

SandMan rolls out its new sanding booth

By Jennifer Hicks
STAFF WRITER

SandMan Products has introduced the Sand Pro SBP108, a self-contained, portable sanding booth for collecting sanding dust on items that are too large to sand on a sanding table. The booth features hinged, vinyl panels that fold against the unit for easy storage when the machine is not in use.

"The key features on this are that it's light, portable and expandable. Those three things make it the perfect solution for the small or large shop," says company president Lloyd Troyer.

When fully expanded, the booth is 9' wide, 4' deep and 6'-7' tall. Ideal applications for the booth include finish sanding for dressers and desks or any piece that is too large and not practical to lift onto a downdraft table.

Troyer says the company's downdraft sanding tables are effective for flat sanding, but it was necessary to develop a backdraft booth to effectively capture dust when sanding assembled pieces.

"We always realized there was a hole in the product line. We worked on several different prototypes for three to four years and they weren't broad enough. They were specialized things for chairs only. Eventually, the picture emerged in my mind and we created this product in 2009 and



The Sand Pro sanding booth, model SB108, features hinged vinyl sides and top panels to construct the best perimeter for your workpiece, up to 9' wide.

showed it first at AWFS in Las Vegas.

"It doesn't matter if you're sanding down by the floor or over your head, it's equally effective. It's a solution we never had before for large items of furniture."

When folded, the booth has a footprint of 44" x 54". The booth operates on a single- or 3-phase power source and includes a motor starter. A 1-hp motor with a 30" centrifugal fan

produces 9,300 CFM of air flow. Exhaust air exits through the top of the unit. Sanding dust is collected in a bank of 2" deep vertical pleated filters, so no central vacuum hookup is necessary. Filters and enclosure panels are included in the base price of \$4,995.

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Amana unveils its new router bit series

By Brian Caldwell
SENIOR WRITER

Amana Tool has created a new series of insert router bits to produce raised panel doors from MDF or solid panels. Available in seven profiles — including traditional, ogee, bead and cove — the bits feature replaceable MDF-grade carbide knives that insert into the company's patented Nova Tool body system.

The higher grade of carbide increases the life of the router bit and delivers smooth cuts in hard materials such as MDF and chipboard. The knives can be resharpened multiple times without affecting the original tool profile and the cutting quality and accuracy remain constant during the life of the tool, according to Amana.

"We came up with insertable bits that will last four to six times longer than standard

brazed carbide-tipped bits," says Frank Misiti, technical director for Amana Tools. "We're using one tool body that accepts replaceable knives of different profiles and expanding that technology into the CNC market. They're designed to give the appearance of a raised panel door in MDF or solid wood."

There are four Plunge Form profiles, which will produce a simple raised panel look in one pass. A second pass with the Raised Panel profiles will produce a more authentic look, according to Misiti.

"You can get a deeper reveal when you use the two profiles together and there's nothing to assemble after the machining process. You're saving money on tooling, material and labor," adds Misiti.

The Nova Tool body is available in a 1/2" shank and the bits are priced comparable to



Amana Tool's insert router bits for producing MDF raised panel doors.

standard router bits. The three raised panel knives and four plunge knives can be mixed and matched to create up to 12 different raised panel designs.

Each router bit is sold separately, starting at \$119.66 for the bead profile. The replacement knives cost \$84.92 per pair.

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