

# GIANT TEST

## Trend SRT Router Table

This is Trend's newest router table. It's aimed squarely at the novice user, and is a very straightforward design. The SRT (Starter Router Table) is a small table and intended to be used on a workbench. The simplest way to do this is to screw the table legs to a baseboard that can be clamped to the top of the workbench for use. After use the table is small enough to be stored under the bench. It's supplied as a kit and simple assembly is required, but all the parts are well made and fit together without difficulty. The top itself is made from 25mm mdf and has a sprayed metallic finish. A 19mm groove is machined along the front for the mitre fence to run in. The circular router plate is made from 3mm thick steel and is pre-



Feather boards in action

drilled to accept routers with the Trend/Elu/DeWalt baseplate configuration. It can easily be modified for a wide range of other makes. Being a fairly small table and with a maximum cutter aperture of 54mm, it is intended to be used with mid-range routers with a suggested maximum power of 1100 watts, though

larger routers will fit. The fence is one-piece alloy with 12mm thick mdf cheeks. These are adjustable for width and the outfeed side may also be adjusted for depth with a shim. On top of the fence is the top guard and vertical featherboard, used to hold the workpiece down on the table. The top guard also has built-in dust extraction. On the rear of the fence is the main dust extraction port that is fitted with adapters to suit most workshop vacuums.

The SRT makes an ideal choice for the home/light trade user, or those with limited space. It is large enough to be useful, yet small enough to store easily.

### Pros

- Great introduction to table routing
- Compact and easy to store away

### Cons

- Not for the larger routers
- Small table area

### Spec sheet

Table size 610 x 355mm  
Price £105.69

Trend  
☎ 0800 487363

## Ww verdict

One of these tables should certainly fit your needs. If you are tackling home projects and/or have limited space, then the **Trend SRT** would be a great choice. It is well made, easy to use and store, and has good safety features. For the more ambitious, the **Charnwood** offers a lot of table for your money. The heavy users will need the added durability of the **Axminster** or the **Triton**. Both have their strengths. The Axminster is ideal as a static workshop machine, with its tough reliable fence and smooth table. The Triton has the advantage of easy portability and an enviable range of additional accessories.

## Charnwood WO13K Floorstanding Router Table

The Charnwood is the cheapest table on test here, and for less than £100 you get a full sized table on a solid metal stand. The unit is supplied in two parts. The rectangular central table is fixed to a pair of small side frames and can be used bench mounted.



An expansion pack is then added i.e., the leg extensions, two table 'wings' and the front apron. The table and the extensions are made from 25mm laminated mdf.

The extensions attach to the main table with small steel brackets. These would benefit from a little extra support as there is a certain amount of flexing, and this could easily be achieved by attaching some wooden battens to the underside. The router plate is a thick plastic oval that is set into the main table but fitting the router accurately takes care, either by placing your plastic sub base over the aperture or placing the router on a piece of card and making a template. The fence on the Charnwood is made from a solid piece of alloy. A pair of thin hardwood fence cheeks are mounted on it, and these are adjustable for width but not independently adjustable for depth. A rather flimsy sliding Perspex cutter guard is also supplied. Used carefully it will return good results.



Fence assembly with dust extraction and cutter guard

### Pros

- Price
- Good sized table

### Cons

- Not as beefy as the rivals
- Router fitting fiddly

### Spec sheet

Table size 1004 x 650mm  
Price £99

Charnwood  
☎ 0116 251 1550