

# Router-Made Bandings

Dress up your work with these unique designs

BY MARK ARNOLD

Most woodworkers associate banding with Federal period furniture, when its primary role was protecting the edge of a veneered panel. However, the use of banding is not restricted to veneered work or to period furniture. It is a great way to embellish solid pieces of almost any style.

The advantages of making your own banding are that you can customize the wood to match a project, create designs with curved elements not available commercially, and make them to a length that suits you. As I'll demonstrate, you can make two such bandings

easily using readily available router bits. I demonstrate a third on [FineWoodworking.com](http://FineWoodworking.com). Not only will these bandings give your projects a dramatic effect, they'll also give them that personal touch.

## Design starts with a router bit and the right woods

When selecting the woods for a particular banding, consider where it will be inlaid. A banding easily can be lost in the motion of a highly figured burl or crotch, or it can appear as an afterthought if the species or colors do not complement the primary wood. Contrast is desirable, but it should not detract from the subject being framed. The most successful bandings are

## OGEE BANDING

Use contrasting woods and a reversible ogee bit to make either a narrow banding (below) or a wider one (bottom).



those that appear three-dimensional, like the banding I demonstrate on [FineWoodworking.com](http://FineWoodworking.com), or make use of chatoyancy, like the ogee banding (above). Certain woods, such as the curly maple in this example, change in color and luster when viewed from different angles.

A banding blank will yield less than half its width in usable strips and the rest will end up as sawdust, so always make more than you'll need. A 1-in.-wide blank can yield up to 10 usable strips.

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## SCALLOP BANDING

A pair of matched beading and fluting bits yields identically shaped bandings whose woods are reversed. Use one to edge an apron and give your table a touch of sophistication.



[FineWoodworking.com](http://FineWoodworking.com)

Learn to rout and assemble a third type of banding, a lunette, with step-by-step photos.

