

Gooseneck Molding

Bits # 8567, 8565 (or others)

Gooseneck or Swan's neck molding is traditionally found at the top of grandfather clocks, highboys, and other Queen Anne style furniture. It has usually been hand carved or made with a combination of custom-made router bits. Our method uses stock MLCS table edge bits and some imagination to produce mouldings with great depth and detail.

Determine the width and height of the molding needed. It is usually two mirror-image pieces with a gap between them, or *broken pediment*. Create a pattern for the base curve of the molding, an S-curve that flattens out at the outside edge to horizontal. This is to allow a miter for the side moldings.

Cut a piece of wood wide and long enough to make the curve and cover the entire height of the gooseneck. Run the grain along the curve, angling upward toward the center gap. Draw and bandsaw the base curve along one edge of the wood and sand smooth. (Make two pieces, left and right). Set up one of the table edge bits in a router table with a starter pin. The pin allows you to cut the bit detail along the curved edge of the wood. Make the cut in 3 passes, raising the bit higher on each pass. Use a reduced speed on the router and be careful with the grain direction. When finished, you should have a board with the molded curve along one edge. Make a left and right version.

Now make a second pattern. Trace along the *inside* of the molded detail on the first board. Prepare a second board, similar to the first and cut this second pattern shape along one edge. After routing, the second board is layered onto the first, creating a deeper molding with a different routed detail.

Finally, shape the top of the molding sandwich, cutting through both pieces to create the top profile, which is usually parallel to the original S-curve. Cut the "gap" shape on the bandsaw; then cut the corner miter by fastening the molding to a plywood board and tilting your tablesaw blade to 45 degrees. Create straight sections of the same profile for the sides of the project.

