

How to Install a Router Bit

Learn the right way to install a router bit for safer woodworking

From Fine Woodworking, presented
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Router Safety

The Right Way to Rout

Installing a router bit the wrong way can be a one-way trip to the emergency room. Learn why it's not as straightforward as some might think, and how to do it like a pro.

- Don't bottom out bit in the collet before tightening.
- The collet actually draws the bit down into the inside *the* router shaft.
- That means that the collet will never fully tighten.
- Sometimes the bit has a fillet that can bottom out against the collet and again prevent tightening.
- In either case, the router bit can spin out at high speed, not good.

Be aware of the fillet hitting the collet.



The Solution

- Install the bit into the collet and tighten the nut finger tight.
- Push the bit all the way in and then pull it out about 1/8”.
- That should position the bit correctly in the collet to be securely held.
- Be sure that the Router is unplugged when doing these procedures.

If using two wrenches to tighten the collet nut...

- Position the two wrenches such that you can squeeze the two wrenches together in your hand(s)
- This puts a lot of torque on the nut.
- It also doesn't risk busting your knuckles...

Use of one hand with two wrenches



And

- Don't forget to clean out the hole of sawdust in the router shaft where the bit and collet go.

Don't be blind to safety

