The following pages are excerpts from the Woodline USA molding manual. The complete manual with many more examples of molding and how to produce them can be purchased from Woodline USA for a very reasonable price.

Picture frame moldings add a look of distinction to picture frames. Many of these moldings can be used on other projects as well for decorative work. The making of these moldings is well within the capabilities of most woodworkers using a standard router table and bits from Woodline USA. The purpose of this guide is show how complex moldings can be accomplished safely using standard router bits.

Wood for moldings should be straight grain and free of knots, twists or other variation in the wood. Wood should be straight, square and true to size for the entire length of the desired molding. In extreme cases non square, bowed or crooked or highly figured wood may present a safety hazard due to unpredictability of the cutting action.

The use of proper safety equipment is essential. Feather boards, clamps and other methods of assuring the wood stays in the proper orientation should be used at all times. If you are not sure as to the proper way to work safely DO NOT PERFORM THE OPERATION. Read all tool operators manuals and always follow manufacture’s directions. Any power tool can cause serious
injury or even death if operated improperly. Always operate a bit at or below the recommended RPM.

Woodline USA recommends the use of ½” shank router bits whenever possible due to the improved safety and reduction of vibration versus ¼” shank size. Regardless of the router bit used, depth of cut, feed rate, sharpness of bit and router speed must all be within safe parameters to avoid dangerous operating conditions. Woodline USA also offers an excellent selection of special feather boards designed for molding and general router use.

The bits shown in these instructions are for representation purposes only. The actual bit you use may vary from the profiles shown. The processes detailed herein are designed to stir the imagination. User should feel free to experiment with other profiles and combinations of router bits. Woodline USA has many more profiles available and many more in development. Woodline USA reserves the right to change any bit profile at any time if we feel it will better serve our customers.

Moldings are often made in multiple steps. Rout, turn over or around and rout again or perhaps saw the material and make additional passes with other bits. Steps are numbered and the order is important. Some passes use the bearing on the router as a guide while others indicate the use of a fence. The fence is used when the bearing would ride on a previously cut area. For most fence passes, the fence is set flush with the bearing. The use of feather boards to “trap” the material against the fence is important and will produce more consistent moldings with greater safety.