

router table *for the* craftsman **MK2**

This Autumn we launch the latest version of the CRT MK2 Craftsman's Router Table.

Following on from the success of the original router table, the new CRT MK2 with many new and improved features built into it, is specifically aimed at helping the woodworker attain a greater degree of accuracy and versatility from his router.

Why a Router Table?

For many routing operations it is easier, more accurate and safer to use a portable router inverted beneath a rigid machining table. In this way, many of the problems of clamping and holding the workpiece are overcome, the work being supported on the table, leaving both hands free to guide it across the cutter.

The use of a routing table also introduces a wider range of operations. For instance edge planing, rebating and other basic woodworking operations are quicker and easier to set up. Also the possibilities of using much larger diameter cutters, offers endless opportunities for cabinet making, joint making, moulding and profiling. We take a look at some of the improved features and applications of this router table. **LP**



Plunge Bar

For precise adjustment and ease of operation, it is advisable to fit a fine adjuster or Plunge Bar to the router. While the adjuster is ideal for making fine precision adjustments to the cutting depth, the Plunge Bar, used in conjunction with the routers depth stop, simplifies the vertical adjustment of the router. Trend Plunge Bars can be fitted to both the T5 and T9 routers, but alternative models are also available to suit most popular routers.

Table Top

An improved cast aluminium, heavily ribbed table top ensures adequate rigidity and stability. It provides a flat, low friction working surface.

Extensions

Steel extension tables are fitted at both ends to provide extra support when routing long lengths of timber.

Inserts

Three alternative inserts are supplied as standard to allow the table aperture to be altered to suit the cutter diameter. The plastic inserts are a secure press fit in the aperture recess.



The CRT MK2 router table is designed for use with all popular routers. For setting up, the router is bolted to a rigid steel plate which is then bolted to the underside of the table. Four alternative plates to suit specific router makes/models are available and to be specified when ordering the table, thus enabling the corner plate to be supplied to suit your existing or new router. This system allows the router to be quickly removed for hand held operations and avoids the problem of adjusting a surface mounted plate to lie flat and level with the table surface.

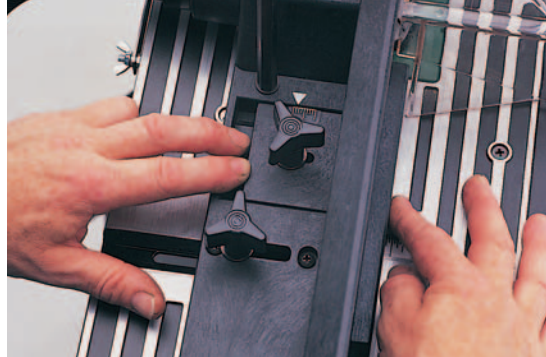
Floor Stand

An optional rigid floor stand is now available, designed to support the CRT MK2 table at a convenient and safe working height. The pressed steel stand bolts permanently to the table legs and can be fitted with a front door and side panels (available separately) to form a useful storage cabinet.



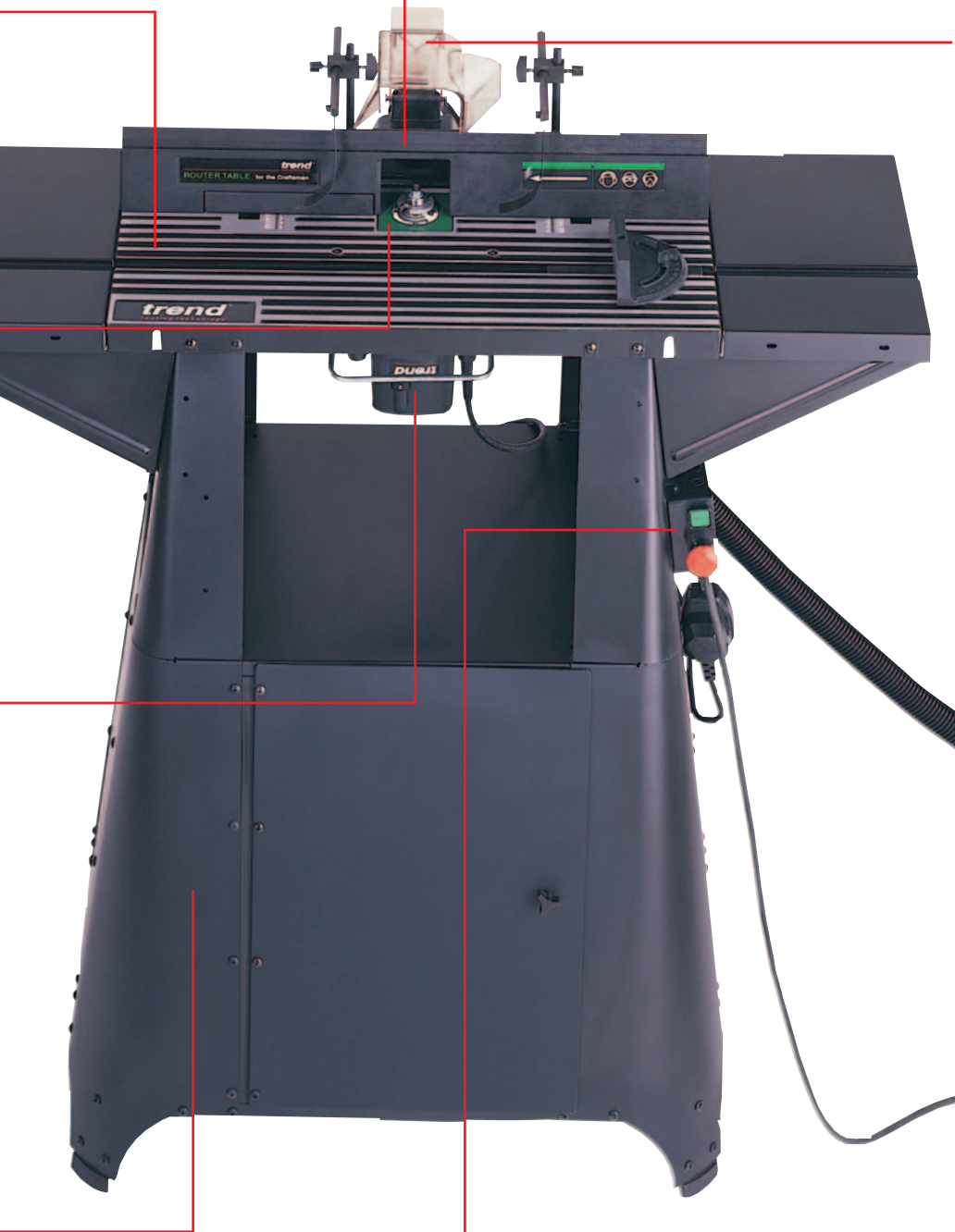
Backfence

To allow easy and accurate adjustment, the backfence slides in v-grooves cast into the aluminium table top and can be set to precise measurements against a graduated scale.



Planing Fence

By setting the planing fence proud of the backfence cheeks, planing or moulding operations that remove material across the full face of the workpiece can be made. As the material is removed, the exposed face of the wood is supported against the adjustable planing fence.



Guard

To minimise the risk of finger contact with the cutter and waste material being thrown up into the operators eyes, a clear plastic guard is fitted that automatically rides over the material as it is fed across the cutter. By reducing the open area around the cutter, the guard also increases the efficiency of the dust extraction port in the rear of the backfence. The guard is fitted using a quick release pivot pin to allow easy removal for cleaning and maintenance.



No-Volt Release Switch

This provides a quick on and off facility for the router. It also prevents the router from starting up without warning after an unintentional interruption to the power supply. The router power lead is plugged into the switch, which in turn is plugged into a normal power socket.





Curved Work

Curved and straight workpieces can be trimmed or moulded to a template which is mounted on the workpiece. The cutter height is adjusted to allow the bearing to run along the template. For these operations, the table should be fitted with the optional clear plastic guard and a lead-in pin. The pin allows the work to be supported whilst being gently fed into the cutter.



Tenon Push Block

A tenoning push block is fitted to the backface to allow the rail end to be cut against the side flutes of the cutter rather than the less effective bottom flutes. The push block incorporates a clamp to hold the rail vertically against the fence.



Dust Extraction

A vacuum extractor can be connected to the dust extraction port on the rear of the backfence. A short length of extraction hose with a large 58mm diameter is now available for this purpose allowing the full efficiency of the extractor to be used. The 1200 watt motor and large capacity waste container of the Trend T30A extractor make it ideal for dust free operation of the CRT MK2 router table.



Spring Pressure Clamps

To prevent the workpiece rising as it is fed across the cutter, a set of two optional hold down spring pressure clamps are available.

These bolt onto the fence and are fully adjustable to suit smaller workpieces that cannot be held safely or securely by hand.



Routing operations on the CRT MK2

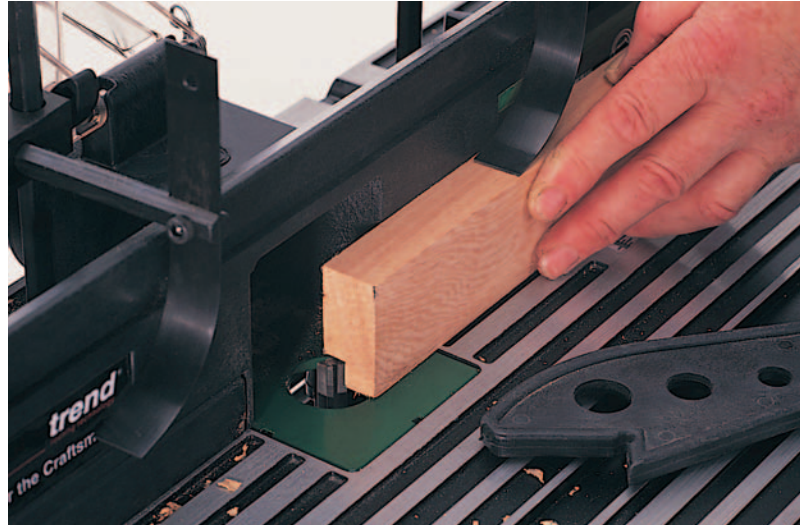


Edge Planing ▶

When edge planing, the planing fence is adjusted proud of the out-feed fence. As a general guide, the maximum depth of cut when planing should not exceed 2mm.

Rebating ▶

Rebates can be cut against the backfence using a straight two flute cutter.



Safety First

Always use a pushstick, keeping your fingers well clear of the cutter. Never allow your fingers to be in contact with the part of the workpiece that is passing over the cutter, (guard retracted for clarity).



◀ Moulding

Decorative moulding operations using all styles and sizes of cutters can be carried out on the CRT MK2. When moulding panel edges, cutting tenons or carrying out other operations with the timber held vertically against the backfence, the optional vertical routing support prevents the bottom of the workpiece moving away from the fence and provides better guarding of the exposed cutter.



Grooving ▶

Grooves cut on the face of the workpiece can be routed with extra safety by using the flip over cutter guard. After setting up the cutter and checking that the guard lifts freely, the work is fed across the cutter, held tight against both the table and the in and out feed faces of the back fence. Once the workpiece has cleared the cutter the guard drops back to cover it.

