

Tested



Trend lock jig

Fitting locks used to be a time-consuming process, with a lot of hard work with chisel and mallet — but not any more. You can now buy a jig to speed up the process, which utilises a router to do the donkey work.

The main part of the jig is made of steel and is adjustable to suit the thickness of the door. A set of sixteen templates is included to suit a wide range of lock and faceplate sizes, and the template is firmly held in the jig by built-in magnets. Certain accessories are also needed which aren't included with the jig.

In use

With a new lock required on my back door, this was a perfect opportunity to try out the jig. The lock I fitted was a five lever deadlock which needed to be fitted to a depth of 63mm.

I played safe and cut a sample mortise and recess on a piece of scrap, and found it straightforward with the help of the clear instructions. It's best to remove the door from its frame so that the edge can be routed horizontally.

It took only a few minutes to cut both the mortise and the plate recess, using the 16mm guide bush for both, and barely a minute to square off the ends of the recess with a chisel. The keyhole was then quickly cut using first a drill and then a chisel.

The lock fitted perfectly, but the striking plate does have to be recessed into the frame by hand. The door was fully glazed, but there was no worry about breaking the glass while fitting the lock, which is a real problem when using the traditional chisel and mallet method.



Tested by
Gordon Warr

The jig contains a wide selection of templates to suit a range of locks.



Cutting the mortise.



Quick work

Used with a 1/2" router and a suitable cutter, Trend's lock jig enables both the mortise and the faceplate recess to be quickly formed for most popular door locks. All that's required after routing is to square-off the corners of the faceplate recess with a bench chisel, or you can use Trend's dedicated corner chisel.

The jig is designed for doors with a thickness from 34mm to 58mm.

The template is changed instantly.



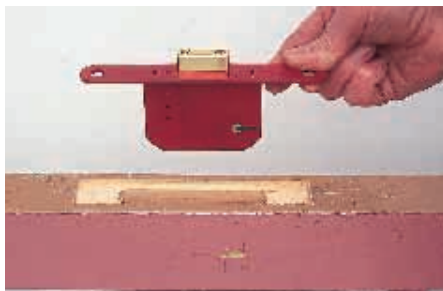
Routing the recess for the faceplate.



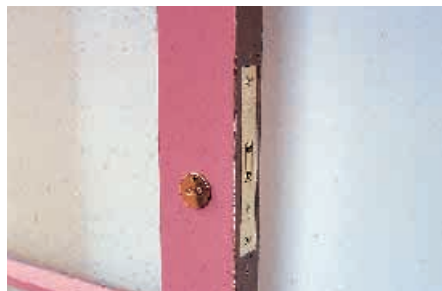
The ends of the recess need squaring off.



In with the lock.



The lock & escutcheon plates fully fitted.



VERDICT

This jig works to perfection, but expensive if only one or two locks need to be fitted. Well worth it for the professional, or when several doors need their locks upgrading. Remember that only top-quality locks are acceptable for insurance purposes, so this factor alone might justify buying this jig.

Price: £69 (plus VAT)

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RATING ★★★★★☆