

Trend Worktop Jig

Andy Standing
tries out the
Trend Combi
1002 Worktop Jig



Fitting kitchen worktops can be a daunting business. Apart from being heavy and difficult to manoeuvre they are also tricky to joint. The joints must be good because a worktop is subject to considerable abuse from hot cooking pots, spilt liquids and general kitchen use. As the majority of worktops have a chipboard core, a poor joint will let in dirt and moisture and eventually the worktop will need replacing. Because modern worktops have a post-formed front edge a simple butt joint cannot be used as the moulding needs to be matched. The solution is to cut the joint using a router and a jig. These jigs are available in a variety of sizes and styles. Some will just cut

simple corner joints whereas others can tackle all kinds of variations and also perform other functions.

The Trend Combi 1002 is an extremely versatile tool which will cope with the majority of worktop jointing or shaping jobs. It is a large nine function jig made from 16mm thick laminate. It will joint worktops from 450 to 1000mm in width, and can also be used for edge shaping and complex jointing. Slots are provided for machining worktop connector bolt recesses and also a selection of cable tidy inserts for office installations.

Router

Kitchen worktop jigs all work on the same principle. A router equipped with a

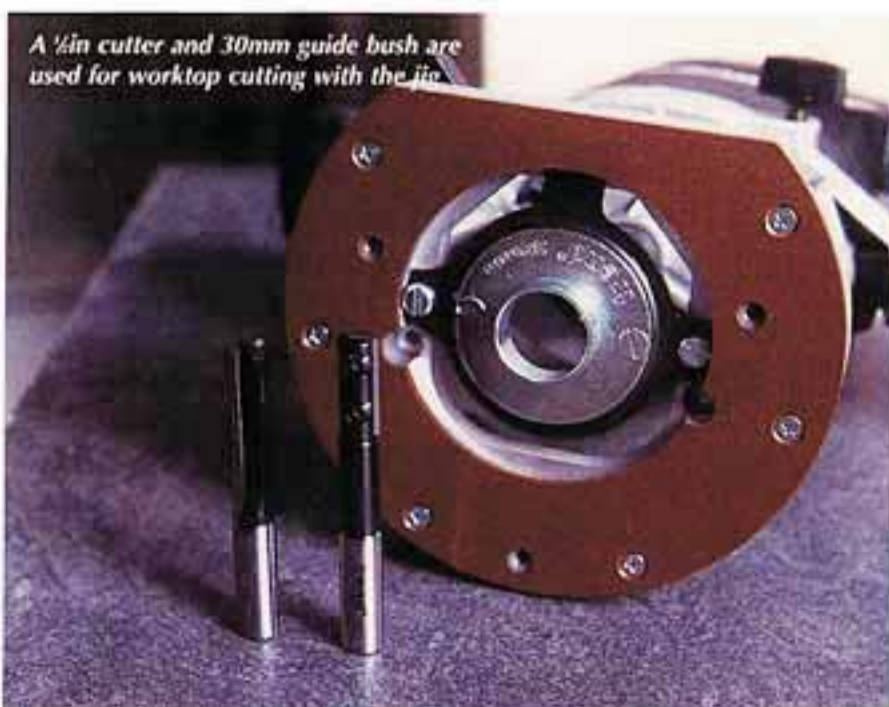
guide bush fits into a slot which guides it along the work surface. You do need a powerful router with a 1/2in collet and a 12.7mm straight cutter with at least a 50mm cutting length. The router must be fitted with a guide bush with a 30mm outside diameter. Suitable cutters and guide bushes are available from the Trend range, as is the Unibase, which allows Trend guide bushes to be used on a wide variety of machines.

Using the Jig

At first sight the Combi 1002 looks complicated, but this is only because it can cover so many functions. It is actually simple to set up for each job, though you will need to refer to the instruction manual regularly. It is supplied with three alloy location bushes which are inserted into various colour coded holes depending on which

function you are using.

There is also a length stop to locate the jig on the back of the work surface, and this is adjustable to accommodate non-standard worktop widths. Before use it must be securely clamped to the worktop, but make sure that the clamps do not foul the router's path. We used the jig to make several joints and also to radius some corners. The results were first class and there were no difficulties with either the setup or the machining. As with all routing operations, it is wise to make the cuts in several shallow passes rather than one deep one, particularly when dealing with thick worktops. The bolt recesses were also straightforward to cut, and both halves lined up perfectly. Because the jig is so thick it does feel very secure in use, and should stand up to a lot of hard use.



A 1/2in cutter and 30mm guide bush are used for worktop cutting with the jig.



A completed female joint



A worktop joining bolt recess, cut 20mm deep so that the bolts are in the centre of the worktop for maximum strength

Here is a list of all the functions it can perform: male cut, female cut, connector bolt recess, curved peninsular, 45 degree end cut, corner radius, 22.5 degree mitre joint, recesses for three types of cable tidy and finally recess for 35mm circular hinge. So that should satisfy the most ambitious kitchen fitter. **R**

VERDICT

This is an impressive jig that covers just about every joint that you will need. It is robustly made, well finished and straightforward to use. If you fit a lot of worktops, this is the jig you need. A video manual is also available so you can see the jig in action.



The yellow coded holes are used to align the jig with the joint edge



A cable tidy cut out using the jig

MORE INFORMATION

List prices

Combi 1002 Worktop Jig
£249.00 + VAT
Video manual TV/3
£2.95 + VAT

Contact

Trend 0800 487363
www.trendmachinery.co.uk