

Trend PRT-Professional Router Table

Specifications

Width x Depth	650 x 550mm
Height with leg	830mm
Height without legs	350mm
Cutter diameter max	86mm
Weight	25kg

Terming your router table professional by any manufacturer is a bold, and some may say brave, move.

Fortunately for Trend, the makers of this fine item of routing equipment, the terminology is spot on for they have produced a router table that would grace any professional woodworking workshop.

The table is supplied almost ready for use straight out of its carton. It may be bench mounted or used freestanding, whilst supported on four quick to fit tubular steel legs.

The table proves to be very stable when mounted on its leg extensions and yet can be manhandled reasonably well around the workshop. Even with a router fitted — making a combined weight of just under or around 30kg — it is manoeuvrable.

Put simply, the build quality of this router table is excellent. The legs and steel frame are very sturdy indeed and form a superb supporting platform for the extruded aluminium tabletop.

The latter proves to be pleasingly flat and each of the four insert rings fit straightforwardly and nicely flush.

Also of excellent build is a back fence assembly that comprises of an alloy dust port casting, extruded aluminium fence cheeks and a nifty top pressure guard and clear plastic guard cowl.

The latter two components are height adjustable and may be swung out of the way when access to the cutter area dictates, but whilst in work mode it is held securely in place by a really good lock lever.

The fence cheeks are readily adjustable and it's nice to discover that they present themselves accurately at a right angle to the tabletop. Also of sound manufacture is the mitre fence accessory, which all too often proves unsatisfactory with some inferior make of woodworking machinery.

A no volt release switch is neatly incorporated into the 'in-feed' side of the table's frame and an effective router trigger lock strap, made from Velcro, is provided for routers that can't be readily locked-on.

The tabletop actually comprises of three sections. The middle section is held in place by four cam locks and so is readily removable. A wide range of routers can be straightforwardly attached to this section with the three screws provided, and we found the fitting of a trend base compatible router took just a few hassle free minutes. However, should the section require re-drilling, the superb user manual



informs how to do this and lists the screw accessory packs required for a wide range of routers.

Whilst it is probably best to use a pretty substantial 1/2" router attached to the table, it's good to learn that the table can readily accept some 1/4" models — such as Trend's T3 and T5.

The tabletop measures 8mm in thickness and so little cutter depth is lost. The fence assembly can either fit into three T-slot configurations or one T-slot channel. This provides an impressive four overall fitting positions and, as the back fence is adjustable on the alloy casting, the fence can be straightforwardly moved backwards and forwards to accommodate the work in hand.

The superb design and build of this router table promotes the successful execution of a whole range of regular routing tasks.

The top and side pressure guards ensure that the work is fed stably into the cutter and the mitre fence enables some pretty good cross grain cutting to be completed.

A lead pin is provided and fits near the cutter aperture, thus enabling the profiling of curved work to be readily undertaken.

We hooked-up our router table's 100mm dust outlet to a Trend T30 vacuum extractor with very pleasing results, as the lion's share of the sawdust was effectively removed from the work area.

Trend's new PRT is a marvelous router table. Whether used by the professional or amateur woodworker, it will provide sterling hassle-free performance.



Verdict	Excellent. Worthy of the prefix 'professional'
Price	£375 (ex VAT)
Contact	0800 487363 www.trendmachinery.co.uk