

CLIMB CUTTING

WHEN IT WORKS, WHEN IT DOESN'T
AND HOW TO CONTROL IT



WHAT IS CLIMB CUTTING?

A climb cut feeds the router in the **same direction the bit is trying to pull it**. Unlike a conventional cut, the bit can grab and pull the router or the stock forward.



WHEN IS CLIMB CUTTING A BAD IDEA?

Never **climb cut stock freehand on a router table**. Use a jig or fixture that gives you better control of the workpiece and keeps your hands away from the bit. With a **handheld router**, avoid jigs that **trap or chain the router into the cut**. If the bit grabs and you can't pull the router away, things can get out of control fast.



WHEN CAN IT HELP?

Climb cutting can help when **grain direction makes a conventional cut likely to tear out**. Reversing direction can help the bit work better with difficult or problem grain.



KEEP IT CONTROLLED

Use **light cuts, solid support, and a secure grip**. With a handheld router, use jigs only when they guide the cut without trapping the router. At a router table, a secure jig can give you more grip and leverage over the workpiece.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Climb cutting is a specific technique for solving specific problems, not a replacement for conventional routing.

BIT ROTATION

Handheld router: The bit rotates **clockwise**.

Router table: The bit rotates **counterclockwise** because the router is upside down.

Conventional feed: move against the cutter's rotation.

Climb feed: move with the cutter's rotation.



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SIMPLIFIED



Workshop Guide