

Trend T5-EB Router

Trend have upgraded their T5 router with a 1000w motor (the previous model was 850w), improved electronics to stabilise the revs, soft handles, more versatile clip-in dust port and a new position for the spindle lock for better access for both lefties and righties. It will be selling for about [redacted] and is the smallest in their range to suit on site work, especially if you go for the T5-EK model, which costs about [redacted] more, but comes with a height adjuster, 8mm collet and blow-moulded case.

For workshop woodworkers, who will probably keep the router in a cupboard, the basic model (which comes in a cardboard box) is better value, and better for the environment etc... A height adjuster only costs about [redacted] but would be a valuable upgrade because the standard height rod is, let's say, raw. It works well enough but the shaft itself is on the light side. The only other quibble is with the switch (there's a deadman's version as well, which needs constant downwards pressure). We found flicking the switch up with your thumb counter-intuitive (which you can get



T5 comes with excellent side fence and other accessories



over) and a bit uncomfortable (which you may or may not be able to resolve). This is exactly the size of router that's perfect for hand-held routing. It's not too loud, and it has good low-down weight for stability and balance. The cutters are easy to change, and there's a 20mm guide bush and trammel bar attachment, plus an excellent side fence with fine adjuster.

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