

## Best Tools continued



### ONEIDA UNIVERSAL DUST-FREE ROUTER HOOD

■ \$35

**Snaps in.** The base is made of two plastic disks that sandwich together, providing a groove for the dust-catching hood to rotate freely. Because it can rotate, the open side of the hood can ride against the stock to contain the shavings and direct them toward a dust port.



## Innovative router dust hood

There are few tools messier than a handheld router, especially when pattern-routing thick material with spiral bits. Oneida's new router base cleans up the mess, and it won a Visionary New Product Award from the Association of Woodworking and Furnishing Suppliers (AWFS).

The base, which fits most common routers, comes with two interchangeable, open-sided hoods. One is 2¼ in. tall, accommodating 2 in. of bit extension, and the other is 5⁄8 in. tall, which allows bench clearance when routing the edge of a ¾-in. board. The pieces simply snap into place with a squeeze of the hood sides. The hose connection is another two-piece affair that swivels around the top of the base as far as the router support rods allow. These pieces also snap together, making it easy to clear big chips if they get caught. While we were putting the tool through its paces, a few shavings escaped through the top of the base, but nothing escaped below the hood. Impressive.

## Cord-free trim router

Managing the cord on a router can be frustrating. The cord tends to be constantly in the way or sufficiently snagged to prevent forward movement. Either problem can be enough to mess up your work, so we were pleased to learn about Ridgid's new cordless trim router. It's based on Ridgid's corded trim router (R2401), which was the Best Value winner in our recent head-to-head trim-router test (see p. 38). The new cordless, brushless version has all the same

features as the corded model and seems to have as much power as the corded version. The setup includes both round and square see-through bases, an adjustable edge guide, and a small, soft-sided case. The \$129 kit version (R86044SB) also includes a charger and a 2.0-amp/hr battery.

### RIDGID BRUSHLESS COMPACT ROUTER

- R86044B
- \$99

