

Top products of 2018

Year's best innovative products range from simple hardware to sophisticated production efficiency software.

Choosing the top products of the year for the woodworking industry is not easy. For one thing, the industry itself covers such a broad range of products from furniture to cabinets and millwork, not to mention specialty products. Then there are the tools and

machines designed for everything from one-person shops to major production factories.

That all means that choosing the top products is a difficult and decidedly subjective process. Here's what our editors came up with. How does it compare to your list?



Best new hardware product

Over the last couple of years, we've had a number of new plastic hardware systems for joinery come out. They are all intriguing, but most require the precision of CNC manufacturing to work best. Button-fix hardware developed in the United Kingdom primarily for hanging panels is simple to install and use, and it doesn't require a giant CNC machine.

button-fix.com/



Best new dust collection product

How do you make a really great dust collection system even better? You make it quieter. Oneida Air's Stacking Sound Filter is a silencer for your dust collection system that is designed to take 6-7 dBA off the noise volume. That's significant.

www.oneida-air.com.

Best new clamping accessory

Doucet Machineries' ALYX is an automated clamp carrier loader system for high volume gluing application, panel preparation, and loading and unloading. It boasts a cycle time of 80 seconds or less for one loading and glue application sequence with only one operator.

www.doucetinc.com.



Best new cordless tool

There have been cordless routers before but the Bosch GKF12V-25N cordless palm edge router is more than just replacing a cord with a battery. The compact and ergonomic design combines just enough power with a convenient tool for edge shaping and other light-duty trim router tasks.

www.boschtools.com



Best new measuring device

Even in the laser age, there are times when a traditional bubble level is useful. The Kapro Optivision series of bubble levels use a distinctive red contrasting bubble to make it even more visible. Sturdy design and precision construction add to the package.

www.kapro.com.