

**Further information**

Trend 0800 487363  
Price: £46.94

**O N T E S T**



# Trend T3 Router

**Routing magazine's Ron Fox gets to grips with the new 550W small router from Trend**

**T**rend has launched a new router to complement the existing T5 and T9 models. Known as the T3, the new model is a 550W variable-speed router with speeds ranging from 8,000 to 32,000rpm. Variable speed is marginal with low power, but perhaps I might slow this one down for some jobs.

The T3 comes in a smart fitted plastic carrying case and is well equipped with 6mm, 1/4in and 8mm collets, a 16mm guide bush, a fairly basic side fence, and a clear plastic dust spout. Best of all it has an Elu/Trend standard base with 6mm fixing holes

and a recess which takes Trend guide bushes. I was disappointed, however, to find that the guide bush holes are plain instead of tapped.

The router is of the demountable type, which enables it to be fitted in a drill stand or used freehand for certain tasks. Collet plunge is 6mm, i.e. the collet stops 6mm short of the bench top. This is further reduced if the dust spout is fitted. The collets themselves were of the simple cone type, sitting on a spring in the motor spindle, to aid cutter removal.

The switch is a simple 'ON/OFF' slider, and plunge lock is by means of a plastic lever mounted on the base assembly.

**Accessories**

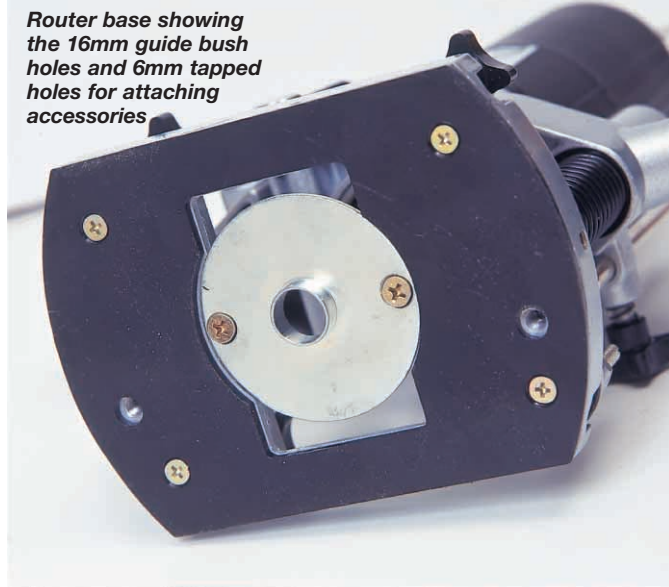
A good range of accessories and spare parts is shown in the Trend catalogue, including twelve more guide bushes, a trammel bar, extra-long fence rods and fine height adjuster. This last item is a very useful accessory and is, in fact, the same adjuster that fits on the Trend T5 and several non-Trend routers.

**Table work**

It is easy to dismiss a 550W router as useless for table work but the T3 is certainly capable of modelling and miniature work, for which purposes the benefits of a table - fewer work-holding problems, no tilt, the ability to mould edges of boards and



part the moulding off etc. - are as relevant as for heavy work. The limited plunge, however, requires as thin a mounting plate as possible. Trend's own steel plate would be a good choice.



*Router base showing the 16mm guide bush holes and 6mm tapped holes for attaching accessories*

**The Verdict...**

The T3 is a well presented little router with a number of detailed points which put it ahead of similar models. The build quality looks good and the router is backed with a range of accessories and spares. Although offered as a light duty router for the hobbyist and DIY user, it would also make a useful back-up router for a larger machine. List price of the T3 is £46.94 inc. VAT, but it is likely to be found at a lower price than this, or with some cutters included in the deal.