

TEACHING ROUTERS

Like grinders, routers operate at very high speeds – in the 20,000 RPM range. A firm grip with both hands while the router is in use is essential, and no matter what precautions you've taken, never face the cutter bit toward your body. Install router bits securely, and always use the wrenches included with the tool.

Refer To...

- ▶ **Safety Is Specific**, Section on Routers.

...for references to the safe use of routers.

Lesson Suggestion... Shopping for Info

Objective: To help students thoroughly understand routers and their features.

Materials/Requirements: Access to routers, router bits, accessories, and their use & care guides. *Consumer Reports* and trade and handyman magazines would be helpful too.

What to Do: Assign a router or other tool to a student or small team of students. Tell them that they are to research their tool as though they are planning to buy one. They should visit stores to view and examine the models that are on the market. What features do they all share? What features differ? Do all the choices seem equally safe? What is the price differential? What do salespeople have to say about the various models? What do magazine articles say about them? How do the models students examine compare to the models that are in use in the classroom? Which model seems best overall and why? Students should present their findings to the class.