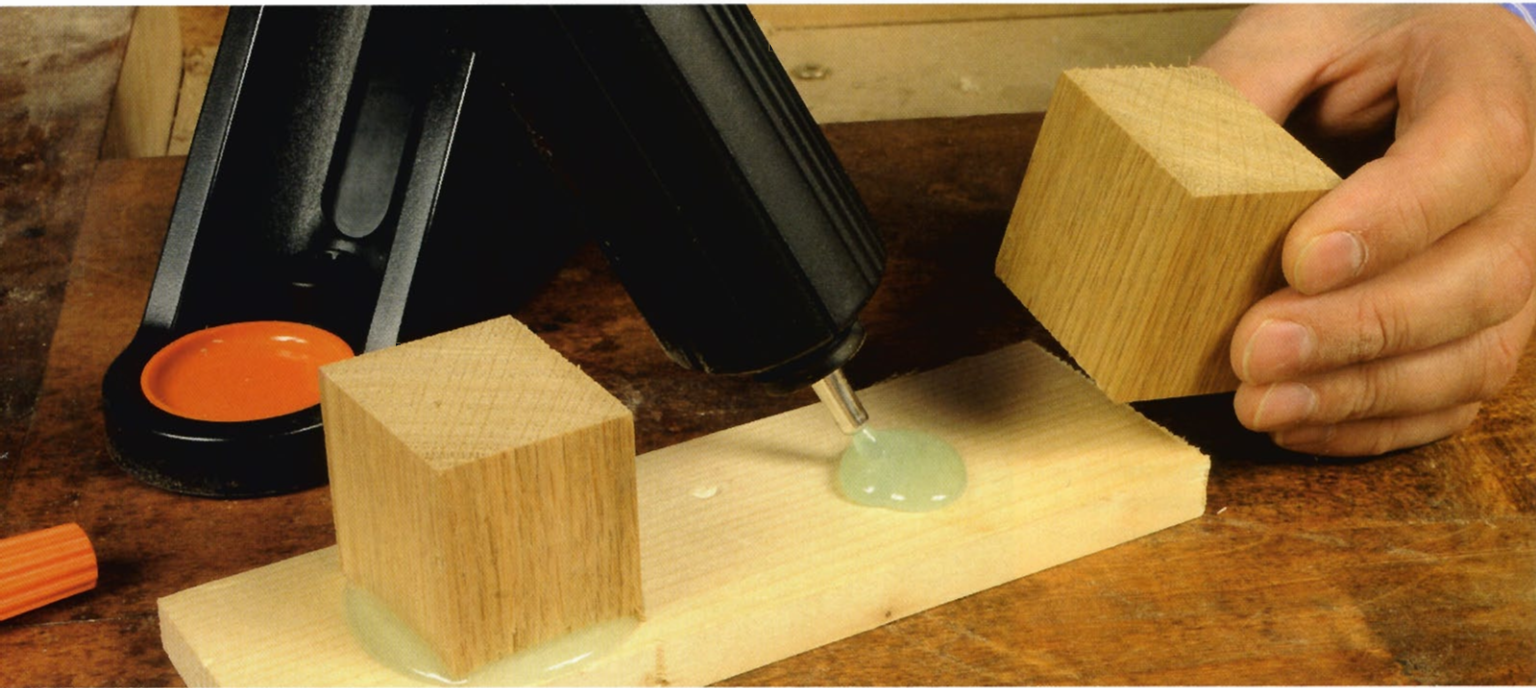


Trend T60 hot glue gun

Derek Jones devises some sticky tests for this innovative gun and glue combo



Trend has developed a hot-melt glue gun that uses a polyurethane adhesive capable of permanently bonding virtually any material. The cordless system allows you to access areas for around 20 minutes at a time that were previously out of reach for this type of adhesive.

The glue itself is contained in a separate metal cartridge that ensures replacement is clean and easy. Each cartridge can be reheated until completely used up and, being polyurethane, it is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

The gun is ready to go from cold in around 12 minutes. The trigger dispense rate is controllable and does not leak out from the nozzle tip after you have taken your finger off the trigger. Having said that, however, it is not a precision instrument. I found it difficult to achieve a thin bead of glue, managing a consistent 4mm thick x 2mm-high line, but no less. The smallest blob was about 4mm diameter.

Testing

The first test I carried out was with two blocks stuck straight onto a piece of timber. The end-grain block stuck just as well as the piece positioned long grain; in fact I couldn't pull either of them apart by hand.

A simple compression test using melamine-faced timber, chosen because



Trend cordless glue gun

they would not stick together, resulted in a glue layer of about 0.5mm before it cooled and set. A second test on identical blocks with the melamine finish removed was also impossible to separate by hand and could only be parted using a hammer and chisel.

I carried out tests on a series of common joints: biscuit, dowel and rub. The first two were successful but you need to move fast to get clamps on before it sets. Open time is less than a minute so the rub joint was not a success. Out of them all, the dowel joint was the best.

Trend claims that the adhesive cleans off timber without a trace and I would certainly agree, but because of its strength it did have a tendency to lift the grain in strips.

Unlike other polyurethanes this does not expand or fizz. **F&C**

The footprint may be small but the GV386 does a powerful job

F&C verdict

It is a clean product to use and I can see it has 101 uses around the workshop but gluing up furniture isn't one of them.

Pros

- Glue strength
- Controllable dispense rate
- Problem-free cartridge changes

Cons

- Lacks precision
- Too short an open time

The numbers

The T60 GV386 comes complete with a 50g polyurethane adhesive cartridge and a charging station.

Price: From £90.85 inc VAT; replacement adhesive cartridge (T60/PUR/1) from £13.80 inc VAT

From: All Trend Routing Centres and stockists

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