

Step-By-Step Application

Setting a Plunge Router

A plunge router is the ideal tool when a carpenter must cut a series of grooves in panels. This is often done when making built-in cabinets and shelving. The grooves allow metal shelf tracks to sit flush with the surface of the wood. However, to establish these settings accurately, try not to measuring the thickness of the tracks. As many carpenters say, "If you don't measure, you can't measure wrong." Here's how to set up a plunge router without measuring with a rule or tape.

Step 1 Be sure the router is unplugged. Install a suitable bit and tighten it securely.

Step 2 Loosen the router's depth control knob. Then "zero out" the tool by pushing it down and adjusting the bit until it just touches the wood. Tighten the depth control knob.

Step 3 Position the shelf track on one of the depth stops on the router's turret. Lower the router's depth rod until it rests on the track, then tighten the rod

Step. 4 Allow the router to resume its normal position. Make sure the switch is off, then plug the router in.

Step 5 To make a test cut, clamp a piece of scrap stock to a work surface and secure the router's fence. Plunge the router to make the cut. If a fence is not available, guide the router with a properly secured straightedge or cleat.

Step 6 Fit a length of track into the test cut. Check it for depth and width. If the router was set correctly, the cut should be perfect.