

# Computer-driven blast-gate system

*Ultimate in dust-control accessories – The ECOGATE System includes a computerized control unit and motorized blast gates*

The ECOGATE blast-gate system does what I frequently neglect to do: turn on the collector and open a blast gate. At first the system seemed like luxury, but after working with it for just a couple of week, I'm a convert. The *Fine Woodworking* shop is noticeably cleaner. And because the dust collector shuts down when machines are turned off, noise, wear and tear, and power use are all reduced.

The system has three components. Vibration sensors are attached with hook-and-loop fasteners to the motor of each power tool. Motor-driven blast gates replace the standard blast gates at each machine. And shoebox-sized control unit ties everything together. A basic control box will handle up to eight machines, but it can be expanded to handle more.

Hooking up the system was fairly simple and straightforward, helped in large part by an excellent instruction manual. Each machine requires low-voltage cable for the sensor and blast gate. The wire is simply wrapped around the ducts.

The control unit allows you to troubleshoot the circuit to each machine and set sensitivity of the sensors. The unit can be programmed to keep one or more gates open for proper airflow through the dust collector and to delay shutting off the system to clear the ducts. A manual override switch can also be installed.

A start-up system, with four 4-in blast gates, costs a little over \$500. It's not cheap, but it's a good value for commercial shop or home shops on a generous budget. For more information, visit ECOGATE on-line ([www.ecogate.com](http://www.ecogate.com)) or call (888) ECOGATE (326-4283).

*-John White*

*Fine Woodworking July/August 2000, page 36*