

Trend pocket hole jig

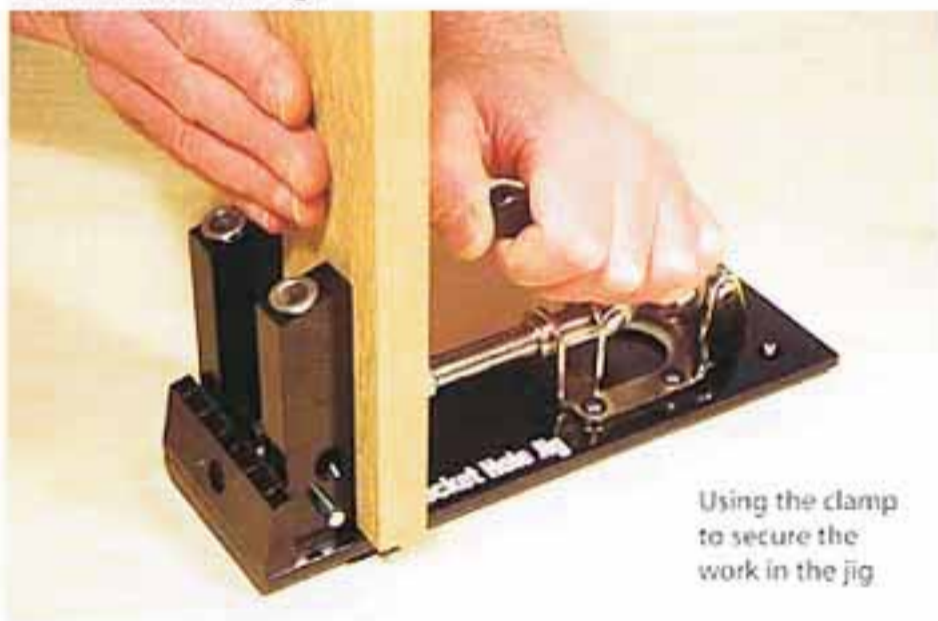
There are certain instances, where it just isn't practical to take the time and trouble to produce regular elaborate traditional joints for a project.

Often other jointing means, such as with dowels and biscuits, can come to our aid. However, if time is really short, these options are impractical, as they require time for the glue to set.

Regular screw fixing methods also may not be a satisfactory option for certain practicality or cosmetic reasons. This is where the method of pocket hole screw fixing is a good jointing solution. It is a particularly quick and convenient method, especially when undertaken with the new Trend Pocket Hole Jig.



The kit comprises of an impressive range of accessories.



Using the clamp to secure the work in the jig

when set correctly, helps ensure it doesn't inadvertently bore into the base of the jig. In fact, Trend seems to have thought of everything and even provide three screws for fixing the jig to a wooden board or workbench.

The jig is lightweight and readily portable. So much so in fact, that it can actually be clamped to large work (note that the toggle clamp may need to be removed – a straightforward task). This feature will prove to be a real boon when jointing large and/or heavy carcass assemblies.

It may come as a surprise just how many different type of joints may be formed. The excellent user manual illustrates, and provides a few good tips how to, produce a comprehensive range. And there are one or two that don't instantly spring to mind with pocket screw fixing, such as angled butt joints and drawer carcass construction.

In use, the jig performed superbly and we successfully

formed many types of joints. Providing that you prepare your wooden work pieces correctly (unfortunately no short cuts here!), no troubles will be experienced. What is really impressive is the speed in which a joint can be made and how strong it is. No clamping or waiting for glue to set, as with biscuits and dowels, just quick to form joints that can be instantly handled.

The jig can be used on wood from 16mm to 38mm thick, but note that thicker work than this can be joined to thinner wood providing the pocket holes are bored into the latter, as when, for example, jointing rails to a thick table leg.

Some jigs are a real hassle to operate or rather complicated and necessitate the mental digestion of an instruction manual the size of a phone book.

Fortunately, the Trend Pocket Hole jig suffers from neither of these faults and so is straightforward to operate very effectively.

The concept of its operation is very straightforward. A piece of wood is secured in the jig, two pocket holes are bored with a special stepped drill, the wood is removed from the jig and then joined to its mate by 30mm long self-tapping screws. Glue may be applied to the joint prior to assembly to produce a very strong bond. This description may be a rather over simplification, but this jig pleasingly proved to be very straightforward to operate indeed.

Trend provides an impressive array of accessories for the basic jig and all of these appear to be of superb build quality.

The jig itself comprises of two adjustable columns with hardened drill guide bushes and a toggle clamp that has

two fitting positions and an adjustable clamping pad.

These last two features enable the correct clamping tension to be set for a variety of timber thickness. Two pretty decent drill/driver bits are provided for the square drive self tapping screws, as well as all the hex key wrenches required and a good face clamp that proved to be very useful when assembling certain flat frame joints.

A depth stop collar is supplied for the stepped drill and,

Verdict	Well-built and straightforward to use successfully
Price	£58.69 for the jig. £8.17 for a pack of 500 No.7 x 30mm self tapping screws
Contact	Trend: 0800 4 87363