

Worktop wonder

Having a jig that can be used to cut most worktops sounds like a big bonus

The Trend KWJ700 jig comes in at a decent price and covers worktop widths of 250, 300, 400, 500, 550, 600, 616, 650 and 700mm wide, cutting the traditional male/female 90° mason's mitre joint into postformed worktops.

Alongside these settings are the apertures for routing the connector or 'dog bone' bolts, but the fun doesn't stop there.

Working around the jig you have a variety of positions to cover a 45° mitred corner joint, corner radii of 40 and 100mm as well as a 400mm peninsular radius for breakfast bar-type jobs. There's even a hole for routing the aperture for Euro-style kitchen hinges or for mixer taps.

Setup

For each function indexing pins set the jig in the correct position. It is then clamped in place for the routing operation.

The jig is etched with the correct positions



▲ The jig is positioned by pushing in the pins in the correct holes to suit the cut

for the width of top as well as the other settings including one that allows you to zip a worktop off square so it's easy to get to grips with.

And it comes with an excellent manual if you need a brush-up on a cut that you don't make too often.

Additional diagrams etched on the jig ensure you get it clamped to the correct surface as it needs one part cut from the face side, the other from the underside to ensure the cutter engages the workpiece without chipping the joint face.

Clean, tight joints are easily made with a 30mm guide bush and 1/2in cutter. The jig is big

enough to give good clamping room without restricting the path of the router, something I've found can be problematic on cheap jigs.

Trend claims the jig allows you to set up and cut a joint in 15 minutes, and I agree with that – and the results were first class.

Conclusion

At just over £100, it's a jig built to last and unless you work beyond the standard worktop widths found in most homes kitchens, bathrooms or bedrooms this jig is very easy to get to grips with, has loads of scope in what it does and therefore represents cracking value for money.



▲ Push the jig so the pins sit tight against the work and then clamp it well



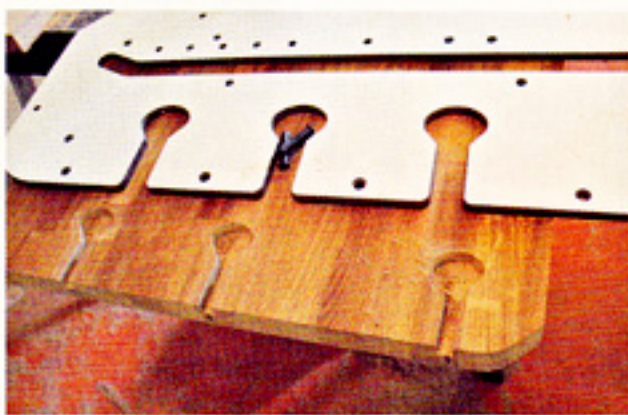
▲ Take a number of passes to ensure a clean cut and make the mating cut on the opposing piece



▲ Once bolted up the joint is spot on – as tight as a drum



▲ Use the pins to set the jig for the connector bolts



▲ You may have to alter the positions to suit the layout of the cupboard rails

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Multiple applications for jointing and profiling
– None; it's accurate and easy to use

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £106.80

Length: 985mm

Width: 390mm

Thickness: 12mm

Weight: 5.4kg

Web: www.trendmachinery.co.uk