

ROUTER BIT USER'S GUIDE

Before using the router bit, make sure that all the edges that the bit will glide against are properly fabricated because the rest of the profile will be cut according to these edges. Each router bit has one or two ball bearing guides. A half bull nose B bit has a top guide and a bottom guide that either can be used on the top surface and the side edge. Full bull nose V bit has a top guide and a washer between two cutting blades as edge guide. Most granite slabs have double thickness edges by gluing two pieces together at the edge. If there are chips and imperfections where these two pieces are joined, they must be fixed prior to running a router bit through. Alternatively, you can clamp a straight edge to the slab of granite and use only the top guide against the top surface and against this straight edge to shape a straight line profile.

Router bit lasts longer when used wet. For wet cutting, you can either use a wet polisher with water feeding from the center spindle or run a garden hose off the piece of granite. Give the tool spindle a little oil lubricant before threading the router bit on. Start at the slowest speed and then increase to the higher speed that you are comfortable with. Move the cutting bit back and forth cutting away a thin layer at a time. Be extra careful on the final few passes when it is important to keep the bit level. You may also consider making a jig to guide your polisher against the top or bottom surface of the granite slab so it stay level. After finish cutting, remember to remove the bit, clean, dry and oil it.

For most bits, we recommend adding a straight edge guide to the top of the granite slab to glide the top ball bearing against to get perfectly straight edges. Most granite slabs are fabricated so that the bull nose bit does not cut all the way in, but leave a little straight angle. This added straight edge guide will help do just that.

For half bull nose bit, you can run it vertically or horizontally. Again, adding an additional straight edge guide especially prior to final finishing will help cutting a straighter bull nose edge.