# THE COMPLETE LOWDOWN ON EIGHT CLAMP-ON TOOL GUIDES

**BRAND**
- E. Emerson Tool Co.
- EZ Smart
- Hartville Tool
- Penn Slide Industries
- Top Tool
- Tru-Grip
- Woodcraft

**MODEL**
- AA-1-One
- Smart Router System 59353
- Red Line
- PS35
- Converter Router Trolley
- Pro Series
- Clamp N Tool Guide
- Pro Gold Multi-Guide

**CARRIAGE MOUNTING STYLE**
- Noncaptured
- Captured
- Noncaptured
- Captured
- Noncaptured
- Captured
- Noncaptured
- Captured

**LOSS OF CUTTING DEPTH TO SUBBASE**
- 1/8"-1/4" (Noncaptured)
- 1/8" (Captured)

**RAIL MOUNTING METHOD**
- Edge grip with cam-lever clamp
- Wrapped with screw clamp
- Wrapped with cam-lever clamp
- Wrapped with cam-lever clamp
- Edge grip with cam-lever clamp
- Edge grip with cam-lever clamp
- Wrapped with screw clamp

**MAXIMUM WORKPIECE THICKNESS**
- 1½" (Noncaptured)
- 1" (Captured)

**CAN GUIDE BE USED AS A BAR CLAMP?**
- Yes
- No

**GUIDE TYPE FOR LONG WORKPIECES (OVER 4′)**
- Cannot clamp longer than 30'
- Butt-joined short rails
- Butt-joined short rails
- Butt-joined short rails
- Longer, separate guide
- Cannot clamp longer than 50'
- Butt-joined short rails

**LACK OF DEFLECTION AT CENTER OF 4′ GUIDE**
- C
- A
- B
- A
- A
- B
- A

**LACK OF DEFLECTION AT CENTER OF 8′ GUIDE**
- C
- A
- B
- A
- A
- B
- A

**EASE OF CARRIAGE TRAVEL**
- Smooth
- Smooth
- Smooth
- Smooth
- Smooth
- Smooth
- No carriage

**EASE OF MOUNTING RAIL TO WORKPIECE**
- Slide movable jaw against workpiece, then flip the locking lever.
- Clamps can’t slide out accidentally, but must extend past rail to fit a 48″ workpiece.
- Cam lever is faster than threaded clamps, but clamps can accidentally slide out of rail.
- Clamps embossed bottom of workpiece as opposed to sharp, pointed tips. They also slide out of rail accidentally.
- Clamps not provided, but 2"-wide rail provides plenty of clamping area.
- Slide movable jaw against workpiece, then flip locking lever. No overhang required.
- Slide movable jaw against workpiece, then flip locking lever. No overhang required.
- Clamps cannot slide off the carriage guide.

**LACK OF WORKPIECE MARRING**
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent
- No damage apparent

**PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**
- Initial impressions for Tru-Grip Clamp N Tool Guide, but this guide demonstrated higher deflection measurements. A large number of rail-mounted accessories (including a pocket-hole jig and bandsaw) are added to the guide’s versatility.
- The best deflection of the zero-piece guides. Subbase travels up to 1/16″ perpendicular to the rail for multiple clamps without noticeable deflection. A 4′ workpiece pushes the limits of the 30′-long rails. Subbase can be used off-rail with optional edge guide and screw terminal.
- Subbase rails not available for the models listed. User must provide 1/2″ thick subbase. Captured carriage may be installed and removed from one end of rail. Selections on the “sliding” between joned rails can damage rail if overextended. 1/16″ workpiece thickness capacity is averaged in test.
- The longest rail is the 9′ rail. Carriage can be used with 3/8″-wide subbase. However, the ideal carriage may obstruct the bit on setups with bases larger than 3″ in diameter. Our carriage had a protruding screw that we filed down to prevent scratching the workpiece.
- Provides multi-position and dual subbase installations. Also shows many ways to use this guide. 1/16″-1/2″ router subbase doubles as a table edge guide, and can move up to 31/2″ perpendicular to the guide. The 4″ rail on a 4″-wide workpiece provides plenty of clamping area. The carriage easily on a workpiece of any thickness, and on non-cone pieces with built-in clamp interference. Bev.. UWS subbase is ideal for inlays, cutting depth. Built-in adjustments for bore. Workpieces over 4′ require a separate 100″ rail, which can be difficult to transport and store.

**STANDARD ACCESSORIES**
- R
- R
- C
- R
- C
- R
- C
- R
- C
- R

**OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES**
- C,E,T,X
- U
- PLK
- C
- C,R,S
- R

**AVAILABLE CAPACITIES**
- (Maximum workpieces that fit between clamps)
- 12′, 24′, 36′, 90′
- 24′, 36′, 50′
- 52′, 110′
- 52′, 110′
- 46′, 60′
- 30′, 54′, 90′
- 24′, 36′, 50′
- 55′, 110′

**COUNTRY OF ASSEMBLY**
- China
- China
- China
- China
- China
- China
- China
- China

**PRICE OF 4′ CAPACITY GUIDE (WITH RAIL) WITH ROUTER CARRIAGE (SUBBASE)**
- $80
- $180
- $85 (user-supplied subbase)
- $110
- $140
- $85
- $36
- $70

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR CLICK:**
- 877/188-6758
- 732/289-2864
- 800/340-2396
- 800/377-7297
- 800/541-1138
- 800/660-8960
- 800/251-1151

**NOTES:**
- 1. Excellent
- 2. Fair
- 3. China
- 4. Prices current at time of article production and do not include shipping where applicable.
- a. Hardwoods
- b. Laminate/rimmer subbase
- c. Pocket-hole jig
- d. Squaring attachment
- e. Router subbase
- f. Stepblock
- g. Circle-routing accessory
- h. Cartage for user's subbase
- i. Extra subbases
- a. Standalone guide
- b. Screw clamp
- c. Cam-lever clamp
- d. Edge grip with cam-lever clamp

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Thank you for your interest in the Clamp-on tool guides review from issue 165 of WOOD® magazine.

Please note this chart is only part of the review. To download the complete 4-page review visit the WOOD Store at www.woodstore.net

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**Our buying guidance for clamp-on tool guides**

For this accessory’s intended use—guiding a router or circ saw in a straight line—the Tru-Grip Pro Series fills the bill perfectly without busting the budget ($88, including carriage/subbase), so we named it the Top Tool. EZ Smart deserves honorable mention for its unique sliding-arm carriage and included accessories, making it one of the more versatile guides. However, it requires an up-front investment of $180.

Written by Dave Campbell with Dean Flores