

Trend T5E_{v2} router



Anthony Bailey finds that evolution really does make sense with this new Trend router

When making a purchase of a serious piece of woodworking equipment, you may well think about the process and evolution of design that led up to the final product held in your hands. The Trend T5E router has gone through several such design revisions over time, and those of us who remember the old ELU machines will be able to spot the similarities quite easily. But is this the router that most of us would want in our own workshops?

Power

The first important point is the 1010W motor that has been put into the same size casing as before, resulting in a significant power boost to an already powerful machine. It's electronically controlled, giving an even speed under load as well as speed selection for different-size cutters or types of material.

This means a very powerful tool for doing even the lightest cuts, but also one capable of doing heavy-duty jobs such as vertical panel-raising work when using a cutter with an 8mm shank.

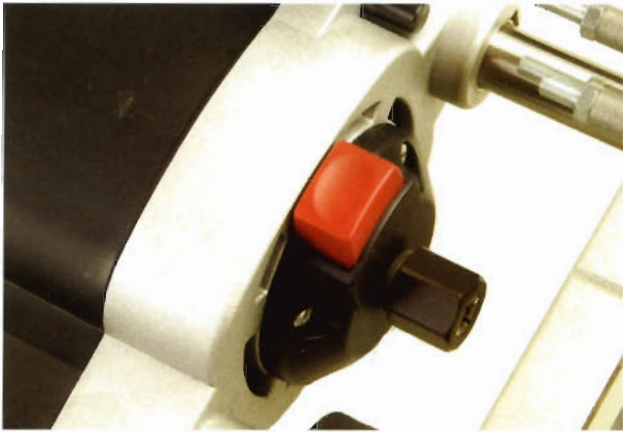
Compared with previous versions, the on/off switch is small and shaped to a shallow tip, which seemed to be a little awkward at first. However when I started using the T5E v2.0 on a job in the workshop it was natural enough, although a fingernail tip helps to operate it. The motor speed picks up more quickly than in older versions of the tool as well, so there isn't an unnatural delay when starting up.

Build quality

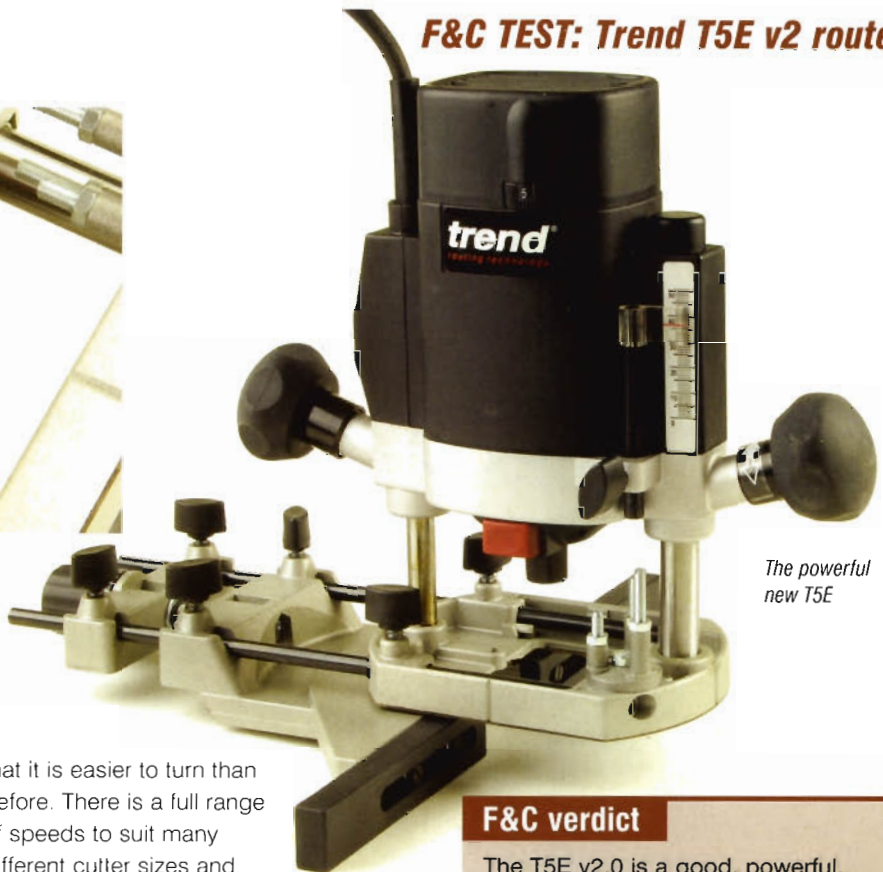
The spindle lock is a solid, sophisticated affair with a large red 'dished' push button to operate it. The accompanying spanner is made of pressed steel, though I usually find a 'proper' C-spanner in my toolbox a more pleasant substitute.

The two grip knobs are rubber coated, which is another improvement over the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY



Sophisticated spindle lock



The powerful new T5E

“The T5E is a good, powerful, workmanlike machine”

older models. This eliminates the long-standing but minor irritation of the 'ridge line' on the previous shiny knobs, caused by the mould where it is closed together during manufacture.

The fence assembly has a lot more flat casting, designed to try and contain dust under the machine rather than ejecting it out at the fence side. There is also a fine adjuster for precise settings.

Since the inception of the T5E the dust spout could only be clipped in from one side. Fortunately, with a casting alteration you can now choose to fit it from either side, eliminating one of my main irritations with previous models. The plastic clips firmly into position and can be easily released with a bit of pressure.

Another significant little feature change is the speed selector thumbwheel that now protrudes from the casing more, meaning

that it is easier to turn than before. There is a full range of speeds to suit many different cutter sizes and materials being worked.

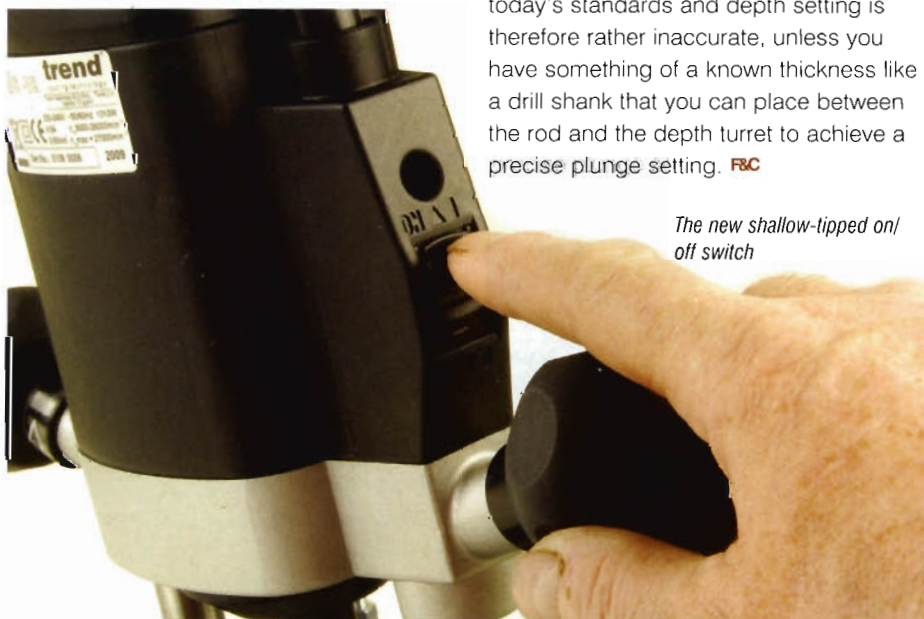
In use

The speed pick up is quicker than in earlier versions, some of which suffered noticeable delays until running speed was reached.

Noise levels are acceptable when in use, and general handling is also good.

The fence rods seemed a bit short, although they are in fact the same length as on the old T5E. I would prefer them to be longer as there are times when a greater degree of reach is useful, especially with two fences when morticing. The simple, easy to 'drop out and lose' depth rod seems basic by today's standards and depth setting is therefore rather inaccurate, unless you have something of a known thickness like a drill shank that you can place between the rod and the depth turret to achieve a precise plunge setting. **F&C**

The new shallow-tipped on/off switch



F&C verdict

The T5E v2.0 is a good, powerful, workmanlike machine that is suited to both home and trade use. I am of the opinion that we should all start out with a smaller 1/4in router, and this fits the bill nicely. It is very versatile despite being a little basic, but the huge range of Trend cutters and accessories more than make up for that. All the changes with this version of the tool are designed to improve the performance and handling of an already well-respected router.

Pros

Powerful and workmanlike

Cons

A little basic

The numbers

Model T5E V2.0

Supplied with spanner, guide bush, trammel point, straight fence, dust spout

Motor input 1,010W

No-load speed 9-27,000rpm

Standard collets 1/4in, 8mm

Max cutter size 40mm

Weight 3kg

Price £292.10 inc VAT (standard kit version)

From Trend Machinery & Cutting Tools Ltd

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Web www.trend-uk.com