

# Trend T5 Mk2

£186.83 ☎ 0800 487363

www.trendmachinery.co.uk Typical street price: £150

**B**ased on an almost legendary power tool, Trend's T5 Mk2 router will always have a place in my heart as it's virtually identical to the old Elu MOF 96E. Although pretty basic when compared to the Bosch and Perles tools, its simplicity makes this router so easy to use. As the Elu set a standard in routing all those years ago, the majority of accessories available are designed around the same base configuration which the T5 uses.

There's a difference with the power switch, though. The old slider switch on the left has been replaced by a neat lever that you pull out with your thumb. It's lightly sprung, making it very easy to operate without causing fatigue, working superbly in hand-held mode. A trigger lock is included for inverted work.

With Bosch and Perles opting for 1300W motors, the 850W Trend seems low-powered in comparison. But in use I found it had more than enough guts to match these two in performance and power. It's lighter at 3.3kg, too. Whether this is down to size or a better motor, it also runs more quietly, almost 10 decibels under the others at 86db(A) when free running.

The rest of the design remains pretty faithful to Elu's original. Plunge is operated with the twist-grip knob on the

right side. Really a love it or loathe it design, I prefer this system as I find it easier to make ramped plunges. Although you can inadvertently unscrew the wrong knob, there is a large arrow decal to indicate the correct one to twist.

Cutting depths can be limited with the simple steel post that drops down onto the three-way rotating turret. For general work this is OK, but liner control is rather limited. A fine height adjuster is included, replacing the depth post. It connects to one of the threaded turret posts, and is rotated to raise or lower the base accordingly. When fitted, it stops free plunging operation, though.

Variable speed is stepless. The dial on front of the router can just about be spun with your thumb while still holding the knob, so 'as you go' adjustments are possible. Speed range is from 9000 to 27,000rpm.

With no rubber gaiters around the columns, these could be more susceptible to dust build up.

I found plunge action smoother than both the Bosch and Perles machines, important when using the router for ramping cuts. Maximum plunge is 50mm, enough for pretty much all the smaller work you'd require it



for, with a maximum cutter diameter of 40mm.

It comes with a dust spout, 20mm guidebush, beam trammel attachment, an alloy fence with micro adjuster. All in a plastic carrying case.

The new switch design doesn't alter things much on the Trend T5, to be honest. It's still quite a basic router, but with good build quality and excellent performance to match, this design still ranks highly in my book. As a result, it wins a Recommended award in this test.



## GW verdict

- Smooth plunge, good switch
- Fine adjuster limits free plunge

Value for money ●●●●○  
Performance ●●●●○



To activate the router you slide out a lever switch alongside the handle with your thumb



To plunge you twist the handle, push the machine downwards and twist the knob again to lock



A basic three-way turret is fitted, although each of the stops can be adjusted with a screwdriver