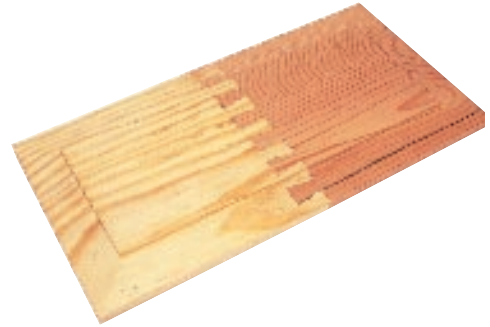


On test

Trend Joinaboard



Clamped in place

The jig is simple to use and will cut the joint quickly. Both boards are clamped in place in the jig. There is a fixed spacer bar which ensures that they are correctly offset. To use this jig you need a powerful router with a half inch collet. Fit the supplied guidebush and dovetail cutter in the router and set the cutter protrusion to about 30mm from the base plate. If you do not have a Trend-compatible router it is worth investing in the Unibase, as this allows you to use all the Trend guide bushes in almost any make of router. Switch on and run the router through the fingers of the guide plate and the joint is cut. To loosen or tighten the joint, raise or lower the cutter. It is worth practising on some scrap timber before making the first proper joint. This joint generates a large amount of chippings and sawdust, and it is difficult to attach an extractor close

only assembly needed is the fitting of the top plate with two allen screws and the key provided. It can be used on material from 8mm to 30mm thick, and up to 189mm wide. Suggested applications are for floorboards, panels, jointing offcuts etc.

enough to make a difference. Trend have fitted a line of brush along the front edge of the jig to try to contain the mess without endangering the cutter.

Bench mounted

One advantage of the Joinaboard is the fact that it does not need to be bench mounted. For short lengths, the timber may be held in a bench vice with the jig clamped on top, for long lengths the jig is clamped to the end and the boards may be laid on a bench or a pair of sawhorses and the joint is then cut with the jig horizontal.

Further information

List price: £159.95 plus VAT
Contact: Trend
Tel: 0800 487363
Website: www.trendm.co.uk

The verdict...

The Joinaboard has definitely got potential. It will certainly save timber by allowing you quickly to produce usable lengths from offcuts. There are great decorative possibilities such as making up table tops, or panels from offcuts of contrasting timber, and it is also an attractive and unusual way to join floorboards. Overall it is a speedy and useful jig built to Trend's usual high standards, though with rather a hefty price tag.

Joining boards end to end has never been an easy process. End grain to end grain joints simply do not have any strength as they are so absorbent that glue has no effect. You could use biscuits to provide more strength, or perhaps dowels. But the real answer is a strong mechanical joint. When a joint is difficult, rather than try to conceal it, why not make a feature of it? The Joinaboard is a new routing jig from Trend, designed to join boards using end to end dovetails. It is supplied complete with a dovetail cutter and 30mm guide bush, and the

