



# 1200W 1/2" VARIABLE SPEED ROUTER

R1200  
INSTRUCTION MANUAL

**GMC**<sup>®</sup>  
**GLOBAL MACHINERY COMPANY**

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## **Warranty Power Tools**

*Whilst every effort is made to ensure your complete satisfaction with this tool, occasionally, due to the mass manufacturing techniques, a tool may not live up to our required level of performance and you may need the assistance of our service department.*

*This product is warranted for a 2-year period for home domestic use from the date of the original purchase. If found to be defective in materials or workmanship, the tool or the offending faulty component will be repaired or replaced free of charge with another of the same item.*

*A small freight charge may apply. Proof of purchase is essential. We reserve the right to reject any claim where the purchase cannot be verified.*

*This warranty does not include damage or defects to the tool caused by or resulting from abuse, accidents, alterations or commercial or business use. It also does not cover any bonus items or included accessories. Only the power tool is covered under this warranty.*

*With continuing product development, changes may have occurred which render the product received slightly different to that shown in this instruction manual.*

*Please ensure that you store your receipt in a safe place. Conditions apply to the above warranty. For full details of the warranty terms and conditions please refer to our website – [www.gmcompany.com](http://www.gmcompany.com)*

*For prompt service we suggest you log your service request online - [www.gmcservice.com.au](http://www.gmcservice.com.au), should you not have access to the internet, please contact our service department on 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand).*

## Introduction

Your new GMC power tool will more than satisfy your expectations. It has been manufactured under stringent GMC Quality Standards to meet superior performance criteria.

You will find your new tool easy and safe to operate, and, with proper care, it will give you many years of dependable service.

**CAUTION.** Carefully read through this entire Instruction Manual before using your new GMC Power Tool. Take special care to heed the Cautions and Warnings.

Your GMC power tool has many features that will make your job faster and easier. Safety, performance, and dependability have been given top priority in the development of this tool, making it easy to maintain and operate.

## Environmental protection



Recycle unwanted materials instead of disposing of them as waste. All tools, hoses and packaging should be sorted, taken to the local recycling centre and disposed of in an environmentally safe way.

## Symbols

The rating plate on your tool may show symbols. These represent important information about the product or instructions on its use.



Wear hearing protection.  
Wear eye protection.  
Wear breathing protection.



Double insulated  
for additional protection.



N380

Conforms to relevant  
safety standards.

## Specifications

Voltage:	230–240V ~ 50Hz
Power input:	1200W
No load speed:	8000–31500 RPM
Collet capacity:	1/4" (6.35mm) & 1/2" (12.7mm)
Plunge depth:	50mm
Insulation:	Double insulated

## General safety instructions

To use this tool properly, you must observe the safety regulations, the assembly instructions and the operating instructions to be found in this Manual. All persons who use and service the machine have to be acquainted with this Manual and must be informed about its potential hazards. Children and infirm people must not use this tool. Children should be supervised at all times if they are in the area in which the tool is being used. It is also imperative that you observe the accident prevention regulations in force in your area. The same applies for general rules of occupational health and safety.

**WARNING.** When using power tools, basic safety precautions should always be taken to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock and personal injury. Also, please read and heed the advice given in the additional important safety instructions.

- 1. Keep the work area clean and tidy.** Cluttered work areas and benches invite accidents and injury.
- 2. Consider the environment in which you are working.** Do not use power tools in damp or wet locations. Keep the work area well lit. Do not expose power tools to rain. Do not use power tools in the presence of flammable liquids or gases.
- 3. Keep visitors away from the work area.** All visitors and onlookers, especially children and infirm persons, should be kept well away from where you are working. Do not let others in the vicinity make contact with the tool or extension cord.
- 4. Store tools safely.** When not in use, tools should be locked up out of reach.
- 5. Do not force the tool.** The tool will do the job better and safer working at the rate for which it was designed.
- 6. Use the correct tool for the job.** Do not force small tools or attachments to do the job best handled by a heavier duty tool. Never use a tool for a purpose for which it was not intended.
- 7. Dress correctly.** Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. They can be caught in moving parts. Rubber gloves and non-slip footwear are recommended when working outdoors. If you have long hair, wear a protective hair covering.
- 8. Use safety accessories.** Safety glasses and earmuffs should always be worn. A face or dust mask is also required if the drilling operation creates dust.
- 9. Connect dust extraction equipment.** If devices are provided for the connection of dust extraction and collection facilities, ensure that these are connected and properly used.
- 10. Do not abuse the power cord.** Never pull the cord to disconnect the tool from the power point. Keep the cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.
- 11. Secure the work piece.** Use clamps or a vice to hold the work piece. It is safer than using your hand and frees both hands to operate the tool.
- 12. Do not overreach.** Keep your footing secure and balanced at all times.
- 13. Look after your tools.** Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Follow the instructions regarding lubrication and accessory changes. Inspect tool cords periodically and, if damaged, have them repaired by an authorised service facility. Inspect extension cords periodically and replace them if damaged. Keep tool handles dry, clean and free from oil and grease.
- 14. Disconnect idle tools.** Switch off the power and disconnect the plug from the power point before servicing, when changing accessories and when the tool is not in use.
- 15. Remove adjusting keys and wrenches.** Check to see that keys and adjusting wrenches are removed from the tool before switching on.
- 16. Avoid unintentional starting.** Always check that the switch is in the OFF position before plugging in the tool to the power supply. Do not carry a plugged in

tool with your finger on the switch.

- 17. Use outdoor rated extension cords.** When a tool is used outdoors, use only extension cords that are intended for outdoor use and are so marked.
- 18. Stay alert.** Watch what you are doing. Use common sense. Do not operate a power tool when you are tired.
- 19. Check for damaged parts.** Before using a tool, check that there are no damaged parts. If a part is slightly damaged, carefully determine if it will operate properly and perform its intended function. Check for alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, proper mounting and any other conditions that may affect the operation of the tool. A part that is damaged should be properly repaired or replaced by an authorised service facility, unless otherwise indicated in this Instruction Manual. Defective switches must be replaced by an authorised service facility. Do not use a tool if the switch does not turn the tool on and off correctly.
- 20. Guard against electric shock.** Prevent body contact with grounded objects such as water pipes, radiators, cookers and refrigerator enclosures.
- 21. Use only approved parts.** When servicing, use only identical replacement parts. Use an authorised service facility to fit replacement parts.

**WARNING.** The use of an accessory or attachment, other than those recommended in this Instruction Manual, may present a risk of personal injury.

### **Additional safety rules for electric routers**

- Remove the plug from the socket before carrying out any adjustment, servicing or maintenance.
- Fully unwind cable drum extensions to avoid potential overheating.
- When an extension cable is required, you must ensure it has the right ampere rating for your power tool and is in a safe electrical condition.

- Ensure your mains supply voltage is the same as your tool rating plate voltage.
- Your tool is double insulated for additional protection against a possible electrical insulation failure within the tool.
- Always check walls, floors and ceilings to avoid hidden power cables and pipes.
- After long working periods external metal parts and accessories could be hot.
- Always wear eye and ear protection and use a dust mask.
- Handle router bits with care, they can be extremely sharp.
- Check the bit carefully for signs of damage or cracks before use. Replace cracked or damaged bits immediately.
- Remove all nails, screws and other objects from the workpiece. You can damage the bit and the tool by cutting into a nail or other metal. It can also present a safety hazard.
- Always use both handles and make sure that you have a good grip on the router before proceeding with any work.
- Keep your hands away from the rotating bit.
- Make sure that the bit is not in contact with the workpiece when you switch the machine on.
- Before using the tool to make a cut, switch on and let it run for a while. Watch for vibration or wobbling that could indicate an improperly installed bit.
- Take notice of the direction of rotation of the bit and the direction of feed.
- Do not leave the machine running unattended. Operate the tool only when controlled by both hands.
- Always switch off and wait until the bit has come to a complete standstill before removing the machine from the workpiece.

- Do not touch the bit immediately after operation. It may be extremely hot and could burn your skin.
- Rags, cloths, cord, string and the like should never be left around the work area.
- Use safety equipment including safety goggles or shield, ear protection, dust mask and protective clothing including safety gloves.

**WARNING.** Before connecting a tool to a power source (power point receptacle, outlet, etc.) be sure that the voltage supply is the same as that specified on the nameplate of the tool. A power source with a voltage greater than that specified for the tool can result in serious injury to the user, as well as damage to the tool. If in doubt, do not plug in the tool. Using a power source with a voltage less than the nameplate rating is harmful to the motor.

The tool must be used only for its prescribed purpose. Any use other than those mentioned in this Manual will be considered a case of misuse. The user and not the manufacturer shall be liable for any damage or injury resulting from such cases of misuse.

The manufacturer shall not be liable for any changes made to the tool nor for any damage resulting from such changes.

Even when the tool is used as prescribed it is not possible to eliminate all residual risk factors. The following hazards may arise in connection with the tool's construction and design:

- Damage to hearing if effective earmuffs are not worn.
- Harmful emissions of wood dust when the machine is used in closed rooms. Always use supplementary dust extraction.
- Always remove the plug from the mains socket before making any adjustments or maintenance, including changing the bit.
- Contact with the bit.

- Reaching into the housing whilst the tool is running and making contact with the bit.
- Kickback of workpiece and parts of workpiece.
- Bit fracture.
- Catapulting of faulty pieces from the bit.
- Do not use bits that are deformed or cracked.
- Always remove the plug from the mains socket before making any adjustments or maintenance, including changing the bit and setting the depth of cut.

### Accessories

The GMC R1200 router is supplied with the following accessories as standard:

- Parallel guide
- Template guide
- Wrench
- 1/2" (12.7mm) & 1/4" (6.35mm) collets
- Dust extraction adaptor

### Unpacking

Due to modern mass production techniques, it is unlikely that your GMC Power Tool is faulty or that a part is missing. If you find anything wrong, do not operate the tool until the parts have been replaced or the fault has been rectified. Failure to do so could result in serious personal injury.

### Assembly

The GMC Electric Router is packed, fully assembled except for the dust extraction adaptor and parallel guide.

## Know your product

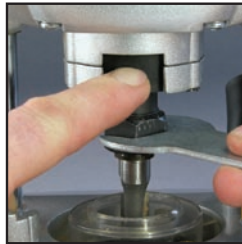
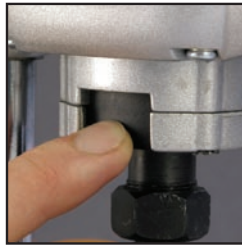
1. Left handle
2. Right handle
3. Variable speed dial
4. Depth gauge
5. Depth gauge locking knob
6. Micrometer depth adjustment
7. Depth lock lever
8. Depth turret stops
9. On/off trigger switch
10. Lock-on button
11. Spindle lock button
12. Collet nut
13. Base plate
14. Dust extraction adaptor
15. Parallel guide locking knob
16. Template guide
17. Parallel guide
18. Wrench



## Installing and removing collets

**CAUTION.** Always ensure that the router is switched off and unplugged from the mains supply before installing or removing a collet.

1. The router is supplied with 2 collets, 1/2" (12.7mm) and 1/4" (6.35mm). The 1/2" (12.7mm) collet comes fitted to the router.
2. Depending on the size of the router bit the collet may need to be changed to allow use of larger or smaller diameter router bits.
3. Depress and hold the spindle lock button (11) to stop the spindle from turning.
4. Whilst holding the spindle lock button (11) loosen the collet nut (12) by rotating it using the wrench provided.
5. Remove the collet nut followed by the collet
6. Install the new collet into the assembly; this is sometimes easier if the router is plunged to its full depth.
7. Install the collet nut and tighten by hand.
8. Firmly tighten the collet nut by depressing and holding the spindle lock button (11) and then tightening the collet nut (12) using the wrench provided.

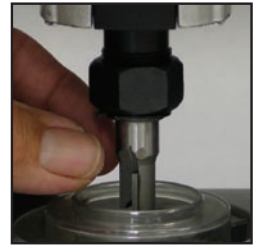
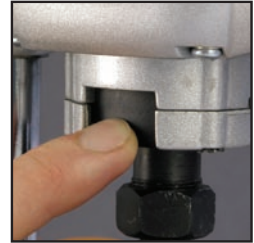


**WARNING.** Do not tighten the collet nut without a bit in place or you may break the collet cone.

## Installing and removing router bits

**CAUTION.** Always ensure that the router is switched off and unplugged from the mains supply before installing or removing a router bit.

1. Ensure the correct collet is installed for the router bit to be used.
2. Loosen the collet nut (12) by depressing and holding the spindle lock button (11) and then rotating the collet nut (12).
3. Insert the router bit ensuring that the shaft of the bit goes all the way into the collet.
4. Tighten the collet nut assembly by depressing and holding the spindle lock button (11) and then tightening the collet nut (12).



**CAUTION.** Ensure the bit is firmly secured before commencing operation.

## Adjusting the cutting depth

**CAUTION.** Always ensure that the router is switched off and unplugged from the mains supply before adjusting the depth of cut.

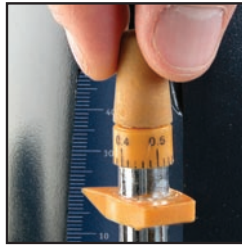
1. Place the machine on a flat surface and loosen the depth gauge locking knob (5).
2. Loosen the depth lock lever (7) and lower the machine body until the router bit just touches the flat surface.
3. Loosen the depth gauge locking knob (5) and lower the depth gauge (4) allowing





it to just make contact with the depth turret stop (8). Take note of the measurement on the depth label.

4. Raise the depth gauge and tighten using the depth gauge locking knob (5). The difference in distance between the new measurement and the original measurement will be equivalent to the depth of cut. Use the micrometer depth adjustment (6) for precise setting of cutting depth.
5. Loosen the depth lock lever (7) and lower the machine body until the depth gauge again just makes contact with the depth turret stop (8).
6. The depth turret stop (8) has eight steps. By rotating the depth turret stop it is possible to quickly and easily set the depth at eight different levels. This procedure is particularly useful when you wish to make a deep cut in a number of stages.



### Variable speed control

The variable speed dial (3) is located in the left handle (1) for convenient speed adjustment and improved safety.

1. Adjust the variable speed dial (3) to suit different working materials. The tool



cuts quicker and smoother at different speeds when working in different woods or in plastic or aluminium.

2. Turn the dial to a higher number for faster speed, turn the dial to a lower number to reduce the speed.
3. Determine the optimum speed by making a trial cut in a scrap piece of material.

**NOTE.** Using the correct speed for the job increases the life of the bit.

### Switching on and off

**CAUTION.** Before plugging in the tool always check that the trigger switch engages and disengages properly.

1. Press the on/off trigger switch (9) to turn on the router.
2. To turn the router off release the on/off trigger switch.
3. If you require the router to run continually without having to continue to apply pressure to the trigger switch, depress the lock-on button (10) to lock the switch on.



4. The router will now run in the "locked-on" condition.
5. If the switch is in the lock-on position depress the on/off trigger switch (9) to disengage the lock-on button (10) and then release the switch. The router will stop.

### Making a cut

Your router can be used to make specialty cuts and shapes in the surface and on the edge of wood. It accepts a wide range of bits that are each designed for a specific cut or shape.

1. Make all your adjustments as described in the previous sections.
2. Insert and secure your router bit.
3. Adjust the height as required for the application.
4. Place the base plate (13) on the work piece ensuring that the bit is not in contact with the material to be cut.
5. Connect the router to the power supply.
6. Turn the router on. Ensure you have a firm grip on both handles. Wait for the bit to attain full speed.
7. Lower the router body and lock it in position at the desired depth of cut.
8. Move the tool over the work piece surface, keeping the base plate flush and advancing smoothly until cutting is complete.
9. When edge cutting, the work piece surface should be on the left side of the bit in the feed direction.
10. Keep the cutting pressure constant, taking care not to crowd the router causing the motor to slow excessively.
11. On very hard woods or problem materials it may be necessary to make more than one pass at progressive cutting depths until the desired depth of cut is achieved.
12. To turn the router off release the trigger switch or press and release the trigger switch if in the "lock-on" position.

**CAUTION.** Always use two hands to hold the router.

**CAUTION.** Where possible, clamp the work piece to the bench.

**CAUTION.** Moving the machine too fast may cause a poor quality of cut and can damage the bit or the motor. Moving the machine too slowly may burn or mar the cut. The proper feed rate will depend on the bit size, the type of material being cut and the depth of the cut. Practice first on a scrap piece of material to gauge the correct feed

rate and the cut dimensions.

**WARNING.** When using this router to cut flat panels such as kitchen work surfaces, before joining please ensure that you use an appropriate jig together with the correct guide bush. DO NOT use the curved part of the router base against a simple guide piece.

### Using the parallel guide

The parallel guide (17) is an effective aid to cutting in a straight line when chamfering or grooving.

1. Loosen the parallel guide locking knobs (15)
2. Feed the bars on the parallel guide through the holes in the router base (13) on the right hand side of the router in the feed direction. This will assist in keeping the guide flush with the side of the work piece.

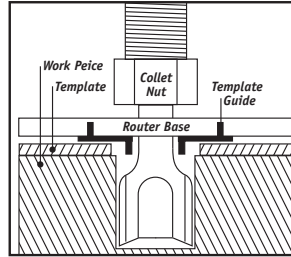


3. Adjust the distance between the router bit and parallel guide by moving the guide until it is at the correct distance.
4. Tighten the parallel guide locking knobs (15) to hold the parallel guide in position.

**Note.** If the distance between the side of the work piece and the cutting position is too wide, or the side of the work piece is not straight, firmly clamp a straight board to the work piece and use this as a guide against the router base.

### Using the dust extraction adaptor

1. The dust extraction adaptor will accept most standard vacuum cleaner nozzles allowing the dust to be efficiently removed as the tool is used.



## Using the template guide

The template guide can be used in various ways:

- Producing duplicates of a particular design of an original shape.
- In conjunction with a template, producing decorative features.
- Repetitive cutting shapes.



If you wish to make your own templates it is best to use a hardwood such as plywood. Use a piece that is just thicker than the depth of the template guide. Allow for the thickness of the guide in your template to ensure that the work piece is cut to the correct size.

1. To attach the template guide (16) turn the router upside down and remove the two fixing screws in the centre of the router base.
2. Insert the template guide into the base of the router and secure using the two fixing screws.



## Maintenance

**WARNING.** Always ensure that the tool is switched off and the plug is removed from the power point before making any adjustments or maintenance procedures. Always wear sturdy gloves when handling or changing bits as they can be very sharp.

## Cleaning

1. Keep the tool's air vents unclogged and clean at all times.
2. Remove dust and dirt regularly. Cleaning is best done with a rag.
3. Re-lubricate all moving parts at regular intervals.
4. Never use caustic agents to clean plastic parts.

**CAUTION.** Do not use cleaning agents to clean the plastic parts of the router. A mild detergent on a damp cloth is recommended. Water must never come into contact with the router.

## Power cord maintenance

If the supply cord needs replacing, the task must be carried out by the manufacturer, the manufacturer's agent, or an authorised service centre in order to avoid a safety hazard.

## Repairs

Only an authorised service centre should replace the cordset or effect other repairs.

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# GMC customer assist

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**If your product needs repairing, replacing, technical service or you simply need help or advice, please contact us on our Customer Assist Line 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand).**

For prompt service we suggest you log your service request online at [www.gmcservice.com.au](http://www.gmcservice.com.au). Should you not have access to the Internet, please contact our service department on 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand). 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week (AEST).

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**Please note that if repair or replacement is required, you must provide a valid original purchase receipt.**

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You will need the following details at hand to log your service request;

**Personal details:** First & Last name, address, pick up address, contact phone numbers, email address

**Product details:** Product number, date of purchase, retailer bought from, State & postcode, receipt number, reason for the request, copy of official purchase receipt

Attach your purchase receipt and save with this Manual for future reference.

Please refer to our website [www.gmcompany.com](http://www.gmcompany.com) for full GMC warranty Terms and Conditions.

***GMC***<sup>®</sup>  
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