

# Trend Craftsman router table

**Anthony Bailey has a good look at Trend's new router table**

**T**rend, being the font of all things routing, the arrival of a new router table has got to be interesting. This is the CRT/MK3 which is actually Trend's way of saying it is nothing like the previous two Craftsman router tables!

The basic table, minus all the fittings and accessories, is sized exactly as per the simpler Kreg table. It is low and extremely rigid once you go through the routine nuts, bolts and washers assembly exercise.

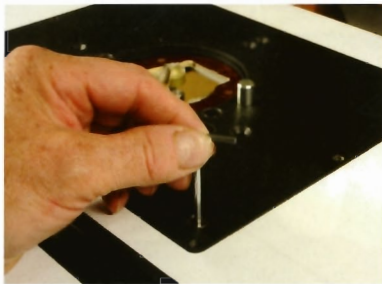
For me the key component on this table is the insert plate – this is black anodized aluminium, with machine screws to hold it down and grub screws to push it up, thus making levelling really accurate – though there is an unavoidable lack of a grub screw at the centre rear position, where large router bases need to fit directly underneath.

The tough plastic insert rings are no fight to fit or remove, and there are three threaded positions for the

supplied lead-in pin. There's also a hole for the T11 Quick Raiser height adjuster, and mounting holes for all Trend routers.

The mitre slot takes the supplied mitre protractor or a set of plastic pressure fingers.

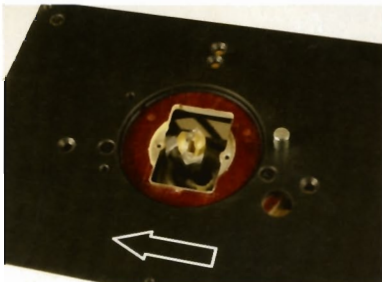
Underneath the table front, the rubber booted NVR switch is installed, and at the rear are 'devil horns' for stowing the router's cable. A set of brackets can be used to fix the table down to a suitable surface,



One Allen key is used to make the quite subtle adjustments when levelling the insert – you can re-level it at any time



A neat idea that gets rid of the problem of surplus flex hanging down



All the holes for Trend router mounting, the Quick Raiser and lead-in pin are precision machined into the insert plate



The clear plastic guard and the spring fingers co-locate on the same bolts, so a little juggling is required to set both



Once the lock knobs are undone, slide the fence backwards and off to the side, then you can lift the fence clear of the table for table routing with the lead-in pin only

although the adjustable rubber feet keep it from sliding around.

## Fence

The fence is second in importance to a good insert plate and this one, not unduly high, is formed from a rigid black anodized extrusion.

This has white-faced sliding fence cheeks, just like a spindle moulder, plus a set of top pressure spring fingers and a clear plastic top guard. At the rear, a 57mm dustspout

is rigidly installed when assembling the fence, and two tall knobs with coachbolts underneath locate into L-slots in the rear tabletop. The fence can be quickly fitted or removed as needed.

On top of the fence you can apply a stick-on scale, and there are two sliding rods which can be transferred to the rear of the outfeed fence to give offsets of 1.4mm or 2.4mm when edge planing, thus giving proper support as the wood comes off the cutter. *F&C*



## F&C verdict

*This is the best incarnation of a compact Trend router table so far. It is very rigid and the insert plate is a joy to set flush.*

*The mitre protractor is slightly sloppy in the track which is a shame if you want exactness.*

*The fence doesn't impress as much as the table because it simply isn't high enough for some operations that need extra support.*

*I would be very tempted to drill and fit high facings to the existing ones, which would then allow me to clamp a breakthrough fence in place. However, elsewhere there is great attention to the detail.*

*The low working height doesn't bother me – it's easy to cart around or you can make a low storage unit for it to sit on.*

*The T11 is an easy machine to height set in the table due to the Quick Raiser height adjuster, but the equally useful T5 router suffers from an archaic fine height adjuster designed for dovetail jigs that only works under the table, but not through the top and, even then, only over a quite limited height range.*

*The table itself performs well and is nice to use but rapid, precise height adjustment for any router is a must when inverted in a table, so the T11 would be the best router to use here.*

*If you are looking for a ready-made, good quality and compact router table, this one certainly fits the bill.*

## Pros

- Ready-made
- Easy to use
- Accepts large and small routers

## Cons

- Requires stand to get to working height
- Trend-only routers

## The numbers

- Table size 610 x 405 x 26mm
- Bench height 400mm
- Router cutter aperture 98mm
- Fence height 68mm
- Dust spout 57mm
- Weight 12.8kg
- Voltage For 240 volt only
- Accessories Mitre protractor, spring fingers, clear guard, lead-in pin, push stick

## Contact

- From Trend
- Tel 01923 249911
- Website [www.trend-uk.com](http://www.trend-uk.com)

Price £238.80 inc VAT