

Repair kit

We had a quick look at Trend's Timber Repair Kit Template when it was launched last year. Now Gordon Warr gives it a more comprehensive test

The name of Trend and the router are almost synonymous, they are world leaders in all matters relating to routers, router cutters, and jigs and accessories for what is often described as the 'wonder tool'. Every year this firm introduces

an assortment of new products of various types to make the router even more useful, and one of the latest of these is a jig which they call their Timber Repair Kit Template.

Timber defects

We have all experienced the problem of a piece of timber of

prime quality except for one knot or other defect. Too good not to use, yet the defect will remain an irritation and distraction if it remains visible in a conspicuous part of the project. This of course applies particularly to furniture work where the item is to be given some kind of clear finish on completion.

The solution

Trust Trend to come up with a solution. The kit consists of a plastic template, a 10mm cutter, a 20mm guide bush and a 40mm collar. First stage is to rout out the defect, this is carried out to a depth of around 5mm. This stage is achieved by cramping the

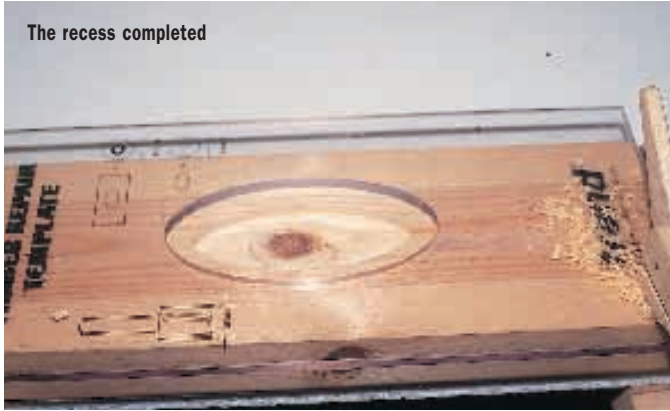


The knot to be replaced



Routing out the recess. Note the template is cramped down

On Test



The recess completed



The 'patch' completed, wood secured to waste using double-sided tape

template onto the material over the knot or defect, fitting the cutter and the guide bush along with the collar to the router. You then plunge down and remove the waste by moving the router in a clockwise direction which will produce an elliptical recess with a flat bottom.

Using the template

The 'plug' material needs to be of the same wood with a similar grain pattern as the material being repaired, and prepared to a thickness a little greater than the depth of the recess. The template is secured to this with

double-sided tape, then cramped to a sacrificial piece of material. With the collar removed from the guide bush, and the depth of cut increased to be a little more than the thickness of the inlay piece, this is then routed out. The essential precaution here is to make sure the guide bush is tight against the edge of the template throughout. The plug is now glued into the recess, left to dry, then levelled off and sanded smooth to complete the repair.

Perfect repair

I found this kit to achieve a perfect repair the first time of using, although care is needed



Routing the insert from similar wood



The insert is glued in place and left to dry

to ensure there is exact concentricity between the cutter and the guide bush, or the fit of the inlay piece is likely to be too slack or too tight. The guide bush supplied will fit a wide range of popular routers, but for some makes the Trend Unibase might be required. The actual size of the repair is 120 x 45mm.

Further information

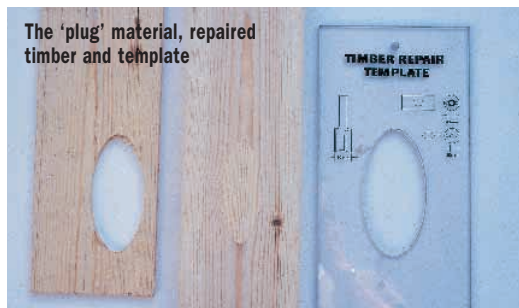
Cost: £29.95 plus VAT
Contact: Trend
 01923 224657
www.trendm.co.uk

The verdict...

This is another clever idea from Trend, it achieves exactly what it sets out to do quickly and effectively, with the repair being almost invisible on completion. It will have a place on antique repair work, especially for burn damage on table tops. It also opens up possibilities for decorative inlay work using woods of contrasting colours.



Sanding excess thickness off insert to make level and smooth



The 'plug' material, repaired timber and template



The completed repair