Router Table Setups

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Woodworking Machines

A router table mounts a router upside down under a flat table so the bit protrudes through the surface, letting the user guide work past the cutter with fences, guards and featherboards. It turns a handheld router into a stationary machine for edging, grooving and moulding.

Key Features

- Flat table tops with insert rings
- Fences with adjustable sub-fences
- Bit guards and dust extraction ports
- Miter slots and hold-downs
- Lift systems for above-table bit changes

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut mouldings and profiles on edges
- Route grooves, rebates and slots in panels
- Use template guides for repeated shapes
- Raise panels and cut tenons with jigs

Safe Operation

1. Fit the correct bit and guard for the job
2. Set the bit height below the table surface
3. Adjust the fence to the cut depth
4. Feed work against the rotation, right to left
5. Use push sticks for narrow pieces

SAFETY NOTES

- Never remove the guard or safety switch
- Keep hands clear of the cutter with push sticks
- Use featherboards to prevent kickback
- Wear eye and hearing protection
- Switch off and wait for the bit to stop before adjusting

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the table top clean and waxed
- Check insert rings are the right size
- Vacuum dust from the router and guard
- Check the router clamps and lift mechanism
- Inspect bits for cracks and dull edges

Specification & Buying Notes

A cast or extruded aluminium top with a good fence, guard, and under-table router lift makes a safe school setup. Buy table-mounted bits with bearings and a starter kit of guards.