

Router table Small-Part Sled

Often, the best way to rout a small part is to rout a larger blank and cut the piece free. But, there are many times when this isn't possible. In *Woodsmith* No. 242, we talk about routing small parts safely and efficiently at the router table. A good way to rout small parts is to use a sled, such as the one seen here.

FULLY CAPTURED. One of the things that makes a sled like this safe is that it fully captures the workpiece. A pair of adjustable clamp blocks on each side slide in and out to accommodate different size pieces. The knobs that lock the blocks in place also double as handles. The inside

faces of the blocks are lined with adhesive-backed sandpaper for extra gripping power. On the back edge, a cleat serves as the mounting point for a toggle clamp that has an attached clamp foot.

A workpiece can be positioned between the clamp blocks and held down with the toggle clamp. Then, it's a simple matter of holding the handles to steer the workpiece on the router table.

A FEW PARTS. The router sled only has a few parts and I've already covered most of them. It starts with a plywood base and a pair of clamp blocks made from plywood.

The blocks have a slot cut into them. The length of the slot determines how much adjustment each block has. The clamp blocks are held to the base with a machine screw and the tapered handles.

The hardwood cleat is simply glued onto the base and the toggle clamp is screwed on top of the cleat. A clamp foot is attached to the toggle clamp with a carriage bolt. And as you can see in the detail below, the carriage bolt is epoxied into the counterbore in the clamp foot. Finally, a couple strips of adhesive-backed sandpaper strategically placed provide extra grip on the workpiece.

