

PRODUCT TEST



POCKET ROCKET

Tibby Singh Chodha gets a hole in one with the new Trend Mini Pocket Hole Jig.

I'm often told that I'm an old fashioned gentleman because I like my traditional woodworking joints, such as mortise and tenons, half laps and dovetails. So I was a bit sceptical that joints made using Trend's New Mini Pocket Hole Jig would have the same strength as the traditional approach, but it proved itself to be a bit of a mini marvel.

When it comes to woodworking joints, it doesn't get much simpler than with this jig. It is literally as simple as clamp it, drill it, screw it. It allows you to screw two pieces of wood together end to end. These butt joints can be done in the same way on hardwood, softwood and plywood too. Butt joints usually require complicated joinery to help hold the joint together but that's where this tool comes into its own. With this jig the screws are not sunk straight into the workpiece. Instead, they enter the piece at a slight angle of 15° and then go into the other work piece, holding the two together.

There are so many benefits of using the jig. Firstly it does not require you to take any measurements and complete any complex mathematical calculations, like you

would with mortise and tenon joints. Traditional joints like these would require several pieces of equipment, like a jointer, table saw, router, router table and even a drill press, just to name a few, and the cost of these tools soon adds up. Not only does using this device reduce the number of required tools, it also keeps the cost down. With this jig, to quickly create a strong joint, all you need is a drill and

some self-tapping screws. The screw acts as an internal clamp holding the joint together, so you don't need any glue either, although I would recommend this as a belt and braces approach.

Once the pocket hole is drilled out, the Trend Dome head self-tapping screws are used. These are great as they prevent splitting when screwing timber members together. This is not the end of the jig's usefulness however, because they have created a special pocket hole plug cutter that allows you to plug the pocket holes to create a flush finish.

Trend setter

The previous Trend Pocket Hole jig works in the exact same way as the new one but it is a lot bigger, as it includes a base plate that allows you to screw to the bench, and a clamp to hold the timber members whilst drilling pocket holes. What I really admire about this new jig is that not only can it be used for making new joints but it's also handy for quick repairs. For example, it was useful when I had to fix a leg of a chair. Instead of disassembling the joint, I just drilled an additional pocket hole and, when I screwed it up, it pulled





the two pieces together. It might sound too good to be true but it is literally as simple as that. Although the old jig is great, I would have been struggling to do this in situ and would have needed to take the chair apart. As the new Mini Pocket Hole Jig is small enough to fit in your pocket, it makes it so versatile and suitable for many difficult situations. So, big things really do come in small packages.

I'm not too sure how Trend do it but they seem to pull it off with every product they bring out and their New Mini Pocket Hole Jig is no exception. It is certainly one to spend your pocket money on, and pocket money is all it is.

This Jig can be used for a number of applications and is suitable for:

- Angles
- Curves
- Bevelled corners
- Edge banding
- Aprons
- Edge Joining
- Cabinet frames
- Leg rails
- Picture frames



You can keep in touch with all of what Tirbhavan "TIBBY" Singh Chodha – the BBC's Carpenter of the Year – is doing via his Facebook page at [facebook.com/tibby.singh](https://www.facebook.com/tibby.singh)

For further information on the Trend Mini Pocket Hole Jig use the reader enquiry number 206