

Trend SRT Routing kit

What you get in this package - specifically designed for the prospective router user - is a router, table components, cutter set and fine height adjuster.

Trend has even included an entertaining instructional video, that proves to be much more entertaining than the latest crop of soaps, 'docusoaps' and celebrity cooking/gardening/DIY programmes that appear to be our current daily televisual fare.

The table components are pleasantly straightforward to assemble. The pressed steel legs may seem flimsy, but once they are attached to the tabletop and secured to a stout baseboard they appear robust enough. MDF is the chosen material for the tabletop's construction and a handsome aluminium-look finish has been carefully applied.

A circular steel router mounting plate fits snugly into the table and is equipped with three insert rings to accommodate different cutter diameters. Ever concerned with safety, Trend has included a no-volt release switch box and this negates the tiresome, and potentially dangerous, practise of searching for the routers on/off switch under the table. A lead-in pin is thoughtfully provided to facilitate the moulding of curved and template work, and an adjustable sliding mitre guide/fence have also been included. To accommodate the latter, a track has been neatly inset into the table and could also be used to accept user-made jigs and guides.

Probably, the most impressive feature of the table is its main fence and related paraphernalia. And the fence's best feature is its two adjustable cheeks. The outfeed fence has a stepped shim system that allows it to be set proud of the infeed fence. This is an important facility for when machining/moulding an entire edge and it is a surprising fact that one or two other router

tables make no provision for this. Two efficient lock knobs ensure that the main fence can be quickly set and repositioned, and two graduated scales ensure parallel adjustment at all times.

A pair of vertical and horizontal feather boards has been included and provides sufficient pressure on most square-sectioned timber being machined. Particularly impressive is the dust removal system. This enables dust to be extracted from either the clear plastic overhead guard or behind the cutter on the main fence. The latter, comprises of a really neat retractable adaptor, which enables either a standard vacuum hose to be attached or a larger extractor nozzle.

Regular TW readers, and router enthusiasts, will be well aware of Trend's impressive little variable speed T3EK router. However, I found that its short plunge stroke of 35mm was rather restricting and so certain routing tasks proved problematical. Fortunately, the cutter set appears to be pretty good and they are appealingly presented and housed in a natty little attaché case.

The overall build quality of this routing kit is



pretty good. For its bargain price you can't really complain too loudly, although I did think that the mitre fence was of rather poor

construction. In use, the table is pretty good to operate and mostly allows hassle free routing operations to be undertaken safely. With this in mind, the SRT routing package represents fantastic value for money to the first time router user/purchaser.



Verdict

Great value for money

Price

£176.19 Inc VAT

Contact

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