



The underside of the jig is etched for common door widths to centralise it on the work



A pair of spacers is supplied to set the width for common lock case and faceplate widths

# A cracker of a jig

Ideal for the majority of mortise locks or latches and invaluable as an aid for mortise work in the construction of joinery or furniture

I've looked at lock jigs in the past, and while they do speed up and give consistent results each and every time, they all rely on interchangeable plates to restrict the router to the correct parameters, and you need the correct plate to suit a specific lock or latch.

## In use

This new offering from Trend is adjustable and setting up is a breeze both for the door thickness as well as the lock case and faceplate. There's a large angle plate that adjusts to 35, 40, 44 and 54mm door thicknesses to automatically centralise the jig, with slots to allow movement if you have a door that doesn't hit these.

The upper section of the jig is phenolic resin with etchings for width and lengths on the main body or sliding plates, allowing for the cutter to guidebush ratio so that the setting automatically accounts for the offset.

The width setting comes with a couple of gauge blocks for setting either two standard lock case widths or two common faceplate ones, but it's very easy to set to any width using the etched centreline as your mark.

The lock or faceplate length is determined in equal fashion with white laminate sliding plates, again working on a centreline. The etched scale is in 2.5mm increments one each side, which equates to 5mm overall when using the jig centre as the start point and measuring back each side to set the length.

Sliding aluminium blocks on the underside set the length and if there's an odd dimension, it's simple enough to measure the length, divide by two and position the blocks to suit against the scales.

Once the jig is set, you're ready to go. The jig clamps to the door using the aluminium angle and all you need is a 12mm diameter straight bit and 30mm guidebush. Depending on whether you opt to use the jig for

chaining out the lock case as well as the faceplate determines the router you need. A router with a plunge of at least 70mm is required for lock case mortising as well as a longer cutter for the task. Be aware that if you fit locks deeper than 63mm, you will still need to drill the last part as the cutter and maximum plunge won't allow a deep enough cut.

This same cutter and router combination can also be used for the faceplate, but if you only need the jig for faceplate work, a smaller router with a 12mm diameter/30mm guidebush will be easier.

## Jig workout

I recently had to fit a new door and frame, so gave the jig a workout fitting a standard sashlock as well as a second deadlock, which meant resetting the jig for lock case dimensions as well as faceplates. It really is such a simple jig to set up, clamp to the door and rout away.

Used in tandem with a hinge jig, this particular jig will make door hanging, especially into new frames or linings, a far quicker job. The only downside is that the instructions show no reference to routing the receiver plate on the frame or lining and with any architraves, rebates or fitted stops to contend with, it will need to be cut in the traditional manner as securing it safely could prove tricky, but this is a small price to pay.

You can clamp it to a ready hung door to rout the faceplates easily enough, but any lock case routing needs to be done prior to hanging for safety purposes.

## Conclusion

This cracker of a jig can be clamped to components either using the same setup for the locks for 12mm-wide mortises, or by experimenting with different cutter and bush ratios to gain any width to suit your needs. **GW**



A heavy-duty router is needed to rout out the lock case, or you can drill and chisel if needed



With the case routed and the jig still clamped, the stops are then adjusted

## Trend Adjustable Trade Lock Jig

- ▶ **Typical price:** £108.94
  - ▶ **Min door thickness:** 30mm
  - ▶ **Max door thickness:** 80mm
  - ▶ **Max faceplate length:** 250mm
- Set points at 16, 19, 22.5 & 25.4mm for standard lock cases and faceplates
- ▶ **Web:** [www.trend-uk.com](http://www.trend-uk.com)

## THE GW VERDICT

- ▶ **PROS:**  
Adjusts to suit and faceplate includes obscure makes; fast to set up and use
- ▶ **CONS:**  
No cutter or guidebush supplied; deeper lock cases need additional drilling out
- ▶ **RATING:** 4.5