

# Shop-Proven Products

These woodworking wares passed our shop trials

## About our product tests

We test hundreds of tools and accessories, but only those that earn at least three stars for performance make the final cut and appear in this section. Prices are current at the time of article production and do not include shipping, where applicable.

### Build accurate jigs with slop-free guide bars

I've made countless tablesaw jigs and sleds over the years, using hardwood guides that fit into the miter slot. But almost without fail they bind in the summer and wiggle in the winter as they swell and shrink with seasonal humidity changes. ZeroPlay Guide Bars eliminate those problems for smooth-gliding, perfect-fitting jigs.

Each guide bar consists of two thin, 9/4"-long pieces of sturdy glass-filled nylon. Stack them together in a miter slot, and when you push the top one forward, opposing wedges on each piece tighten the fit perfectly. Then secure the two halves with screws and attach your jig or sled. **I rebuilt several of my jigs using ZeroPlay Guide Bars, and they work better than ever.**

You can buy individual guide bars, or get a kit that includes two guide bars and two ZeroPlay Guide Stops, 1 1/2"-long fixtures that come with a bolt and knob, shown below, that lock in T-track. Attach a common hold-down (not included) and one of these stops works great for positioning a stopblock on a router table or securing a workpiece on a drill press.

—Tested by Jan Svec, a former WOOD® magazine project designer, builder, and editor



#### ZeroPlay Guide Bars

Performance	★★★★★
Price	Guide Bar System (#ZP9-B2S2) \$27
	single Guide Bar (#ZP9-B1) \$12
	Guide Stop (#ZP9-S1) \$5

Micro Jig  
407-696-6695; microjig.com



### Benchtop Router

Skil's well-audited **Wood Magazine issue 200 October 2010 Page 84** performance in the mid-price range. (I also tested Skil's \$120 RAS800 router table, but it's not nearly as good as its big brother.)

The RAS900 has a 16 1/2"x26" table made of 1"-thick laminate-covered MDF with aluminum T-track and a fence with movable faces, aluminum T-slot, and a 2 1/2" dust port. The folding steel legs have plastic storage pockets for bits, wrenches, and accessories. All this weighs 25 pounds, which helps dampen vibration without being too heavy to lift and tote.

I really like the handy router-mounting system. Secure your router, minus its plastic subbase, to the RAS900's 7 1/2"-square steel plate. This plate clamps underneath the table with a quick-release lock. To use your router freehand, release the lock and simply rout with the plate as your subbase.

I also like that you plug the router into an accessory power switch for easy on/off control. However, the switch's cord measures only 14" long, so you'll likely need an extension cord.



#### Benchtop router table, #RAS900

Performance	★★★★☆
Price	\$170

Skil  
877-754-5999; skiltools.com



—Tested by Bob Saunders, owner and teacher, Prairie Rose Woodworking Studio, Indianola, Iowa