

Workshop wizards

Anything that keeps Andy from crouching uncomfortably in cupboards for ages has to be a good thing...

Having fitted more worktops than I care to remember, I know only too well that it is always tricky getting under the top to tighten the bolts.

Invariably the spanner slips or you have to be a contortionist to get into the cupboard below while having constantly to check the top surface for alignment. Trend's Worktop ZipBolts don't eliminate the acrobatics but they do speed up the connection as well as making it a whole lot easier into the bargain.

The bolts are supplied with a 5mm hex driver bit with a standard 3/16in hex fitting so one can go directly into an impact driver or drill chuck.

The ZipBolt locates snugly, allowing you to push up against it while it is in the routed slots, so ensuring a good connection before pulling the trigger. Gearing within the alloy head spins the shank of the bolt and pulls the free end up to the shoulder of the router recess. If you have long-enough arms you can reach in under the top and tighten the bolts without getting under, but ideally they are easier to position by getting under.

Once they start to engage it's easy to tweak each bolt so it just nips enough to allow you to tap the joint around until you achieve a perfect fit, and then fully tighten it.

It takes a matter of seconds to fit and tighten a bolt into the recess once it's routed, making these bolts an absolute must if you fit regularly or even just as a one-off.

I'm now going to cost these into the next worktop job I have to do as they are such a boon!

Conclusion

At around three quid each they aren't as cheap as the standard 'dog bone' bolts, but with kitchen fitting costing hundreds of pounds, factoring these into the equation makes economic sense.



▲ Once routed the bolts are easily tightened with a battery driver



▲ The result leads to the rapid achievement of a perfect joint



Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Very fast application; driver bit supplied
- You still need to get under the top to tighten them

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: **£9.48** (pack of 3)

Length: 170mm long

Materials: alloy and zinc-plated steel

Web: www.trend-uk.com