

TOOLS



Head shapes — raised, round and countersunk

Screw head shapes

Countersunk — probably the most common head shape. The screw holes need to be countersunk to leave the head of the screw lying flush with the surface.

Round head — the bottom shoulder of the head lies flush with the surface making the design more suited to securing fittings and black japanned hinges and handles.

Raised head — familiar on aluminium fittings where the head is countersunk but still slightly raised.

Special heads — some head designs are adapted for use with spanners or Allen keys. These are often used to construct 'knock down' furniture, especially beds.

HISTORY

Early wood screws were made by hand. After 1850 however, mass produced screws appeared which are easily identified by their finely machined tips.

Screw threads

A traditional wood screw has a single thread and so requires a pilot hole to prevent splitting. Many modern wood screws rely on a double helix or twin thread giving an aggressive bite.

These are especially suitable for softer timbers and for securing sheet materials. Some double helix threads have extra sharp or deep threads and maybe specially lubricated for ease of insertion.

Screw threads — double helix and single thread



Routing a convex corner using a guided cutter

Amongst the new items to be featured in Trend's latest routing catalogue are a number of templates in tough, clear PETG plastic. One of these is for use when forming rounded corners as well as holes and circular recesses. This template measures 290mm x 290mm and is 8mm thick.

Rounding the corners

Two of the corners of the template are convex and rounded with radii of



Using one of the hole templates

Trend corner/hole template

100mm and 50mm, the other two have concave curves of the same radii. In the centre are four holes of 25mm, 50mm, 75mm and 100mm. When cramped to the workpiece, curved corners, holes and recesses can thus be formed. Sizes are not restricted to the radii stated when you consider using a combination of cutters of different diameters, along with guidebushes or bearing-guided cutters.

When a bearing-guided cutter is used for radiusing a corner, the template is cramped to the workpiece so that the edges of the template are flush with those of the wood. Any diameter cutter can be used, but smaller ones are to be preferred. However, if a guidebush and plain cutter are employed, the template must be set in from the edges of the wood by an appropriate amount.

Four holes in one

When a bearing-guided cutter is used to form a hole, the diameter of the hole formed will be equal to whichever of the four are used in the template. Again, a combination of different diameter guidebushes and cutters will produce smaller holes. For recesses, then a guidebush and plain cutter must be used.

I found this template worked well and with the minimum of familiarisation.



A concave corner, formed using a trimming cutter

However, a little care is needed to ensure that the height settings are correct, or there is a danger that the cutter can also cut the template.

Tested by Gordon Warr

VERDICT

This template makes easy work of what otherwise has to be completed by more time consuming and roundabout ways. It may seem expensive for a single piece of plastic, but outlay can be set against time saved for what is a versatile item of equipment.

Price: £29.95 plus VAT

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