



Left You get a lot for your money with a T5

# Take 5

As Trend celebrate their 50th year, **Stuart Lawson** salutes one of their most trusty routers – the T5

Trend are celebrating their 50th year, so I thought it was a good time to examine one of their stalwart machines, the T5 router. This is one of the routers that stepped into the gap that was left by the demise of the trusty – and much loved by furniture makers – Elu MOF 96.

A few examples of which are still routing away. The T5 was recently voted best  $\frac{1}{2}$ in router below £150 in our sister publication *The Router*. While for me I might choose a different router for really tough professional use, the T5 takes a lot of beating if you are not a heavy user. Having said that I do know some you do this router to earn a living, Kevin Ley for one, so that's a pretty good recommendation.

**Colin Eden-Eadon**

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TEST

This is a tried and tested design that must have been the most popular 'first router' over the past 20 years. Sure, it's more expensive than your average 'budget' router, but apart from the limitations of 850W of power, this router is a well-made, virtually faultless design. If you buy the T5 as a kit you will have everything you need for getting started and since it is manufactured to a semi-pro standard, you can be sure of it lasting for several years of part-time use.

The perfectly simple method of twisting the handle for plunge locking is as good as the day it was invented, and the threaded

height-setting turrets are as useful as ever, since they can easily be connected to a fine-height adjuster. The trigger on the Mark II is the same 'safety' type as found on a Perles and is probably the best alternative to a locking on/off switch. Luckily Trend still also produce the Mark I which has the delightfully simple on/off switch.

It has been necessary to continue this because nothing else is practical for many jigs and because their professional customers would not have anything else.

The fine-height and fine-fence adjusters will give you all the control you need and despite my dislike of non-locking on/off

switches, the lever-type switch featured is by far the best solution to the problem.

The soft-start is smooth and to the point and although as standard as you like, the dust extraction works very well.

Also, the cowl is fitted without screws, making it easy to remove. Another advantage to this humble router is the fact that it will fit almost every accessory known to man and is really the standard router in every sense.

Supplied with a parallel fence with fine adjustment,  $\frac{1}{2}$ in and 8mm collets, 20mm guidebush, trammel attachment and fine-height adjuster.

**Stuart Lawson**

## The numbers

**Input power:** 850W  
**Collets:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ in & 8mm  
**Max plunge:** 50mm  
**No-load speed:** 9,000-27,000  
**Soft start:** Yes  
**Weight:** 2.7kg  
**Price (ex VAT)**  
**T5EB:** £119  
**T5ELB:** £134  
**T5EK:** £159  
**T5ELK:** £174  
**T5E MK2:** £159