

Trend M3 3-D

Trend doesn't just do routers. It also offers a range of other interesting tools, of which this is one. It's the world's first three-dimensional try square. Its main theme is to allow you to square round adjacent faces of a workpiece in a single action. The stock has wings set dead in-line with the blade and at right angles to its face. You can square round with a single action of your pencil, without any misalignment at the corner.

The tool includes a short bevel gauge, which is clamped tightly by an inset cam lever. When not in use, this hides away inside the stock, but can be easily swung out when needed because it has an accessible ridged end that you rotate with your thumbnail.

Finally, there's a pencil and scribe holder that can be locked at any position along the blade. The scribe end is a steel rod that takes the tips of a snap-off knife blade, held with an Allen key. The whole assembly is adjustable, so that if it ever goes out of square you can re-set it back to perfection.

The square is well made, and the double-sided marking worked well enough, but there's one downside with this tool. You can't work on thin stock laid flat on the workbench, because the wings won't let the square sit down on the timber. In my mind, this is a significant drawback, because much of my work with a square involves exactly this sort of job – for example, squaring round the shoulders of tenons. So to my mind, sticking to a conventional try square would be the best way forward... at a fraction of the price



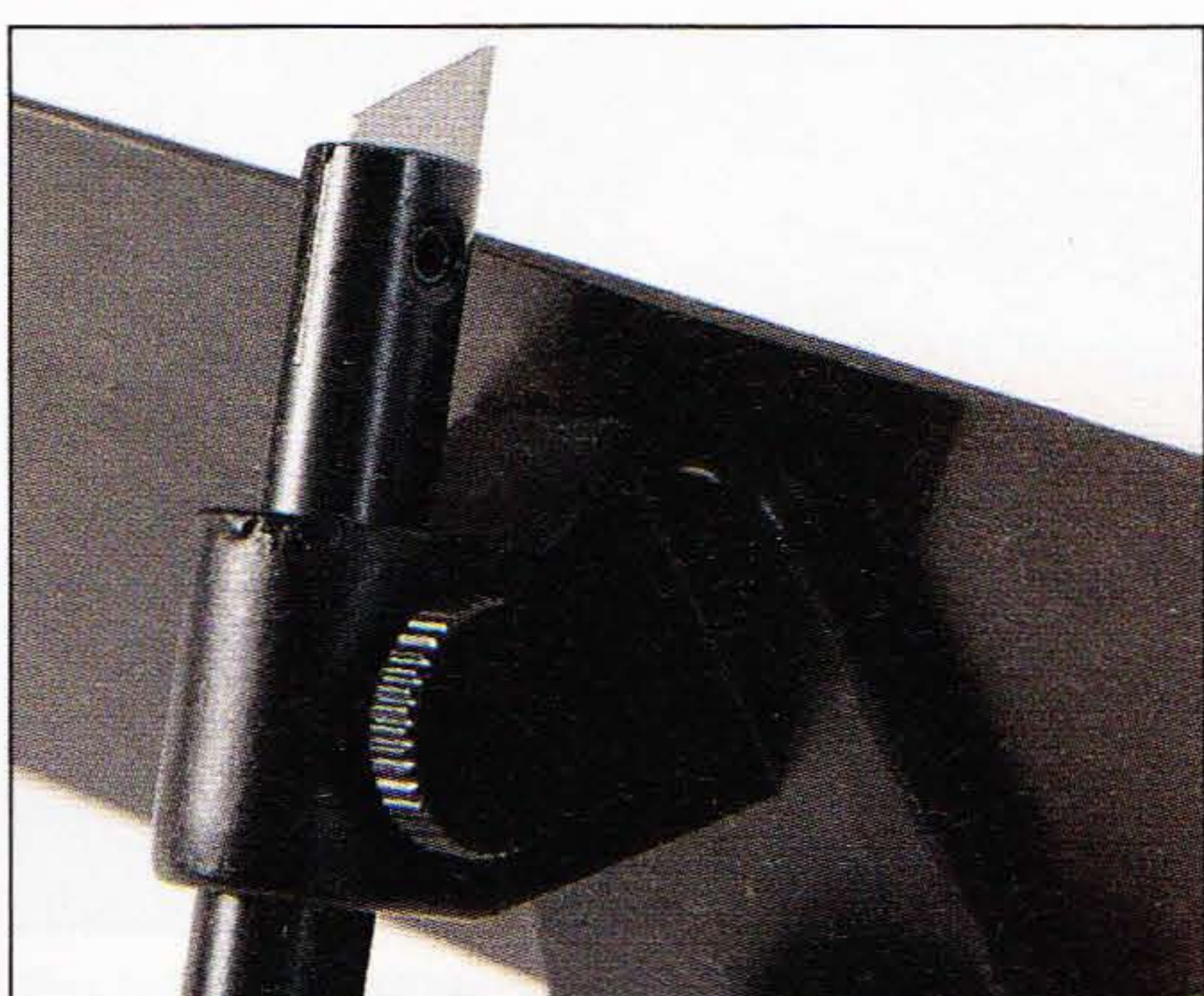
VERDICT

- PROS** ■ Well made and versatile
CONS ■ Awkward to use flat on the bench



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend Machinery
- 01923 224657
- www.trendmachinery.co.uk



The scribe holder takes knife blades



The inset bevel gauge and cam lever