



Trend honing guide

Trend's new honing guide has a usefully wide roller. **Michael Huntley** puts it to the test

Trend have entered the sharpening jig arena with a roller-guided jig. It is similar to the Eclipse model that we all remember and which probably wore a groove down the middle of any stone we used it on. Trend have improved vastly on that guide by making the roller wider. If you spread the load it doesn't wear so fast; it's a simple but appropriate concept.

There is a slight amount of play in the roller bearings so that needs to be taken account of when using the jig. Make sure the downward pressure

is central and look at the ground edge regularly.

Setting angles

The body is alloy and will accommodate chisels from 1/4in to 2in wide. Clamping is achieved by means of side bars.

With any guide of this type the angle is set by the amount of projection. Trend have made measuring the projection easy because they have included a plate marked with locating recesses and the angles which each projection will give. The roller sits in



It's a simple kit, but of course you're really not paying very much at all for the privilege of using this tool. The time you'll find yourself saving more than makes up for the expense

AT A GLANCE

- Simple and positive to use
- More complex guides give a wider range of use

THE NUMBERS

- 25 degree, 30 degree and 40 degree angles
- Use with 63mm (2 1/2 inch) wide x 178mm (7 inch) long bench stones

WHERE TO BUY

- The Trend Honing Guide is now available from all Trend stockists

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
 PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★



Smooth and efficient to use, the honing guide is an idea I wish I'd thought of!

its own recess and it is easy to offer the blade up and clamp with the correct projection. It is also easy to choose intermediate angles as well. A simple scratched mark would give you, for example, 23°.

The verdict

This guide has few moving parts and therefore has less to go wrong. Clamping is easy and positive. However it is less versatile than the Veritas guide, but the Veritas can have registration to central axis problems.

If you don't possess a guide this is a good one to start with, but there is, for example, no ability to sharpen skew blades or to crown a blade. For those who already have Veritas guides, the only advantage of this one is the positive sideways clamping. You could get that by using the large Richard Kell guide, which has a more engineering approach, but which is more fiddly to use. ■