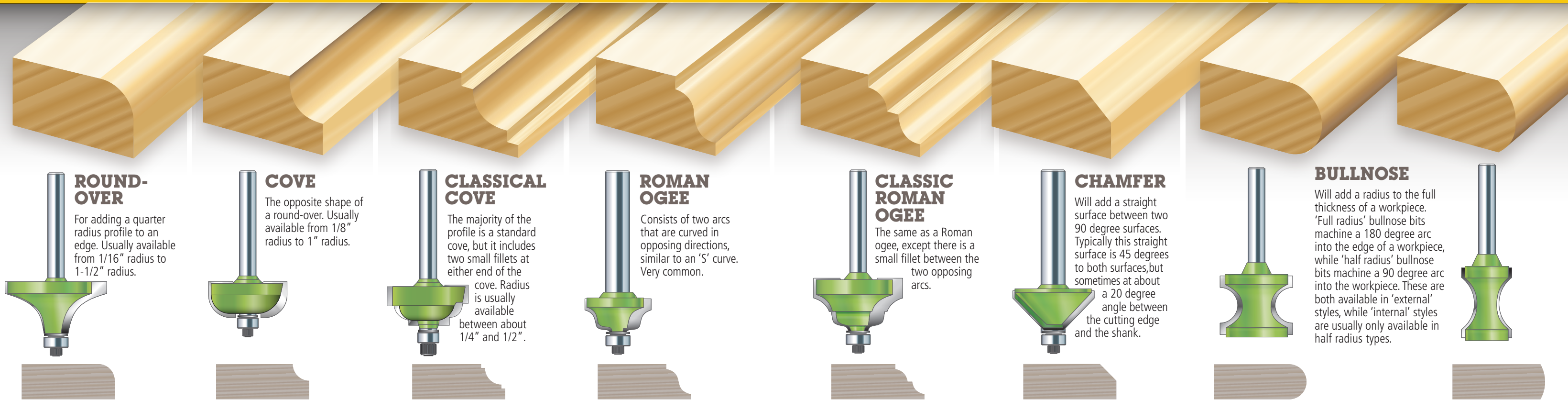


INTRODUCTION TO Router Bits

PROFILE/EDGE TREATMENT ROUTER BITS

From the editors of
CANADIAN
Woodworking
& HOME IMPROVEMENT



ROUND-OVER

For adding a quarter radius profile to an edge. Usually available from 1/16" radius to 1-1/2" radius.

COVE

The opposite shape of a round-over. Usually available from 1/8" radius to 1" radius.

CLASSICAL COVE

The majority of the profile is a standard cove, but it includes two small fillets at either end of the cove. Radius is usually available between about 1/4" and 1/2".

ROMAN OGEE

Consists of two arcs that are curved in opposing directions, similar to an 'S' curve. Very common.

CLASSIC ROMAN OGEE

The same as a Roman ogee, except there is a small fillet between the two opposing arcs.

CHAMFER

Will add a straight surface between two 90 degree surfaces. Typically this straight surface is 45 degrees to both surfaces, but sometimes at about a 20 degree angle between the cutting edge and the shank.

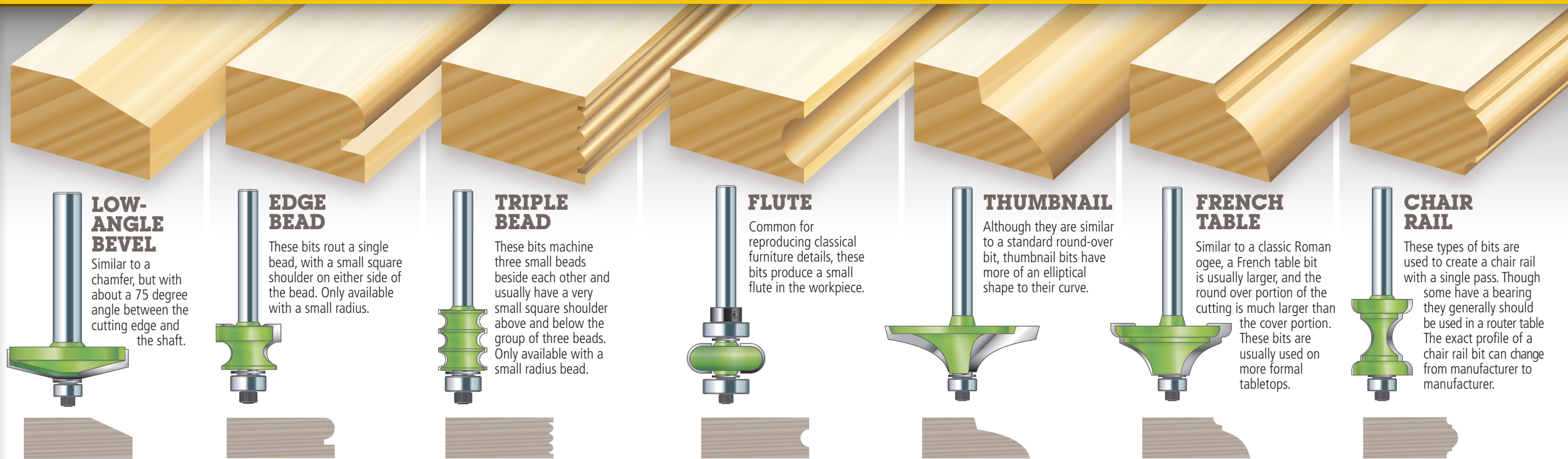
BULLNOSE

Will add a radius to the full thickness of a workpiece. 'Full radius' bullnose bits machine a 180 degree arc into the edge of a workpiece, while 'half radius' bullnose bits machine a 90 degree arc into the workpiece. These are both available in 'external' styles, while 'internal' styles are usually only available in half radius types.

- For routing decorative profiles into the edges of workpieces – almost always for aesthetic reasons.
- Generally speaking, profile / edge treatment bits are easy to use.
- Usually have a bearing so the bit can be guided parallel with the edge of a workpiece.
- Sometimes available without a bearing. In this case it would need to be used in a router table or with an edge guide attached to your router.
- Available in 1/4" and 1/2" diameter shanks.
- More than one bit can be used to create a more complex profile to an edge.
- Taking several shallow passes, rather than one heavy pass, will leave you with a smoother finished profile.
- Larger bits should rotate at a slower RPM – follow manufacturers' recommendations.

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LOW-ANGLE BEVEL

Similar to a chamfer, but with about a 75 degree angle between the cutting edge and the shaft.

EDGE BEAD

These bits rout a single bead, with a small square shoulder on either side of the bead. Only available with a small radius.

TRIPLE BEAD

These bits machine three small beads beside each other and usually have a very small square shoulder above and below the group of three beads. Only available with a small radius bead.

FLUTE

Common for reproducing classical furniture details, these bits produce a small flute in the workpiece.

THUMBNAIL

Although they are similar to a standard round-over bit, thumbnail bits have more of an elliptical shape to their curve.

FRENCH TABLE

Similar to a classic Roman ogee, a French table bit is usually larger, and the round over portion of the cutting is much larger than the cover portion. These bits are usually used on more formal tabletops.

CHAIR RAIL

These types of bits are used to create a chair rail with a single pass. Though some have a bearing they generally should be used in a router table. The exact profile of a chair rail bit can change from manufacturer to manufacturer.