



TESTED BY ALAN HOLTHAM

Trend combination router base

Routing specialists Trend continue to increase their range of router accessories, and the new combination router base (CRB) looks like another very useful addition. It neatly combines in one unit a variety of crude homemade jigs I've been using for many years, offering simplicity of fitting and ease of use

Designed to fit virtually any router using the guide rods for location, the CRB gives you seven different functions, though I'm sure that others will become apparent in time. The functions are offset base, router compass, clamp guide grooving, anti-tilt support, offset mortising, multiple grooving and Varijig frame stabiliser.

One-off set-up

The jig needs to be set up initially to suit your particular router, but this is a one-off operation and is not at all difficult. Shims are provided which allow you to lift the bridge to match the height of the bar holes in your router, **photo 1**. The different horizontal spacing of the bar holes on different routers is very simply accommodated by moving one of the bars backwards or forwards, **photo 2**. You can fit any router with a bar spacing of 78 to 130mm and a bar diameter up to 12mm, so that pretty well covers them all!

To my mind, the key feature of this jig is the micro-adjuster function on one of the fixing rods that allows you precise movement

of the router across the base. This means you can position the cutter just where you want it; one rotation of the adjuster moves it 1.25mm, so there's no more hit-and-miss positioning by tapping the base along the guide bars! You now have 40mm of fine adjustment.

The large offset knob can be quickly replaced with an anti-tilt leg, and two pillars can be attached to the underside for mortising, **photo 3**. That's all there is to this jig; it really is that simple! Now let's have a look at the seven features.

£82.80
(see text)



1 Shims lift the bridge to match the height of your router's bar holes



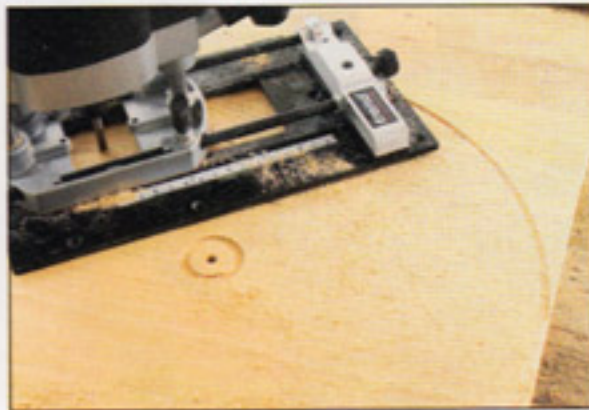
2 Different bar-hole spacings are accommodated simply by moving one of the bars



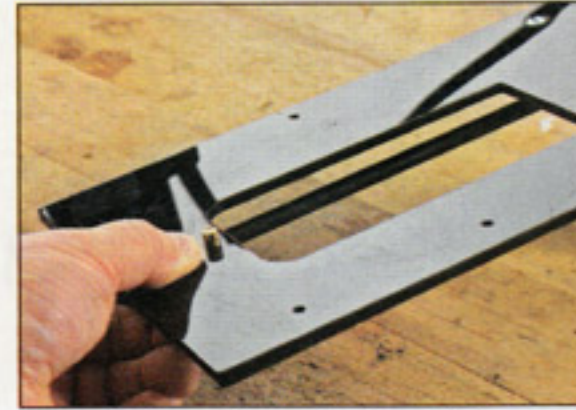
3 It's a simple matter to fit an anti-tilt leg and a pair of mortising pillars



4 The offset base totally eliminates any risk of the router tipping in use



5 The router compass accommodates circles from 19 to 224mm radius



6 The pivot is easily attached, and fits in a 6mm hole drilled in the workpiece