

# WOOD

FURNITURE, CABINETS & RELATED PRODUCTS

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## CUTTING TOOL UPDATE



Lach Diamond Inc. has introduced this triple-flute diamond router bit.

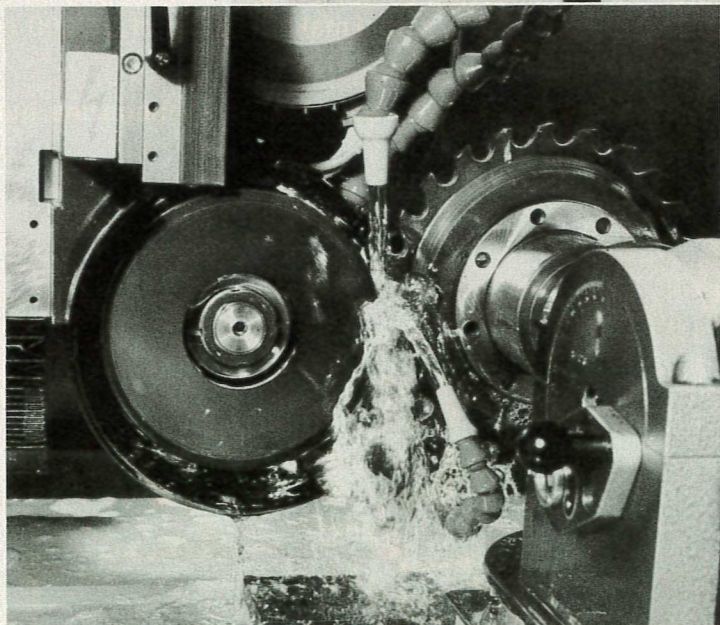
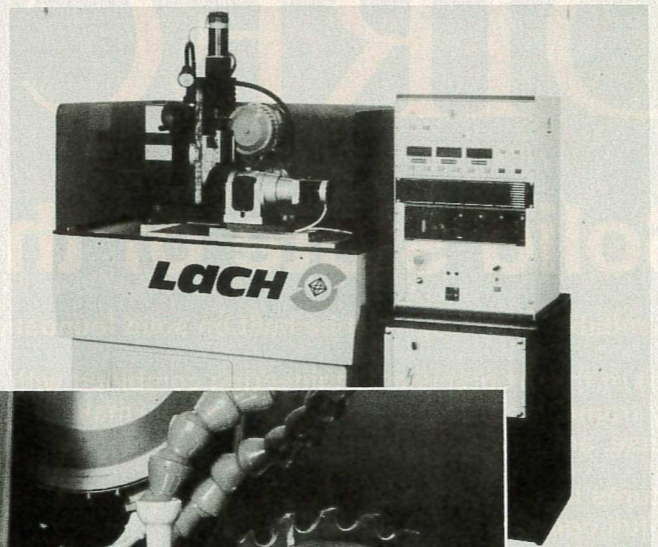
### Polycrystalline diamond tooling

Another relatively new cutting tool material is the polycrystalline diamond. Just as natural diamond is the hardest natural substance, polycrystalline diamond is the hardest synthetic substance. Diamond cutting tools have developed a successful track record within many segments of the woodworking industry; they have been documented to be hundreds of times longer wearing than carbide tools. Yet, they are still met with resistance.

Probably the primary objection to diamond tooling is the initial cost. It is conceivable that a \$50 carbide tool's diamond counterpart could cost say, \$700. But diamond tool manufacturers stress that their products are cheaper in the long run and offer cleaner and more accurate cutting as added benefits. According to Horst Lach, president of Lach Diamond Inc., Grand Rapids, Mich., diamond tools last an average of 300 times longer than conventional carbide tools and are therefore more economical to use.

"Let's use a double-end tenoner for

Lach Diamond has introduced a complete line of diamond tool grinding machines.



example," said Lach. "A set of carbide tools may last two or three hours (before needing resharpener) on the machine, while a set of diamond tools can last four to six months."

According to Lach, the precision of diamond tools is not a small consideration. He said that diamond tools can reduce sanding and increase cutting accuracy. "If you can reduce the costs of sanding via profile

cutting with a diamond tool, then the initial cost of the tool is paid back much sooner."

Lach said his company offers customers in-depth cost analysis that will determine first, if diamond tools are right for them, and secondly, how much they will save by switching from carbide to diamond tools. It is important to note that diamond tools are not for everybody. They are best suited for