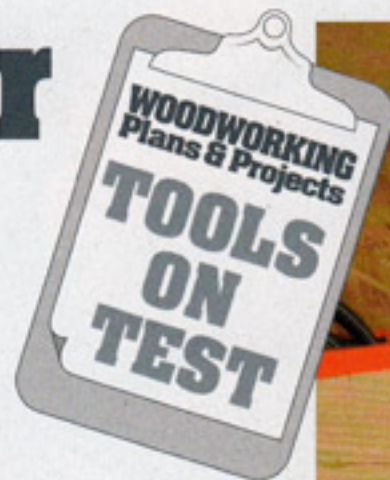


Trend fast bar clamp and spreader



AT A GLANCE

- Ergonomic design
- Quick and easy to use
- Relatively lightweight

WHERE TO BUY

- www.trend-uk.com

Anthony Bailey sees if Trend can take the pressure

At long last Trend have introduced a fast bar clamp spreader to rival others on the market. I get excited by new clamps and clamping systems – sad I know – but they are the basis for good assembly methods.

These clamps come in four capacities: 6in (152mm), 12in (305mm), 24in (610mm) and 36in (915mm). The imperial sizes give us the clue that they come from the USA and they are marked with USA and Germany patents pending.

The handgrip and jaws are moulded from glass reinforced nylon plastic, similar to the Irwin Quick Grip series. A nice touch are the rubber grip surfaces for comfort and positive handholding. The jaws have slip-on hard rubber facings.

In the rear of the pistol trigger is a spring release tab to speed up applying, or removing the clamp while

using the main squeeze grip for fine adjustment and applying full pressure.

A black finished carbon steel bar with two metal stop dowels holds both jaws accurately and safely. A red turnscrew on the tail jaw can be removed so the jaw can be mounted at the other end against a dowel, thus turning the clamp into a spreader for holding internal components, or separating dry assembled work prior to gluing up.

For lighter clamping, up to the stated 112kg force, these Trend clamps are very nice to use indeed. All edges are rounded and the ergonomics are good.

No quick clamp will substitute for sash or T-bar clamps for getting panels flat but for all other purposes, these work extremely well.

Pricewise, the 6inch (BCS/6) is £20.02, rising to the 36inch (BCS/36) which is £29.68. All prices inc VAT.