



STUFF

Editor **Stuart Lawson** rummages through some bits and pieces that might help you out in the workshop

CARBON COPY TREND COPY FOLLOWER

UP TO NOW I've always viewed copy follower attachments with suspicion. This is largely due to the fact that they look particularly lightweight when compared to overhead routers. So I was somewhat caught out when I needed to add a moulding to some curved shelf dividers and the PRT copy follower attachment was the only device available that would enable me to do so.

If like me you are unfamiliar with copy follower attachments then the only reason you would use them, as opposed to a bearing-guided bit and a lead-in pin, is if you need a profile for which you don't have a bearing-wheeled version. The wheel of the copy follower holds the work a certain distance from the cutter's centre and so gives you a 'fence' to push against.

Setting up this attachment is rather difficult to do with any accuracy and if you need to recreate a previously set-up cut then several test pieces will be required. Even if the depth of the mould is not vital, a certain amount of 'suck it and see' is called for.

The attachment locates into one of the guide channels in the table top profile and is adjusted in a secondary direction by its arm around a centre. Because the bar that slots into the channel is slightly narrower in profile, there is a fair amount of movement in the attachment even when maximum hand-tightening has taken place. I eventually achieved the necessary rigidity by tightening the locking nut with some mole grips.

With this small diversion over I set about some routing and got some pretty good results. Although

the attachment was not as convincing as the PRT itself, it did work and so I would give it a reserved 'thumbs up'. My own advice would be to not rely on this or any copy follower unless you absolutely have to. Bearing-guided bits and lead in pins are a good deal simpler and considerably easier to use.

The Trend Copy Follower (Stock No: PRT/01) retails for £39.95 (inc VAT). For further information including stockist details, contact Trend.

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