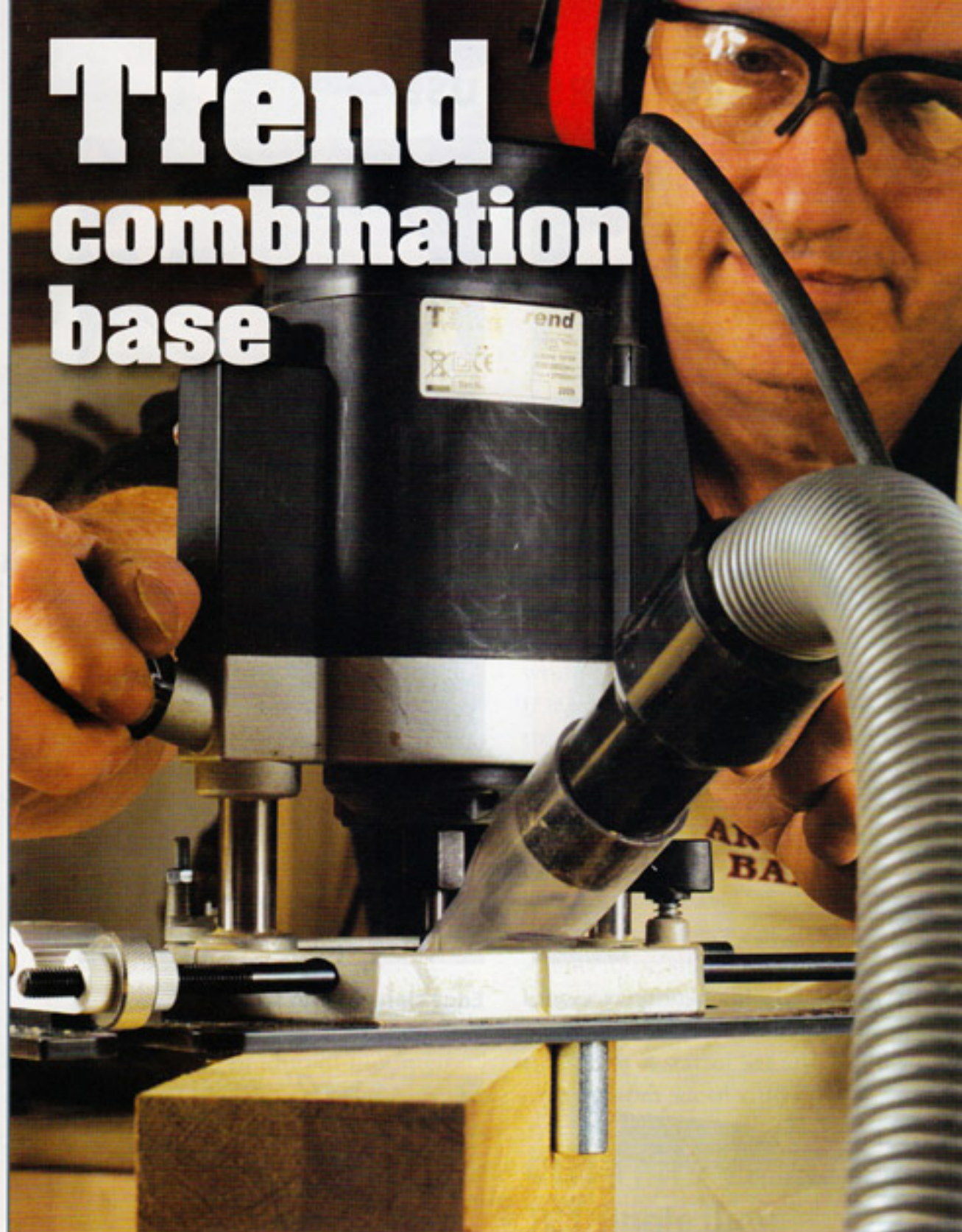


Trend combination base



New and nifty from Trend comes the combination router base – is it the answer to our routing needs? **Anthony Bailey** takes a sideways look

Trend have come up with this crafty gadget that claims to do many things. Here is the list: an offset base for trimming edge lippings, router compass for circle cutting, working with a clamp guide giving micro adjustment, anti-tilt support, offset and centred mortising, repeat panel grooving and anti-tilt – when working with the Trend Varijig.

Well it does do everything it says, but the instructions need a little tidying to be clearer, and the five claimed shims for raising the 'bridge' section, when mounting different routers, turns out to be just three. However, Trend have no doubt worked out that you can stack shims for the same effect. I used it

with a Trend T5 – which it has been primarily designed to work with – although it should fit other clone models. When tried with several different operations it was very useful – able to not only fit 'mortise pillars' which press against the workpiece when you swing the base so you can mortise accurately, but you can also slide the router across to do offset mortises.

A large optional bearing is provided with the accessory offset base kit. This allows you to set up for trimming solid or veneer lippings. This works well, my only slight disappointment being the fractional divot created by the router at the start of the run, not by the offset base itself.

AT A GLANCE

- Multi function
- Works with clone routers
- One cost solution

THE NUMBERS

- Trend Machinery & Cutting Tools Ltd
- Model: combination router base, typical price: £82.80 (inc VAT)
- Edge trimming base – typical price: £28.80 (inc VAT)

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Versatile
- ✓ Fits many models
- ✗ Small loose parts

WHERE TO BUY

- www.trend-uk.com

5 STAR RATING

Value for money: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★

Build quality: ★★★★★

By swapping bits and pieces you can have a large knob to control base movement or a leg where you need levelling support. However, the rubber tip does mark the work slightly. The micro adjustment knob gives easy, precise sideways settings with a stick-on scale to show just how much movement there is.

Verdict

Once you get your head around the way this multi-function accessory works, it is actually very useful. It can be quickly altered to do a variety of tasks but the various bits and bobs threaten to get lost, such as the trammel pivot pin which is located in a magnetic recess in the 'bridge'. You will need to acquire a plastic snap-top box to prevent losing all these parts. However, this kit is well worth investigating if you want many solutions in one router accessory. ■

