

Routers for Router Tables

You can change bits and change height without reaching under the table

Routers are no longer just handheld tools. More and more woodworkers and carpenters keep one mounted in a table. That gives more precise control over a variety of work, using bits that otherwise would be too big to use safely.

Until recently, the best way to marry a router and a table was with a router lift, an expensive device that holds the router and allows you to change bits and adjust cutting height from above the table.

Now, a new generation of routers with a specialized base promises above-table bit adjustment without the expense of a separate router lift.

The tools tested range in price from about \$170 to \$300. They have 1/2-in. and 1/4-in. collets, and most have a 12-amp motor for about 2 1/4 hp. Most are fixed-base models; some come with a separate plunge base for handheld use. All have at least 1 1/8 in. of bit travel with the crank, an adequate amount for above-table bit changes.

EDITORS' CHOICE
BEST OVERALL

EDITORS' CHOICE
BEST VALUE

READERS' CHOICE

TRITON MOF001KC

The Triton has the easiest bit-changing design and an accurate and easy-to-use height adjuster. It had the lowest bit runout measured, and it's the only one with good dust control. The Triton was judged best overall and, with its \$210 street price, the best value.