

GIANT TEST

HITACHI M12V

Motor power: 1850watts
Collets supplied: ½in with ¼in and ⅜in reducing sleeves
Speed: 8,000-20,000rpm
Weight: 5.3kg
Accessories supplied: Side fence, guidebush, spanner.
List price: £480.58

Hitachi 01908 660663

The Hitachi M12V is a solid workhorse of a machine. The controls on the green plastic casing are well laid out. The variable speed control is recessed into the top on the right-hand side, and below it on the front and rear of the machine are the two covers housing the motor brushes, making routine maintenance an easy job. The side handles are rather hard plastic, but their shape and tilt makes them comfortable to hold. The power switch is a large positive slider beside the right hand grip. It may be locked in the 'on' position. To the rear of the grip is the plunge lock lever. This has a positive and reliable action. The two supporting columns that the router body runs on are shrouded in rubber gaiters to keep dust and dirt away from the bushes. The Hitachi has rather an unusual collet. Instead of being held in place by a nut, the collet itself is threaded on the rear end and so pulls itself into the conical housing in the main shaft. This works well and it needs little tightening or loosening to change the cutter. A spindle lock button is also fitted. No dust extraction adapter is supplied, but one is available as an accessory. Cutter depth setting is controlled by a rack and pinion system operating on a metal shaft. Both the shaft and the scale are independently adjustable, making it easy to set precisely. There is a standard three position turret on the baseplate. A competent machine that is straightforward and easy to use, with no major vices.

Pros: Straightforward, good performance, quick cutter changes
Cons: No dust extraction as standard



TREND T9EK

Motor power: 1800watts
Collets supplied: ½in and ⅜in
Speed: 8,000-22,000rpm
Weight: 5.2kg
Accessories supplied: Storage case, side fence, guidebush, fine height adjuster, dust extraction adapter, routing guide, routing video, spanner.
List price: £370.13

Trend 0800 487363

For almost fifty years Trend have been producing routing products and accessories. From tiny inlay cutters to complete router tables, their range of products is unrivalled.

Surprisingly it is only fairly recently that they actually started selling routers themselves. The T9 is the largest in the range and is supplied with a very comprehensive set of accessories and instructions. It is a simple looking machine with an uncluttered appearance. Two large handles protrude from the sides and the power switch is set into the back of the right one. It cannot be locked in the 'on' position so must be constantly pressed. The plunge lock lever is fitted behind the left handle. A thumbwheel set into the top of the motor controls the speed setting. The depth of cut is adjusted using a variation on the rack and pinion system. Instead of using a sliding scale, the adjusting knob has a setting ring around it, which can be zeroed at any point. The rod may then be wound back to the correct depth setting. A fine height adjuster is also built-in which is particularly useful when the machine is table mounted, or when using jointing jigs. Cutter changing is easy with particularly good access around the collet. A spindle lock button is provided. A transparent plastic spout fixes to the baseplate to provide dust remarkably efficient dust extraction. The machine is supplied with a comprehensive instruction manual, and also a 265 page routing guide, which covers almost every aspect of router use and maintenance. It contains a huge amount of information that will benefit both beginners and the more experienced. A short video is also included.

The T9 is a pleasure to use. The plunging action is particularly smooth and the return springs are strong giving the machine a positive feel. Cutter visibility is also very good, and the controls are all easy to set and use.

Pros: Good performance, comprehensive guide and instructions, vast range of accessories
Cons: Non-locking power switch

