

Piecrust Table Alternate Top



The piecrust table is a beautiful project and a fun challenge. But just as stylish as the hand-carved top is the sleek version that you see in the photo to the right. Below are the steps needed to make this top.

FIRST THINGS FIRST. Figure 1 shows how to make the inner wall of the table edge. You can use the same straight bit and trammel that was used on the other top.

OUTER PROFILE. The outer profile on the outer edge is the same as the piecrust top. In Figure 2 you'll see that you start with a small roundover bit for the top edge.

Follow this with a large chamfer bit on the underside of the top. The chamfer lays the groundwork for what's next — shaping the bottom profile with hand tools.

HAND TOOLS. This step is all about creating a gentle profile using rasps, files, and sandpaper supported by a block. This profile needs to be exact — exactly what pleases you. Now we'll move back to the inside.

A SWEEPING COVE. Figure 3 is where we wrap up the shaping on this top. It starts with a core box bit installed in your router. That setup, along with the trammel is how you

make the subtle cove on the interior profile. Now you can remove all the waste that's in the center of the top.

Working from one end of the top to the other, remove sections of the top with the large straight bit. This process is identical to the one used on the piecrust top. The next step is remove the remaining strips with a sharp chisel. Be aware of grain patterns when doing this. Chipping the top at this stage would be a shame. A scraper and sandpaper are the tools of choice before applying the finish coats.

