The router is a powerful, portable, versatile and relatively inexpensive power cutting tool.

The main function of the router is to cut decorative edges on pieces of wood such as table tops. It also cuts dadoes, rabbets, grooves and can also cut accurate wood joints such as the mortise and tenon and dovetail joints.

A router can be used three ways:

i freehand   ii in a router table   iii using a jig or a fixture

The router uses a wide variety of bits in many shapes and sizes according to what purpose they would be used. The most common of these bits are:

i straight   ii round over   iii cove   iv ogee

The router has one adjustment, up and down. Increasing or decreasing the depth of the bit will change the profile of the cut.

Stock must be fed past the router bit against the direction of its rotation in order to make a safe, smooth cut.

The router can be considered to be a portable shaper.