

Routing with Denis

Course RW9: Edging man-made boards

It makes woodworking, economic and ecological sense to use man-made boards (chipboard and MDF). The biggest problem with these materials is the UGLY edges and unless the panel is totally surrounded by a wooden frame (for example a frame-and-panel door) something has to be done about these edges.

There are a number of options. The board centres have fancy edge-banding equipment and can edge your panels (at a price of course) with a variety of wood and plastic materials. On the other hand you can do a cheap-and-nasty job with iron-on edging (guaranteed to lift and chip in the short term).

I use solid hardwood edging that varies in thickness from 5 mm to 20 mm. Over the years I have edged many hundreds of metres of chipboard and MDF for applications ranging from workshop shelving through jigs and accessories to fine furniture. All of the tricks I have learnt have been included in this course. The centre photograph below shows a router attachment I use for trimming the edging.



Course contents:

1. Selection and preparation of edging
2. Gluing techniques including clamp spacing and grain orientation of edging to facilitate subsequent machining
3. Flush trimming of edging – hand-held routing and router table
4. Accurate mitres when all four edges are edged (eg a drawer front)
5. Cock beading on drawers and doors
6. Preparing panels for veneering by a commercial board upgrader (edge before veneering)
7. Edging shelves to increase apparent thickness
8. Edging shelves to add strength (reduce sagging)
9. Adding wider edges, say 50 mm, to veneered table and cabinet tops

Selected router bits, jigs and other router accessories will be on sale.

Workshop details:

Level: Intermediate

Date and time: This multi-student, half-day course is held on a Saturday morning (09h00 to 13h00)
See my website for scheduled dates

A one-on-one session can be arranged for a weekday morning or afternoon

Venue: 44 Talisman Avenue, Bedfordview, Gauteng (26° 10' 43,0" S, 28° 7' 38,5" E)

Course fee: See my website for the course fee

Prerequisite: Prior attendance at course RW0 or practical experience with a router

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