

## Amana In-Tech Router Bits

Insert tooling has long been used on the industrial side of woodworking and is now making its way to home-based and small professional woodworkers. One example is Amana Tool's In-Tech Series router bits.

Amana has placed tungsten carbide inserts (small individual cutting knives) on nine 1/4"-shank router bits commonly used in many shops. The company states that these router bits, with insert knives, have superior cutting quality in hardwoods, softwoods, MDF and chipboard. Additionally, Amana professes that these bits will last at least four times longer than brazed router bits.

Unlike sending a brazed bit out for sharpening, or pitching it into a drawer full of dull router bits, with the In-Tech series you simply replace the insert at a cost that's less than a new bit. In fact, straight-sided replacement inserts, such as those for the flush-trim, straight-plunge and rabbeting bits, have two sharpened sides that allow for more than a single change. That's a money-saving idea.

Each replaceable insert has an oversized hole through which a small screw passes, locking the cutting edge to the shank. We are concerned about the fact that there's no indexing

for the inserts—indexing is the way to assure the insert is correctly positioned to the tool. According to Amana, there are bit-specific instructions when changing the inserts.

We have a few In-Tech bits with different profiles in our shop and have found the resulting cut to be equal to most router bits we've brought in before. When we removed and replaced the inserts, we experienced no problem achieving a cut with a matching profile. Of course, we didn't install replacements, but if you plan to change out the inserts, we suggest replacing both cutting edges to guarantee a better profile match and resulting cut.

Are these bits a good deal? First you have to decide if you'll find the need to replace the inserts. I seldom buy a second exact profile router bit unless it's a basic profile. After that, you'll have to compare pricing of the In-Tech router bits to your favorite brand.



### In-Tech Series Router Bits

**Amana Tool** ■ 800-445-0077 or  
[amanatool.com/intech](http://amanatool.com/intech)

**Router Bits** ■ \$16 - \$52

**Replacement inserts** ■ \$5 - \$16

For more information, circle #159 on Free Information Card.

We like, and welcome, the idea of insert tooling in the woodshop and look forward to further use of the In-Tech router bits. As for determining the length of time before we see any degradation of the cutting edge, that's going to take a while. —GH

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