

# Big player



Paul Richardson goes for the draw and picks off Trend's brand new T9 router

**A** COUPLE of issues ago, *The Router* brought you exclusive news of Trend's first router – the T5 – and suggested that it was a significant step for the company.

They seem to be enjoying this departure from their previous approach of supplying tooling and accessories, as they've done it again, launching the Trend T9 (but what happened to T6, T7 and T8?).

The T9 is what is technically known – in *The Router* offices, at least – as a 'big' router; that is, a ½in collet machine with sufficient power to run the largest cutters available.

This brings it into competition with such behemoths as the DeWalt DW625 (the router formerly known as Elu MOF 177), the Freud FT200, the Bosch GOF-1700ACE and so on.

## The Trend T9

So what do you get? Plenty of power from the 1800W motor, electronically controllable from 8-22000rpm and kicking in with soft start. All of the accessories you would expect are supplied – ½in and ¼in collets come as standard, the straightforward side fence is fitted with a clever fine-adjuster which acts on the fence bar rather than the fence itself. Spindle lock, dust extraction hood, they're all there... if you want a metal case then buy the T9EK for an extra 16 quid.

All this is normal in the market, though, so what is different about the T9? – well, a very big hole. The baseplate aperture will allow a 75mm diameter cutter to pass through, removing the need for fiddling around fitting cutters with the router fully plunged, as is sometimes required when using a table. Additionally, the large aperture allows for much larger guidebushes to be fitted.

## In use

The built-in fine-depth adjuster works well, and reinforces my impression that the T9 is especially suitable for using inverted, in a router table. I gave it a try in my table with a pretty massive cutter and it performed nicely, the fine adjuster making life easy; certainly power is more than adequate and the machine runs smoothly.



▲ The baseplate hole is large enough for the most serious of cutters

A strong rubber band is required to hold the switch in the on position, as it doesn't lock, so an NVR switch must be fitted to the table.

Hand held, impressions are still favourable, but for one detail; the plunge lock lever is both uncomfortable and awkward to operate – this would be easy to sort out, Trend...

In contrast, the rack and pinion-adjustable depth stop is a delight to use and, although the router is tall, it isn't as heavy as some and is relatively quiet, so I found it comfortable to spend time with.

The new hombre in town has earned its spurs. ●

For specifications see page 82

► The power switch needs a method of holding it in when used in a router table and the depth fine adjuster knob is an option



▲ The new Trend T9 hits the streets

▼ The spindle lock and depth stop work well



▲ A bolt-on clear plastic dustport is supplied

