

Trend

Snappy system

Gordon Warr puts Trend's quick release drill system to the test

Just about everybody who has a workshop and tools to go with it will agree that when it comes to power tools, the drill heads the list. Popular types include hammer action, reversing, and those also

Trend bring the power drill and the tooling even closer together and easier to use

designed for driving in screws. Now a drill, however sophisticated, is not worth a penny without the tooling to fit it, and the range of items designed to work with a drill is almost endless. Trend came up with a clever idea a couple of years ago to bring the power drill and the tooling even closer together and easier to use,

which they call the Snappy Quick Release Drill System. Now they have further developed and extended this system.

Quick Chuck

The essence of this system is the Quick Chuck, which fits into any 10mm or 13mm keyed or keyless chuck. The spring loaded sleeve of the Quick Chuck is then drawn back, when any bit or similar attachment which has a $\frac{1}{4}$ in hexagonal shank can then be slipped in where it will gain a precise location and be positively held when the sleeve is released. Thus with this chuck fitted into that of the drill the change-over from one bit to another is slick and easy.

The assortment of bits and similar equipment which can be fitted in the Quick Chuck is almost endless, and a wide range of these are offered by



Trend. Two selections are available in their own stout canvas cases, the larger one containing sixty items, the other a smaller selection. Some of the contents are standard items such as the flat bits, masonry bits, and screwdriver bits, others are special or have been adapted. The latter includes a selection of engineer's Morse drills each with its own mini chuck and hexagonal shank.

Drill bit guides

Two other specials based on Morse drills are three with

adjustable countersinks on their shanks, and two which Trend call drill bit guides. These are designed for drilling pilot holes for screws through the countersunk holes of hinges and other hardware. A spring loaded sleeve with chamfered end sits in the countersinking, then the bit within drills the hole with exact concentricity. Two sizes are included. A wide selection of screwdriver bits, hexagonal headed drivers, and square drive adapters are included, along with a tapered drill. This will drill, or enlarge, holes in



The Snappy chuck in use in a drilling machine

Further information

30 piece set (SNAP/TH1/SET)	£34.95 plus VAT
60 piece set (SNAP/TH2/SET)	£69.95 plus VAT

Trend 01923 224657
Website www.trend.co.uk

On Test



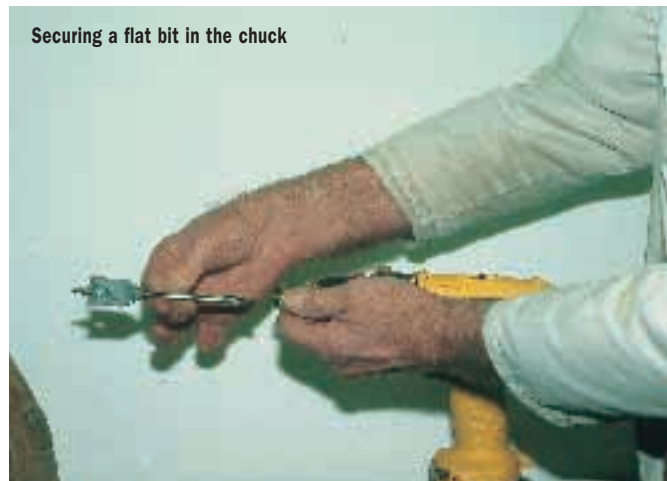
Boring with a twist bit



Freehand drilling



The drill bit guide in use when securing hinges



Securing a flat bit in the chuck

wood, plastic, and metals, from 3 to 7mm.

Another clever item is the magnetic bit holder, intended for using when driving in screws. One end fits into the Quick Chuck, with the bits fitting into the other. Not only does this fitting extend the bit fitted by around 70mm, it is designed with a loose sleeve. This can be slid down to cover the head of the screw and thus ensure the bit is retained in place. In addition, the sleeve can be held with one hand while the other holds the drill, thus more control can be provided. This means the risk of the bit skidding off the screw is very much reduced, this is especially important when using cross headed screws.

Wide range

Other items which are new to the Snappy range include

stepped reamers, plug cutters, Forstner bits, depth stops to fit engineer's drills and taps. The latter cover sizes from M3.5 to M10, but must only be used in torque control driver drills. Many of the above items are themselves offered as sets covering a range of sizes.

The good quality of all the products are typical of everything which Trend offer, and the range of applications is very wide. I tried most of the contents of the larger set, and while the real assessment of any product only comes after extended use, I was very satisfied with my trials. A big advantage of buying a set is the canvas case in which they are contained, not only does this offer protection, it holds all the contents in an organised way with each one having its own place. Good value for money for what is included.



The extended screwdriver bit has a loose sleeve

The verdict

A clever idea has been further extended in its usefulness with more 'Snappy' products. While it might be that some of the contents are rarely used while others are in everyday use, we have all been stuck from time to time by not having just the right tool, or right size of tool, for the job in hand. This set will solve many problems for anyone with a power drill.