

# artworks

**Reproduce your favourite drawings and designs using the Trend Routasketch**

Although generally considered very much a utility woodworking tool, the router can also be used to produce highly decorative effects, not only when working in wood, but soft metals, plastics and even slate. One such application is the surface engraving of drawings, inscriptions and lettering, ranging from simple name plaques to complex sign-writing and relief carving. Although freehand routing is not a difficult skill to acquire, repeating or copying a

pre-drawn design can be accomplished more easily by using a copying attachment such as the Trend Routasketch.

The Routasketch simply links a stylus or follower pin directly above the router and centred on the cutter axis. With a drawing or template mounted on a table above the router, the user can work with a clear unrestricted view, smoothly and precisely controlling the path of both stylus and cutter.

## Setting up

Initially the Routasketch is assembled fitting the appropriate bases and support arms to the drawing plate and router.

The workpiece is secured to a flat smooth work surface, leaving adequate space behind and to the sides to allow the stylus to be moved over the whole area of the drawing plate.





Centring the router stand base plate using the guide bush and alignment pin provided.



Clip the drawing or template to the table plate using drawing board clips or low tack tape. Always lay the acetate sheet over drawings to ensure that the stylus slides easily.



Adjust the table height to leave clearance above the routers cooling vents. Fit the O ring to the stylus and slide it into the copy arm.



Set the cutter depth to give the required line strength.

### Cutter and pin alignment

In order to follow the outline precisely, it is essential that the stylus be aligned with the cutter axis. This is achieved by using the centring bush and alignment pins supplied with the jig.

### Positioning the drawing or template

The drawing, pattern or a three dimensional template is clipped or otherwise secured to the copy holder or drawing plate mounted above the workpiece. A double-ended stylus is fitted to the support arm - the pointed end for following two dimensional designs and the parallel pin for three-dimensional templates. The drawing plate base is securely clamped to the work surface.

### Adjusting the table height

Initially the table height is adjusted to suit the height of the router, leaving a 50mm space between the top housing vents and the underside of the table. The stylus support arm should be set about 30mm above the drawing plate to maintain an unrestricted view over the drawing/pattern. When following a template, the arm should be adjusted to allow the parallel pin to touch the template edges.

### Using the Routasketch

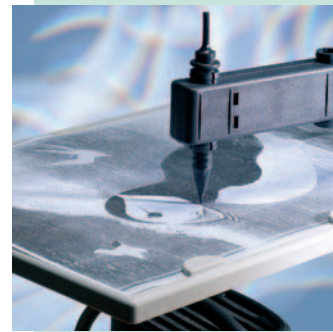
Select and fit the appropriate cutter in the router collet and adjust the cutting depth using the router's depth stop. Do not attempt to cut too deeply into the surface of the work, but remember that it will be difficult to follow the line precisely a second time to try to deepen the cut.

Do restrict the cutting depth when

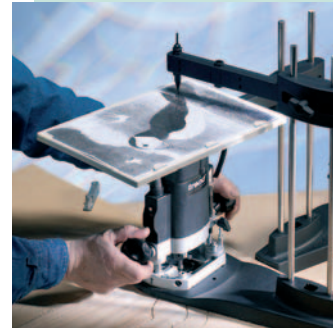
using small diameter cutters to reduce the risk of breakage. Position the stylus on the drawing or pattern and switch on. Allow the router to reach full speed before lowering the cutter into the work face. To prevent leaving burn marks on the surface of the wood, be ready to start moving the stylus along the outline as soon as the cutter is at the full cutting depth. Follow the outline smoothly starting at the rear of the drawing plate and working forwards. Whether you lock the plunge at the final depth or whether you rely on holding it down depends on your preference, but do ensure that the depth is constant. If the design requires several different cutting depths, reset or use the router's turret stop to set the final depth on each pass.

Attractive effects can also be achieved by varying the cutting depth along the length of a line by smoothly controlling the rise and fall of the plunge action as you move the router along. Check carefully that all lines, letters and details of a design have been cut completely, before moving the workpiece or drawing plate.

When using the parallel pin to follow the edge of a template, ensure that the pin remains in contact with the template edge throughout the cutting process. **IP**



After checking that the drawing and cutting surface are correctly aligned, position the stylus at a convenient point on the drawing.



Start cutting by smoothly plunging the router to the cutting depth and following the line with the stylus.



Signs, name boards and logos can be reproduced, following a photocopy or computer print out. For these applications, use the parallel pin.



The parallel pin can also be used to follow two dimensional templates. Allow the pin to run lightly against the template edge to avoid any misalignment when changing direction.

## SIGN WRITING ROUTING KIT

<b>Includes:</b>	Routasketch	£29.95
	T3EK Router	£39.95
	C043 Cutter	£10.50

**KIT/T3/RSK**  
**£69.95**

