twice and cut once". So be safe and happy woodworking to you all. Nigel U.K.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

This involved a Porter Cable 691 router. Two changes had to be made... Change the bit being used, and change the base on the unit from the D-Handle to the plunge base. The motor unplugged and removed from the D-Handle base first, then the bit was removed. Done in this order since this give clear unobstructed access to the collet. The wrench slipped, the motor tipped, and the end of the bit was introduced to the side of my right thumb just above the first knuckle. This resulted in an injury just above that of a scratch, but not quite a full fledged laceration.

**Advice**

In working with routers that require base changes and bit changes, remove the bit first. While convenience, access, etc. may lead us to do otherwise, the chance of injury is lower when the bit is removed first. In this case, my thinking was I'd have better access to the bit, when the motor is out of the base, and I'd reduce the chance of a possible knuckle smash as well... Instead, I got bit by the bit. :-)

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

It was late at night and I had cut two pieces of plywood for a project and one was slightly out of square. I clamped the two pieces together and installed a straight-cutting bit on a 2.5 HP router. This bit had a ball bearing that would ride the good piece and shave the other piece into square. I was used to working with routers, but this was a new one. The first thing that happened was that the bit jumped out of the collet as I had not put the bit far enough into the router for it to get a good grip. Fortunately, I was just holding the router to make sure that the thing worked. The bit jumped out of the collet and hit me just below the chest. I was not hurt... then. I should have stopped at this point to evaluate what I was trying to do. I put the bit back into the router and torqued it down. That sucker was not coming out now! Unfortunately, I then tried to use the router 90 degrees from horizontal and the darn thing jumped back at me when the plywood that I was working with started to tip. I had thought that I could hold the plywood standing upright and do the routing at the same time. I kept the router in my hands, but the torque spun the router around and put the bit towards my chest. the bit drilled through a cotton shop coat, an apron that I was wearing, and then through my shirt. It then proceeded to start to drill its way into my chest just below my heart! Fortunately, it just left three crescent-shaped grooves in my skin with a little blood... nothing that a bandaid would not fix.

**Advice**

Lessons... don't work when tired (where have I heard this one before?!), make sure that your workpiece is not going to move on you, don't work with a router that you don't have under complete control and are not familiar with, and finally, don't try to take shortcuts. If it looks unsafe or stupid, it almost certainly is!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Routing radius on small strips with roundover bit, using router table, router grabbed-spun-chewed up end of strip, pulling my left middle finger into the bit. I shut the router off without looking at my left hand and HOLLERED, fearing the worst. And yup, I got it: the router had partially amputated the tip of the finger down to the first knuckle (the distal phalanx in medical jargon). Later that day, after a trip to the OR, I had lost an inch of finger and a good deal of my naivete about how dangerous these tools are. I used to think adages like "Keep your fingers 12 inches away from the cutter" weren't meant for me. Now I truly know different!

**Advice**

Evaluate each situation for potential to cause harm. Read and talk to others about safety issues and ways to keep body parts. And NEVER underestimate the power of sharp metal at high speeds!! Fortunately, I am right handed and even if my Royal Aviary Salute (aka Bird!) is stubby it IS still there!! God Bless hand surgeons.



**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I had been working for 12 hours and came home to work in the shop. I was setting up the router table to cut some tennons on walnut stock. I was running the stock through on the last piece when I lost control of the piece. The router threw out the stock and my right index finger into the 3/4" carbide bit. I was extremely lucky. I was able to bandage up the wound and keep my finger. I did not require an ER visit.

**Advice**

DO NOT WORK WHEN TIRED. it only took a second of inattention to have this happen. I could have lost my finger. When you're tired, quit working and do some finishing.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I am a very part-time woodworker, but I'm generally very carefull and only work when I'm really into it. I was making a jig for the table saw that required using the edge guide on the router to follow an arc that I cut on one edge of the jig. This was an improvised solution to a problem that I should have had seen even before I cut the arc. Earlier in the day I was using the router in the router table for another project. After spending some time thinking through what I was about to do, I made a few dry runs and even waxed the edge of the of the wood and the face of the edge guide to make sure that everything would move smoothly. The router, a PC 690, was upside down on the flat surface of the jig. All I had to do was plug it in and start routing.....STUPID, STUPID, STUPID.....I forgot to turn it OFF before taking it out of my router table (the table has it's own ON-OFF switch). The 1 3/4 HP machine took off, hit some wood stored a couple of feet away and hit the floor, whinning away. If I had been standing to the right of the standing router, instead of to the left, it would have flown right into me and who knows what may have happened! The base plate has a small piece missing on the edge from hitting the concrete floor, to remind me of my carelessness.

**Advice**

A "free" , powered, router is very dangerous. ALWAYS turn off a router before removing it from a table with it's own ON-OFF switch. I was so intent on working through a solution to the problem at hand, that I forgot to think about being safe. If I had thought through the original plan, the need to cut the arc, and thus the need to think on my feet, would have been avoided.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

We had to use the router for some end table legs in a woods class. My partner set it up, and I went to use it. Didn't double check his work. The bit tore out of the chuck when it contacted with the wood. Damaged the chuck, bent the bit, and the bit landed right next to another student's leg(he'd came and sat on the work table...) Luckily it'd bounced across the table and stopped spinning before it made it to the other guy's leg. No one was hurt, but it still scared him quite a bit.

**Advice**

If you didn't do the set-up, double check it. Even if they're competent, people still make mistakes. Wouldn't hurt to double check your own work. And don't sit on the work table when other people are using powertools.....that's just a bad idea.... Be aware of the people around you, whether you are using the tools or if someone else is. If he'd been hurt, it would have been as much my fault as his. Pay attention to your surroundings.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was using a plastic corner-rounding template from the Woodhaven company and I had just completed rounding the first corner when I reached under the router (impatiently and excitedly) to feel the new work. It was an impulsive move, because the bit had not stopped spinning at that point, nor had I retracted it up out of harm's way. There were several chop marks across the tip of my thumb and my nail was split at about the 1/3 mark. The local E.R. trimmed and cleaned up the area and removed part of the nail that was mostly detached. It healed beautifully, but the bit of numbness at the end of the thumb serves as a reminder to be very conscious when operating power tools.

**Advice**

When Buddies are around, don't get too casual... this may not have happened working without my friend hanging out next to me. (In truth, it takes more concentration to stay in the groove with the work unless you get used to the extra activity.) Also, leave the router still for that extra three seconds while the motor winds to a stop and keep both hands on the handles for best stability and safety.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

A student in woodworking class was using a 3/8 rabbeting bit on the inside of a picture frame to make a recess to hold the picture. The router was mounted in a router table. The student had already routed the outside edges of the frame and knew the direction of travel was R to L, but talking to a friend, feeling a little cocky, didn't pay attention to direction of travel and went L to R. The bit climbed, the frame shot out pulling the hand with it. The middle finger was cut through at the finger nail. Ouch, but a great teaching moment for the rest of the class on safety. Student was a prime pianist...but has had to adjust keyboarding technique now.

**Advice**

Two problems here: First, Talking while working = distraction = trouble. Second, getting cocky leads to false sense of security.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was using the router table and fence to rout an edge on the short side of a moulding. I was almost done and was routing a short length when it became unstable. My hands were pushing downward on the work and in against the fence to stabilize the work. When the wood slipped my hand went into the bit. The nail and the skin above the nail on my middle finger of my left hand was chewed up like hamburger. Fortunately, it was not cut deeply. I ran into the house and applied pressure and ice to help with pain. Never did get stitches. It has healed with some scarring and the nail continues to grow in a little misshapen but all is fine.

**Advice**

I was a bit squeamish around the router table for a few months. Use featherboard and other support for this type of routing to secure the work. Make sure however you support the work that in the worst case scenario, your hand will not end up in the turning bit!

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

I was using my Leigh Dovetail jig and in my haste to get setup I forgot my guide bushing. The router bit tore right into a guide finger on the jig sending out shrapnel from both the router bit and the jig. Boy was that stupid! No damage done to me. The jig works fine without the ruined guide finger, many to spare for most operations. The bit was a lost cause. About \$40 down the toilet, but a valuable lesson learned!

**Advice**

Take your time and be methodical, especially on setup.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

While using router, I was not paying attention to what I was doing and did not tighten the chuck when I installed the bit. Router was at full speed when the bit dropped out, deflected off the floor and stuck in the shop door.

**Advice**

Do not! work hungry, tired, or for that matter let what is going on around you distract you. The bit is still in the door, I keep it there as a reminder to everyone that you might have more experience, however thinking about whats for lunch can be a big mistake



**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was working on my chair, and was on my 16th board for the seat, I was beginning to get winded, and before I knew it I was clutching my hand. My board had slipped, shoving three fingers into the blade. I laughed at first, suddenly realizing that i might not have a thumb and then screamed. After the paramedics, firemen and hot athletic trainer helped me, I was taken on the stretcher to the ambulance with a oxygen tank to help me breath. I have no permanent damage, but have mentally effected very much. I will need some support groups before I can finish my red stained chair.

**Advice**

stay calm, full focus on the wood, protect all important areas of the body, and always wear cute underwear incase you end up in the emergency room

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was in woods class, and had just installed a router bit, and was about to do a practice pass with a piece of wood about 8" long, and went to place the piece into the bit, and the bit grabbed the wood because, in hindsight, the bit was too high out of the table, and threw the piece about 5 feet across room.

**Advice**

Always make sure your bit is not too high for the first pass, and be aware of the possibilities of kick-back

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

trim routers are a nice addition to my woodworking collection. while using one to round over a long piece of wood poorly supported in my shop i intently was watching the cut when all of a sudden ... ouch! my middle index finger found that open space between the base of the tool and the tool itself and touched the top of the 1/4 round over bit... (note that i did not get my finger near the underside of the base where the bit was rounding over the work)it felt like it was pounded by a hammer. ground the tip off the finger and half the nail --- it all grew back after some time --- my trim router doesnt have any protective shields over the openings and looking at most of them on the market they dont either ... my finger healed after several weeks.. .there werent ant stiches because there wasnt any meat to stich! -- just bandage and time ---

**Advice**

whatch how you grip this little tool! If you hold it close to the base as i do for control you run the risk of getting a stray finger in the space at the top of the bit! -- manufactures -- a small shield here would be nice!

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I had an older Stanley Rout-a-bout aluminum router. I have had problems with a short in the motor making it turn on and off at will. One day when it stop working instead of unplugging it and spinning the router bit, I spun the it with my finger which made the router start working again. At first the bit actully stopped against my finger, but as I pulled my finger out it spun to full speed taking out a small chunk of skin on my index finger. I have a permanent curved scar on my finger as a reminder.

**Advice**

Always unplug a router before going near it with your finger. I had always done this, but got careless just once. I am thankful I only have a scar and still have my finger.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was using a panel raising bit with a 3 HP router mounted in a table. I was making a custom piece of trim about 2 and 1/4 inches wide and 3/4 thick, which was riding against the fence and the bit bearing. The router bit was covered by the board so I felt safe. I had 20 feet of trim to make and had been making gradual passes for safety and smoothness of cut. A board tilted over, the router bit came out the top edge of the board in a split second and amputated my left index finger which was reattached at the hospital. I see a hand surgeon tomorrow. I hope it stays attached. This was my first major injury in 25 years.

**Advice**

Use panel raising bits for raising panels where there is enough mass/board width to keep the board flat on the table and your hands are back away from the bit area.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I have a Porter Cable 1HP and I do 95% of my routing with the machine mounted in its undertable sleeve. One day while making a series of cuts ( I forget exactly what bit I was using) the router came loose in the sleeve and fell while the machine was at full speed. The bit struck the inside of the sleeve on the way down spraying shrapnel everywhere. I had a split second warning of what was about to happen so I was able to duck out of the way while swatting at the off switch and thus was not injured. However I picked about 10 pieces of that bit out of the basement ceiling and it took some hours to repair the inside of the sleeve.

**Advice**

If you use your router under the table most of the time Check occasionally to be sure it has not loosened in its sleeve from vibration.

**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

It started out as normal day in wood shop when i headed back to the router table to finish my raised panels for the sides of my cabinet. I had already done two and only had the two smaller ones to do. I started to run it through when the board started to come up. My first reaction was to press the board down. When i pressed it down it caught a weird grain in the board and threw the the board out. The board hit the radial arm saw. At first i thought the teacher was going to be mad until i realised some blood on my right fore arm. I looked to see where the blood was coming from only to see my left middle and ring fingers to see them shortened. I ended up losing a quarter inch off of both of my fingers.

**Advice**

Never use a router without the proper saftey equipment.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

testing my router on my router table because it wasn't working put a centering bit and powered it up. I DID NOT tighten the collet nut tight enough and the bit flew out,ricocheted off the ceiling and broke 2 florecent bulbs on my over head lights. to top it off I was not wearing my safety goggles like i usually do. I was not hurt just scared to death.

**Advice**

Follow NORMS ADVICE.  
Always read and understand your power tools,(I didn't tighten down the quick release collet enough)  
most important safety rule is WEAR YOUR SAFETY GOGGLES



**Tool Type**

Router

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was in a hurry trying to finish trimming a backerboard panel...as I was routing the last edge with a trim router the bit hit a hard spot... I was holding the router with only one hand.... The router jumped off my hand and found its way to my left hand..... drilling a hole 1/2 in. wide 1/4 in deep in the fleshy area between my left thumb and left pointing finger... I was able to see the tendon moving as I moved my fingers.... A run to the hospital took care of problem....

**Advice**

DO not get in a hurry to finish a project.... I also think that contributing to the accident was the use of the wrong guide for the router and not working on a very stable work surface.

**Tool Type** Router

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had a cove bit and was routing the edge of a piece of yellow pine for a shelf and the piece was too thin and the bit came all the way through and tore out all the ligaments in my finger and broke my finger in two places.  
I had to have surgery and have not been in my shop since.

**Advice**

I should have had an extra piece of wood on top to keep from going through or don't route anything with a 1" cove bit less than 1'3/8"