

Refined Charmar



A beast of a jig has been redesigned to win a place in the hearts of those who spend much time scribing

Back in *GW200* when I first tested the Charmar it was certainly not the most portable of jigs though it did the job very well. Move on six years and it has had a makeover and a renaming that should see the ScribeMaster Pro becoming a must-have piece of kit for anyone who does a lot of scribing for skirting, dado, picture rail and plinth work.

The most noticeable change is the elimination of interchangeable guide pins to match router cutters. The ScribeMaster now

has a fixed pin and a router cutter that matches it. Only 4mm diameter, it follows tighter into internal quirks for the best fit possible.

The thin profile of the bit could be a cause for concern, but the cutter used – one is included as a special offer in the kit in the initial batches – is ported over from the window industry where they are used to chain out drainage holes in aluminium and uPVC frames.

The spiral flute cutter is an HSSE composition, a High Speed Steel with the addition of cobalt to give it not only additional wear resistance but also flexibility – undoubtedly important with such a thin cutter,

especially as it has a full 45mm of cutting edge, the bottom of the cutter being used for softwood and easily cut materials, and the area nearest the shank reserved for harder, denser material. I found it cut cleanly and quickly without problems.

How it works

A short piece of the material to be scribed is fitted to the sliding back stop. The angle can be set to suit an out-of-plumb wall by using a sliding bevel, or if you are happy with the fit to the wall, a standard square.

The small aluminium angle brackets are snugged up to the top and bottom of the material and the pin comb pushed up tightly to the face of the workpiece.

A small scraper is supplied to push in the pins firmly to the piece. It's then a matter of flipping the comb over to set the negative profile ready



▲ The 4mm guide pin ensures tight scribes



▲ The backstop is set for square or with a bevel to accommodate out-of-plumb work



▲ Two aluminium tabs fit to the edges of the sample piece