

Trend cutter and collet care kit

We all want faultless performance from our tools. Our routers are no exception, but often the important bits – the cutters and collets simply get taken for granted. This maintenance kit from Trend is designed to increase the useful life of these components and give us better cutting into the bargain. The kit includes aerosol sprays of PTFE lubricant and rust inhibitor. There's a set of brass brushes to clean out the collets and a mini diamond whetstone to keep an edge on the cutters.

Resin build-up

One problem with routing in pine and other softwoods is that resin can build up around the cutter edges. This attracts dust from the cutting, and with the frictional heat of the routing you can quickly get a build-up that bakes on and rapidly reduces cutting performance. You need to clean this off during and after a big routing job. The Trend "Trendicote" PTFE spray is designed to reduce resin build up by preventing it adhering in the first place. The spray dries quickly and creates a barrier against resin and other waste building up. The kit includes a small 60ml aerosol. The four brass brushes will fit a range of collets, from ¼" up to ½". Regular brushing after every job will help remove any resin build up within the collet, which would progressively reduce the collets effectiveness.

Rust inhibitor

The other 60ml aerosol contains water-

repellent and rust inhibitor ("Rustbuster"). This is ideal if your workshop or storage area is subject to humidity. Rusty cutters just won't do the job, and a rusted or pitted router shank might bind in the collet. A simple squirt with the Trend aerosol before putting your cutters away will give you protection against damp conditions. But be careful not to spray directly onto the bearings on bearing guided cutters. These are lubricated for life and spraying oil or other lubricants into the bearing can

actually flush away the lubricating grease and actually shorten the useful life.

Diamond card

The diamond card is coupled with a plastic bellows water dispenser, for lubrication. The process is straightforward. A couple of strokes on the flat side of each cutter before each job will touch up the edge and improve cutting performance. Give each cutting edge exactly the same treatment to even wear, and always hone the flat side, not the curved outside circumference. If you hone the circumference, you will gradually change the radius of the cutter. You'll find it easier to deal with bearing guided cutters if you remove the bearing before honing. A little bit of water is sufficient lubrication, but be sure to dry the cutters carefully before storage (or use the rustbuster spray).



VERDICT

- PROS** ■ All you need to keep your expensive cutters and collets in good order
- CONS** ■ A bit pricey for what's in the box

VALUE FOR MONEY

PERFORMANCE

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
- 01932 212497
- www.trendmachiners.co.uk



The wire brushes are ideal for cleaning the threads inside the collet nuts



Lubricating the diamond card using the Rust Buster lubricant



Protecting the cutter with PTFE dry lubricant will stop resin build-up