

Cracking door hinge

Andy's all for making life easier so how does this door hanging jig rate?



I've hung more than my fair share of doors over the years, and pride myself on how fast I can swing them using conventional hand tools, but, on new build work especially, having a jig is certainly worth considering.

No surprise then that Trend, king of all things jigs and routing has developed a new jig for the job that is a progression of its previous versions.

It's a two-part assembly, which is certainly a benefit as carting or storing a jig that will hinge doors up to 7ft high is not an ideal scenario. It comes complete with its own carrycase that holds the jig and its associated accessories. It can be slung over your shoulder to keep your hands free to carry the other essential tools.

The jig can be adjusted to suit existing positions on a lining or frame and then replicated on the door.

I did find you have to be fitting the correct hinges to suit the work as part of my testing involved replacing an internal door that had been hung on 100mm butts rather than the conventional 75mm, meaning that the jig wouldn't sit to the correct backset as the stop is too far forward.

This isn't a problem in reality as the recesses have been previously chopped so are only needed to set up the correct hinge positions.

Setting up jig

Setup for a new door and opening is very easy, and on new work there are traditional index marks for 6in from the top, 9in from the bottom hinge positions, along with a central setting for a middle hinge. Alongside that is a further position that sites the third hinge higher up the door, closer to the top hinge. This is for fire door work where the additional weight is better supported.



▲ The jig is secured to the door or frame with the supplied bradawls



▲ On an existing frame each hinge position is set by sliding the blocks to the correct position



▲ The small lip on the right of the opening sits to the hinge recess



▲ The top hinge block is positioned in the same way



▲ On new work the hinge is used as a gauge and set between the small lips



▲ These discs have three positions for conventional leaf widths or can be set to suit



▲ Use the leaf as a gauge to set the router to remove the correct thickness



▲ The tab on the jig is hooked over the door to set the correct position before routing

The jig works with a supplied guide bush but you need your own 12mm-diameter cutter that is specific to the jig to ensure the correct offsets for a tight-fitting hinge recess. At the price the jig sells for I would expect a cutter to be supplied, but you can pick one up for around £20 – still an oversight to my mind though.

Setup is very simple and tool free, with large knurled knobs locking the sliding blocks that determine the hinge length parameters, the hinge leaf itself being used to set the size.

There are small notches within the blocks to set the hinge correctly. This determines the offset between cutter and guide bush so as to remove the correct amount of waste.

Likewise there's an offset stop that complies with three standard leaf widths but you can set it to suit another size if it doesn't fall within these.

Once the hinge positions are determined the rotating tab on the top of the jig is used to hook over the top of the door and the jig is held

in place on the door edge with the supplied bradawls.

The leaf depth is set using the leaf as a gauge with the depth-setting post on the router, then away you go.

In use

With such shallow recesses to cut the work is achieved in double-quick time, certainly speedier than using a hammer and chisel, and on pressed-face hardboard panel doors and the inevitable knotty whitewood cores they use, a router makes a very clean, perfect finish.

Although initial setup of the jig may not prove to be worth the effort for a one off, in actual fact it can be set very quickly indeed and therefore is certainly viable even for singles.

Of course, for a run of doors it's a very quick system, even with the need to remove the radius corners that the jig leaves. Trend makes a corner chisel for this, but a sharp chisel does the job.

While some jigs don't allow you to re-site the jig onto the door frame or lining if it has stops or rebates in place, this one does, and that alone swings it for me.

The jig will work with stops as thick as 25mm so fire door work can be accommodated, and it's just a matter of using the opposite side of the jig to position it, with the swivel tab now sitting to the underside of the frame or lining to set the clearance gap for the head and routing away as before.

Conclusion

The fast setup and the fact that it can be quickly set up to work with pre-existing positions complete with stops fitted is where it may appeal to a lot of chippies, but new work rapid setup are likely to be where it earns its corn in the bigger scheme of things. This is a cracking jig that would gain top marks but for the omission of no cutter marring an otherwise 'straight out of the box' experience.



▲ The jig leaves rounded corners, easily removed with a sharp chisel



▲ The resulting fit is perfectly flush and crisp

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Fast set up; tool-free setting; works with existing openings
- No cutter supplied

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £220.00

Hinge lengths: 67-127mm

Hinge widths: 12.7-35mm

Door thickness: 16-51mm

Door heights: 1956-2100mm

Web: www.trend-uk.com