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Onsrud's inverted router still a shop staple

First patented in 1976 it remains 'a simple machine that does the simple work extremely well'

By Jennifer Hicks

STAFF WRITER

C.R. Onsrud invented and patented inverted pin routers in 1976, and while the company has made slight improvements over the years, the machines still boast the same tried and true design that has resulted in sales of more than 10,000 units.

The inverted routers are available in three models for light-, medium- and heavy-duty use. They've become a shop staple for their ease of use and safe operation, according to Tom Onsrud, the company's president.

"We used to sell a lot more inverted routers before the CNC router became so popular, but they're still sold just like table saws every month," said Onsrud, "They still have their strong purpose."

Inverted routers are particularly suited for producing samples or low-volume orders, or for secondary operations after processing on a heavy-duty CNC router, Onsrud said.

"It's a simple machine that does the simple work extremely well," he said.

Onsrud says the inverted router is simply more versatile, accurate, safer and easier to operate. With the template on top, the operator can see the pattern he

is trying to follow, and has far less exposure to the cutting tool than with overhead routers. Dust collection is greatly enhanced with the through-the-table dust exhaust system.

Some traditional router users were hesitant about an inverted router in its early years, but the machine gained a stellar reputation when it won an IWF Challengers Award in 1980.

C.R. Onsrud offers the 500 SS Intermediate, a 3-hp light-duty machine that sells for \$3,340 on the company's Web site, and the 750 SS, a 5-hp model that sells for \$8,680.

"The 750 is our most popular model for professional woodworkers with small shops," said Onsrud.

The company also offers a 10-hp model, the 900 VS, that sells for \$12,400.

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The 750 SS inverted router from Onsrud has a 5-hp motor and is geared for medium to lighter heavy-duty applications. It is the most popular version for professional woodworkers with small custom shops.

