



Trend T5 E Best 1/2in router

TREND T5 E BEST 1/2 AND 3/8 IN ROUTER

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 the rest but apart from the limitations of 850W of power, this router is a well made 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.

As I have mentioned about the Perles, 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 Perles which as I have mentioned 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 wouldn't 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. Comes supplied with a parallel fence with fine adjustment, 1/2in & 8mm collets, 20mm guidebush, trammel attachment and fine height adjuster.

Stuart Lawson

SPECIFICATIONS

Input power.....	850W
Collets.....	1/2in & 8mm
Max plunge.....	50mm
No-load speed	9,000-27,000
Soft start.....	Yes
Weight.....	2.7kg
Price.....	£150 (inc VAT)

RATINGS

Value for money:	★★★★
Versatility if an only router:	★★★★
Accessory availability / compatibility:	★★★★
Collet sizes available:	★★★★
Table compatibility	★★★★

1/2 IN ROUTERS