

One-handed mini-plunge router proves handy

I wasn't sure how much I'd use a small plunge router, but after running Trend's T4 through the paces on several projects I find myself reaching for it more and more. Essentially a trim router in a plunge base, the T4 works great for inlays and other light-duty plunge work. Because it weighs just over 5 lbs, it's more nimble than my midsize plunge routers. And when you want to rout against a straightedge, the base has two parallel flat edges, as well as the guide fence that mounts on either side. I used the T4 to rout mortises freehand for the backs of chairs, and it performed flawlessly without trying to stray from my layout marks.

I only have two knocks against this handy router. First, the scales are metric. Second, the depth stop rod would not stay tight unless I turned the locking knob a half-turn, which hid the scale (that I wasn't using anyway).

The T4 comes with 1/4", 6mm, and 8mm collets, a 5/8" guide bushing, an adapter for Porter-Cable-style bushings, and a guide fence. The variable-speed motor ranges from 11,500 to 32,000 rpm.

—Tested by Matt Seiler,
a custom furnituremaker



Plunge router, #T4

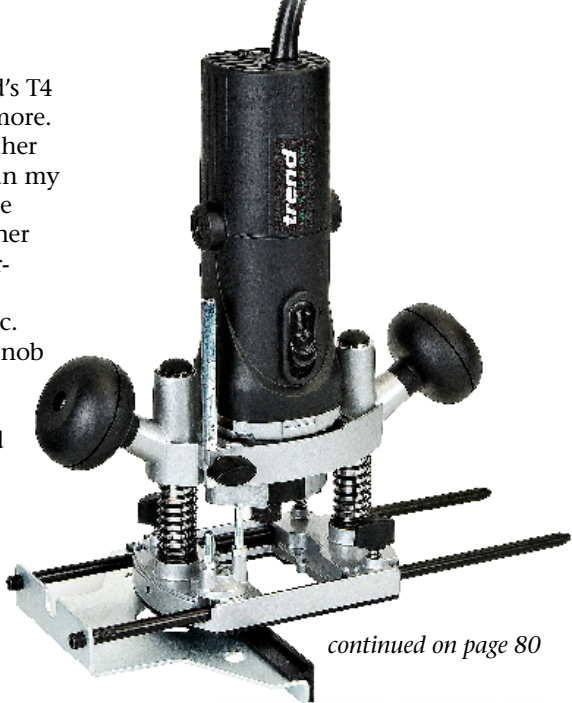
Performance



Price

\$155

Trend Routing Technology
270-872-4674; trend-usa.com



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