

Trend router compass

Tested

While circular work can usually be carried out using the standard equipment normally supplied with a router, the radius of such work is restricted, and the main concept behind Trend's router compass is to enable work of far larger size to be undertaken. In fact it's designed for radii from 100mm up to 610mm which caters for the largest diameter which can be cut from a standard man-made board.

The compass can be used for either full circle working, or for arcs, as well as for working on the edge of a component, or on the surface away from the edge, and it can also be used for trimming the edge of curved work which has been sawn close to its finished profile on a bandsaw.

Features

The compass is made from 6mm clear plastic, and has an overall length of 760mm. One end is drilled and countersunk for attachment to the base of a router, and a slot down the centre

Securing the router compass to the base of the router.



allows alternative centres to be located at any point along it. One centre is pointed, the other is a pin with a diameter of 3mm, and a length of 6mm. The edges of the slot are calibrated in metric and imperial, indicating the radius required for setting either of the two centres.

Which of the two centres used will depend largely on the nature of the work, remembering that both will leave signs of where they've been located. This may be in the waste, if not then a piece of scrap needs to be used to protect the workpiece, secured by clamp, or double-sided tape.

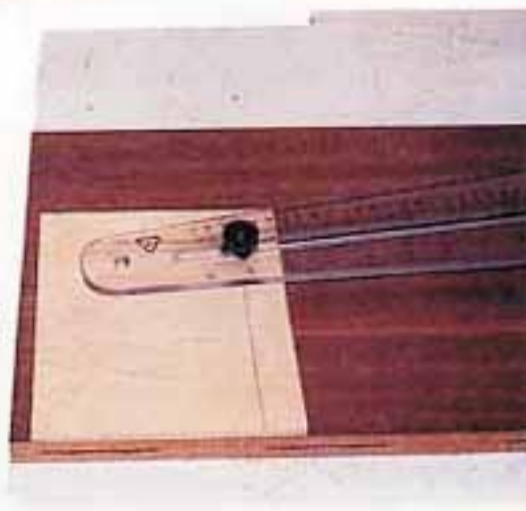
In use

I did find that, to be on the safe side, I had to apply pressure to the top of the centres to ensure they wouldn't slip out

Trimming a curved end. Note the compass point lightly clamped to the wood.



Here the pin is located in scrap wood held to the workpiece with double-sided tape.



of place. With that precaution taken, the compass gives very adequate support and control to the router when moving across the wood.

Tested by
Gordon Warr



VERDICT

A device for the routing devotee, which works well, providing steps are taken to ensure the centre point or pin remains where intended.

Price: £29.99 (+ Vat)

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RATING ★★★★★