

## The Cutting EDGE

# table saw moldings MADE EASY

A molding head that mounts in a table saw isn't exactly a *new* tool, but it's an underutilized tool, as far as I'm concerned. This Magic Molder from **Wood.Tech** for example, will work in most table saws to cut intricate profiles that might otherwise require a shaper.

To be exact, you can make 80 different profiles with the Magic Molder (that's because 80 different cutters are available as inserts). Or by combining different cutters and resetting the rip fence between cuts, you can cut an *infinite* number of profiles.

While most molding heads have high-speed steel cutters, the Magic Molder's are solid carbide. The cutters are permanently affixed to plugs that lock in place on the molder head for a secure connection. The body of the molding head is a thick disk of anodized aluminum that's perfectly balanced for smooth, chatter-free cuts. Aligning the cutters in the molder head is automatic thanks to a pin-lock system that secures the plugs (*Illustration, right*).

**Using the Molder** — To make molding, you simply tighten the molder on the arbor, put the cutters in place, position the rip fence, and set the depth of cut. For safety, cuts should be made using push blocks and featherboards.

The first time I used the tool, I was amazed by its quiet, smooth operation. As for the quality of cut, it required



▲ The Magic Molder makes cutting molding on the table saw easy. You can even change cutters while it's still mounted on the saw.

almost no sanding when complete. Most profiles can be accomplished with a single pass over the blade, but large moldings require a series of successively deeper passes.

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