



TESTED BY RALPH LAUGHTON



## Trend BCS bar clamp and spreader

Trend's new bar clamps are ideal for use with many of their existing range of jigs, and are far easier to use when fastening jigs in position than the existing range of F clamps. Made to the usual high standards expected from Trend, these clamps are finished in the red and black associated with all Trend products. The finish of the mouldings and the steel parts is smooth and clean. The soft-grip rubberised inserts make them very comfortable to use. By reconfiguring the head positions, these clamps can also be converted into spreaders.

### Using the clamps

These clamps are very easy to apply. Depressing the release trigger allows the clamp head to be moved along the bar to the desired position. When the trigger is released, the clamp instantly locks in place. Squeezing the handles together then advances the clamping head along the bar to apply extra pressure. The clamping head is very stable on the bar, and I can detect very little slop even when the trigger is released so it can be repositioned along the bar.

The soft pads slide on and off the clamp heads easily, but fit securely enough to stay put and not fall off in use. I particularly like the tool-less reconfiguration, and the fact that there are no nuts, bolts or pins to get lost.

I can see these getting a lot of use as clamps (for holding things still) and as cramps on smaller glue-ups. But for me the spreader configuration will be the most useful feature, especially when trying to balance out the bending effect that can often occur while gluing up a frame.

### SPECIFICATION

CAPACITIES	152, 305, 610 & 915mm
THROAT DEPTH	80mm
CLAMPING FORCE	112kg (1100Nm)

### VERDICT

These clamps are ideal for complex assembly work. The ability to reconfigure them as spreaders is a useful feature.

- PROS**
- Well made
  - One-handed operation
  - Tool-less reconfiguration

**CONS** ■ I could do with a few more!

**VALUE FOR MONEY**

**PERFORMANCE**

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
- 0800487363
- www.trend-uk.com



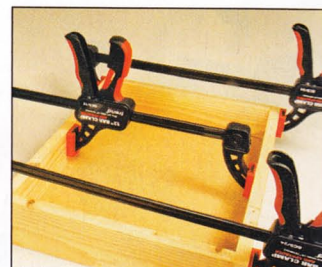
One-handed operation is a definite plus point



The clamp pads fit securely but are easily removed



One head is repositioned for use as a spreader



A spreader can help to balance strains in a cramped carcass