

Although there is a good choice of router tables on the market, one can be made for a fraction of the cost with the aid of the Trend router table insert. This will accept most routers of all wattages, but of course for the larger cutters a router with adequate power is essential

Trend router table insert

The insert, catalogue number RTI/PLATE, is a kit of parts. The main plate is made of thermoset phenolic plastic measuring 306 x 229mm, and is 9.9mm thick. There are two snap-in rings (which with the main plate give centre apertures of 32 to 68mm and 68 to 98mm respectively), a corner clip fixing kit, and a lead-in pin with alternative locations in the plate. Although a lead-in pin is the simplest of devices, not all router tables currently available have this feature, which is essential for curved work. The underside of the plate is scored with concentric rings and radial lines as aids to the accurate mounting of the router.

Fitting the plate

The top of the table needs to be 19mm thick; if it's too thin then it won't be rigid enough. The plate is recessed into a rebate in the table top. It is of course essential that this rebate is accurately formed so the top surface of the plate is exactly flush with that of the table. The required rebate size is 6.35mm deep and 12.7mm wide.

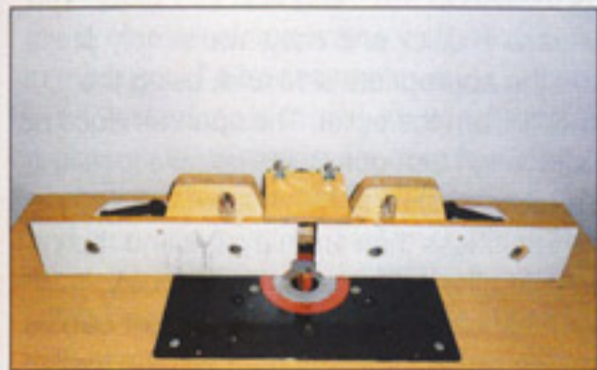
The router is secured to the plate by drilling and countersinking holes in the plate to align with those in the router base. There are normally threaded holes in the router

base for this and similar purposes. If not, then the router can be mounted by using small machine screws and nuts. There are very adequate instructions on the rear of the pack which are easy to follow. By the way, it's essential that the router is fitted with a fine height adjuster or similar device.

Extra components

Trend are leaders in all aspects of router technology, and to maximise the use of the router when mounted in a table they offer a no-volt release switch, a trigger lock, feather boards, two mitre fences, and a pushblock designed for use when scribing the ends of rails.

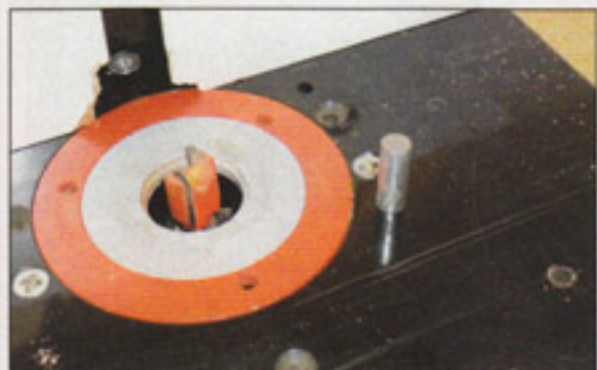
When we made up a table using one of these Trend kits, we designed the fence so it could be adjusted laterally to control the gap in the centre between the two halves. However, the outfeed table can't be adjusted in a forwards-backwards direction. On the odd occasions when it needed to be set slightly forward of the infeed table, we simply introduced small pieces of veneer as packing, and this arrangement has worked totally satisfactorily.



The insert plate must fit flush with the table surface, as mine does



The underside is scored with concentric rings to aid router positioning



The lead-in pin can be fitted in either of two locations to suit the work

The rear of the router plate's packaging carries comprehensive instructions. Don't throw it away!



VERDICT

The quality of this router table insert kit is excellent. Mine has certainly passed the test of time.

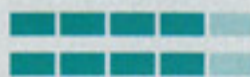
PROS

- Precision engineering
- Ease of fitting
- Useful lead-in pin included

CONS

- None

VALUE FOR MONEY



PERFORMANCE

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
- 01923 249911
- www.trend-uk.com