Two simple pieces of MDF is all it takes to help tackle two issues that trouble router tables — dust and noise. Adding the back panel and door you see here is a straightforward upgrade to the ultimate router table and also gives it a cleaner look.

Although it sounds easy enough to enclose the router to tame the noise and dust, there’s a little more to consider. The router motor needs steady air movement for peak performance and to prevent overheating. So completely sealing the router cabinet isn’t a good solution.

**Door.** At the front of the cabinet, the door is sized to fit the opening, as shown in the upper drawing. It’s mounted on a continuous hinge and stops against a simple magnetic catch. The Top View drawing shows its position in the opening.

**Back.** The back panel is designed to be an easy “add-on” after the router table is built. I cut the panel for a snug side-to-side fit and drilled pocket holes on the outside face. (If you don’t have a pocket hole jig, you can attach the back panel with cleats.)

To provide adequate air flow, I attached the back, leaving a gap next to the dust box and along the bottom, as shown in the lower drawing at left. This provides a means for drawing cool air in from the lower opening and exhausting the hot air through the upper opening.

**Fully Enclosed.** Adding a door and back panel to the ultimate router table helps contain dust and reduce noise.