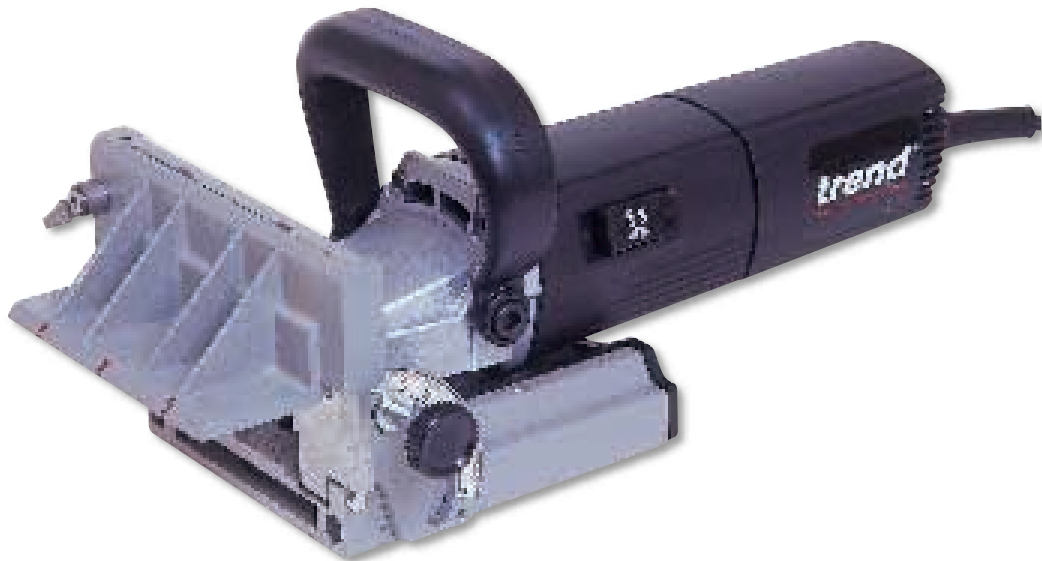


## TESTED

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Power input             | 710 W   |
| Rotation speed          | 9000rpm |
| Weight                  | 2.7 kg  |
| Maximum plunge depth    | 20mm    |
| Plate height adjustment | 45mm    |
| Base tilt               | 0-90°   |
| Blade diameter          | 100mm   |



# Trend T20 biscuit jointer

As you'd expect from a manufacturer and supplier of routing equipment, Trend supply biscuit slot cutters for use with a router. However, for those woodworkers who regard biscuit jointing as a way of life, a dedicated jointer is essential, and Trend have added such a power tool to their range — the new T20. Although it's aimed at the budget end of the market, in terms of power the jointer is better than, or on a par with, jointers costing several times the price.

## Features

The T20 features a tilting base, six pre-set depth adjustments and a rise and fall plate for dealing with different thicknesses of wood. There's an adjustable top handle, a dust bag and a large storage case, plus tools to change the cutter and carry out routine maintenance.

On the back of the baseplate is a knurled dial which adjusts the depth of plunge and works in conjunction with a depth rod protruding from the front of the body. Three of the dial's six settings

are labelled to the corresponding biscuit sizes, so for example setting 10 will give a slot for a No. 10 biscuit, suitable for edge jointing planks from 13-18mm.

## Fence

Attached to the baseplate is a second hinged fence which swings through a range of angles, enabling the baseplate to bear on wood cut at an angle. For example, when cutting biscuit slots in a mitre joint, the plate can be set at 45°, and there's a scale calibrated in 1° steps with click stops at 0°, 90° and 45°.

## Centring fence

There's an adjustable fence at right angles to the base plate which centres the biscuit slots for different thicknesses of wood. This has scales calibrated in inches and millimetres so that it can be positioned accurately, and there's a small locking lever that holds it firmly in place. On the front edge of this fence are three red guidelines, which indicate where the centre and ends of the slot are.

This rising fence can be removed entirely so that slots can be cut into the

face of a board away from the edges. When this method is used, the body has to be positioned using a batten clamp or a straight edge clamped to the face of the board.

## Other features

The loop handle attached to the top of the T20 can be adjusted to a comfortable angle, and the on/off switch is positioned for convenient thumb operation and it has a lock-on setting which can be quickly disengaged. On one side of the baseplate is an extraction outlet for attaching the dust bag, which is supplied.

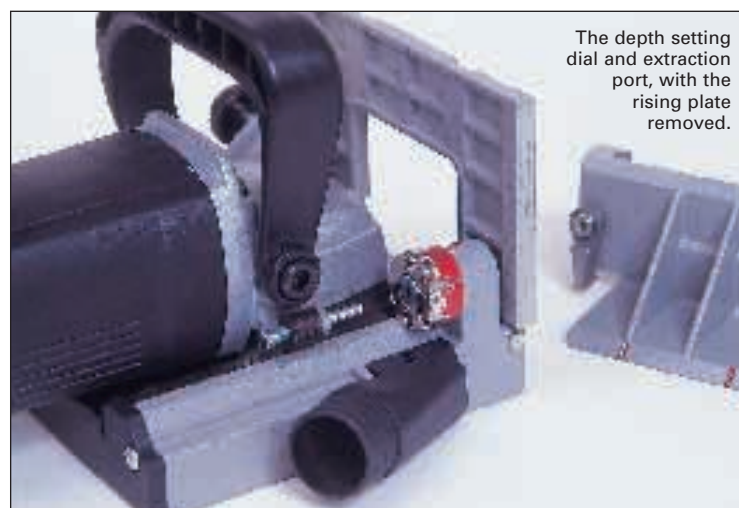
## In use

Biscuit joints can be used in place of many traditional joints; they do the same basic job as dowel joints but without the fiddle, and are excellent for aligning and strengthening edge-to-edge butt joints, as well as right angle butt joints.

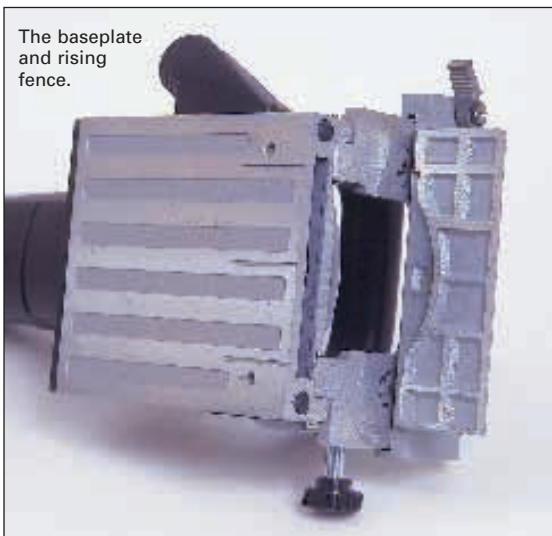
One of the differences between a budget jointer and more expensive models, is that the rising plate works on a rack-and-pinion mechanism. In my



Cutting some biscuit slots in softwood.



The depth setting dial and extraction port, with the rising plate removed.



The baseplate and rising fence.

experience, many have some slack in the mechanism so that unless they work flawlessly you're better off without them. The rising plate on the T20 is adjusted by slackening off the locking lever and adjusting the height by hand, which is perfectly acceptable and even desirable.

Due to its powerful motor, the T20 showed no signs of straining, even when cutting maximum depth slots in some very hard old bits of oak.

The dust bag is okay for occasional use but it only stops large shavings from escaping. Fine dust can still escape into the workshop. If

## VERDICT

I wouldn't be without a biscuit jointer, and for anyone on a limited budget I'd recommend the T20. It performed faultlessly throughout the test and always felt comfortable in use.

**Price: £139 plus VAT**

Trend, Tel: 0800 4 TREND or 01923 224657, Fax: 01923 236879, or web page: [www.trendmachinery.co.uk/t20k](http://www.trendmachinery.co.uk/t20k)

you're going to use the dust bag then a mask is mandatory; a better solution is to connect the jointer to an extractor.

*Tested by Dave Mackenzie*

# Trend timber repair kit template

This 8mm thick clear acrylic template is designed to be used with a router to remove a blemish from the surface of a piece of timber (such as a large dead knot or a resin pocket) and replace it with a piece of blemish-free wood. The bush fits a Trend

router base plate but other makes of router may require a Trend Unibase.

*Tested by Dave Mackenzie*

## VERDICT

This kit can turn a piece of timber that might otherwise be discarded into an acceptable and useful piece of wood.

**Price £29.95**

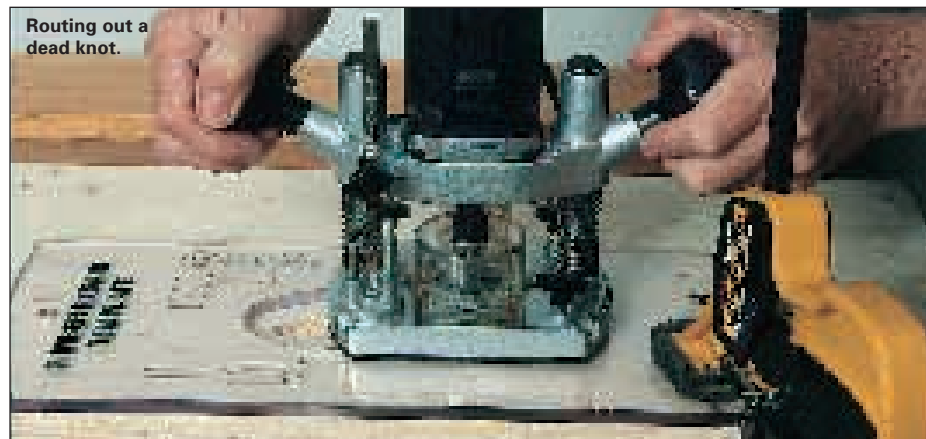
Trend Machinery and Cutting tools Ltd, tel; 01923 website: [www.trendmachinery.co.uk](http://www.trendmachinery.co.uk)

## Method

1. Clamp the template to the piece of timber, with the elliptical cut out centred over the blemish.
2. Fit the 10mm cutter and guide bush to your router.
3. Slip the 40mm collar (supplied with the kit) onto the guide bush, and set the cutter depth between 4-6mm.
4. Position the router on the template with the collar against the edge of the elliptical cut out.
5. Using the plunger, rout around the edge of the template in a clockwise direction following the edge of the ellipse.
6. Clean out the rest of the wood in the centre of the shape using the router freehand.
7. To make the plug, choose a piece of wood with a similar grain pattern about the correct thickness to fit into the shape cut earlier.
8. Fix the template over this piece of wood and take the 40mm collar off of the guide bush and cut around the edge of the ellipse. Make sure there's a piece of waste material under the plug.
9. Glue the cut out plug into the hole. It works best if the plug is made thick enough to stand slightly proud of the surface and then planed flush.



Fitting the plug into the hole.



Routing out a dead knot.