ULTIMATE ROUTER TABLE



Fed up with the shortcomings of most router tables, Anthony Bailey custom makes his own

rankly I'm downright bored with conventional router tables, so, rather than moaning about them I decided to build something rather different from the norm.

This, then, is my swing on how a router table should really be.

First, I prefer to make my own because it will be how I want it to be. Second, I don't want legs because I want it at normal

bench height but not taking up loads of space. Third, why are fences always so low? I need a high fence for proper support when panel raising etc. Fourth, there are plenty of accessories out there to help make a proper, safe working table of my own.

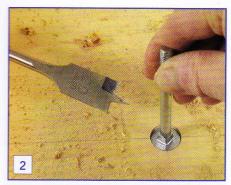
This project features Trend goodies because they are all available from



A wide selection of Trend table accessories

one source, but there other suppliers too, photo 1.

PROJECT



Ensure the table fixing bolts will be set below the surface

DESIGN & MATERIALS

You need an offcut of kitchen worktop preferably 40mm thick. I had to make do with 30mm, but this can be reinforced by a batten around the underside if needed. The worktop is bolted through your workbench and is removable at any time for storage and/or for when you need more space to manoeuvre, photos 2-4.

The sizes shown on the drawing are flexible and can be made bigger or smaller but the depth is probably best kept as drawn to allow plenty of machining space. An alternative design using 18mm MDF to create 'box legs' is offered should you want a more conventional table. It incorporates a door on the right-hand box to make a cutter storage cupboard.



Use the centre hole created by the spade bit to centre the drill bit

TABLE INSERT

The table insert is the most critical part because the insert plate needs to be a neat, flush job. The Trend plate comes



A pad of wood used under the bench top to act as a spacer when the nut is in place

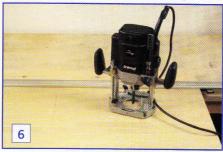
with instructions which are to do with fitting the router to it rather than how you fit the plate in the table, photo 5.

I simply drew carefully around the plate and used a Clamp 'N' Guide to machine the rebate that holds the plate. It is a good idea to make the recess slightly smaller and widen it a fraction if the plate won't fit first time rather than ending up with a sloppy fit, **photos 6-8**. You can only really make this adjustment after the next step

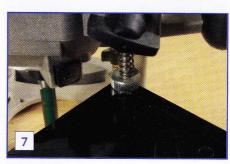
"Why are fences always so low? I need a high fence for proper support when panel raising etc"



The Trend insert plate kit complete with instructions



The insert hole is marked out and the Clamp 'N' Guide in position ready to rebate



Place the edge of the plate under the depth stop to set the depth accurately



Making the first rebate cut inside the pencil line for a tight fit that can be adjusted later



Making the through cut in several passes to final depth



A nice neat flush fit