

On Test

Trend Lock Jig

Ron Fox tests this new jig from Trend designed to unlock the potential of the router for the quick fitting of door locks



This new jig from Trend is designed to make short work of fitting door locks. By means of a set of interchangeable templates and with a router fitted with a 30mm guide bush it enables the mortise and face plate recess for most popular makes of lock to be cut quickly, easily and accurately. Photo 1 shows the components of the jig.

Jig components

The main body of the jig is a substantial steel pressing which clamps to the edge of

the door and is adjustable to centre it for different thickness doors. Two powerful magnets on the body hold the templates for mortise and face plate. Sixteen different templates are provided: four for different sizes of mortise and twelve for different face plates. A look-up chart specifies the appropriate templates to use for 46 different model locks.

The jig is used with a router fitted with a 30mm guide bush. A $\frac{1}{2}$ in router is preferred because it can be used with a special $\frac{1}{2}$ in shank long reach cutter to cut deep mortises.

With a medium-duty router, full depth mortises are not possible and a suitable drill will be required to deepen the router cut. However, the bulk of the work, including cutting the face plate recess, will be accomplished with the router.

Many $\frac{1}{2}$ in routers come with a 30mm guide bush as standard. Examples include the Bosch 1700 ACE, DeWalt DW625E, Draper RV 1900, Freud FT2000E, HolzHer 2365 and Trend T9. Several other models, including the Hitachi M12 V, include a 30mm bush among their optional accessories. For $\frac{1}{2}$ in routers the standard Trend 30mm bush is available for the Trend T5 and the many routers that have Elu/Trend compatible bases. Most other routers can be converted to 30mm guide bush operation by fitting the Trend Unibase and 30mm guide bush.

A neat touch is that if you plan to use the lock jig in conjunction with the Trend Hinge Jig, which uses a 16mm guide

bush, a guide bush collar which converts the 16mm bush to a 30mm bush is included with the lock jig so you are spared the effort of changing bushes between hinge and lock routing.

Photo 1 includes the Trend T5 router fitted with a 16mm guide bush to which the 30mm conversion collar is fitted.

Using the jig

We tested the jig by fitting a bathroom door lock. Rather than buy a door we fitted the lock to a length of 50 x 150 softwood, held in the Triton Superjaws.

To use the jig, the first step is to mark the position of the lock on the door. The jig is then centred on the edge of the door and clamped, and the appropriate mortise template placed in the jig.

The mortise is plunge-routed by 'drilling' a series of holes, removing the waste with an extractor, then running round the edge of the template in a



The workpiece with the jig fitted, ready to start work

Further information

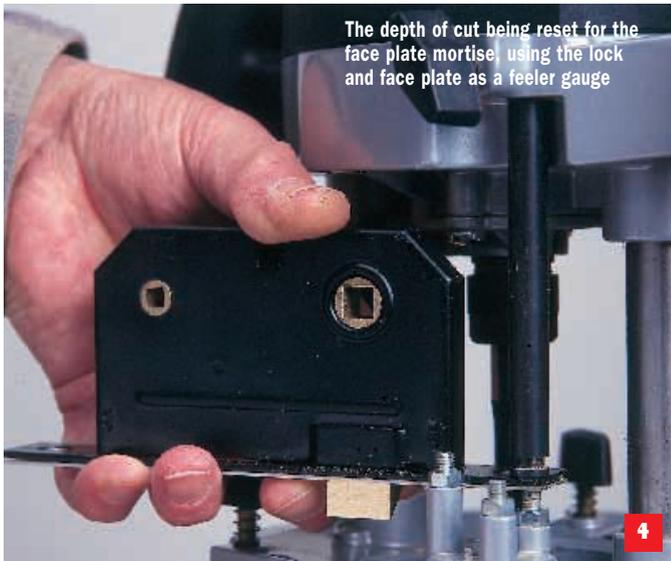
Prices

List price of the lock jig is £81.08 inc. VAT, but you can find it advertised at the ex-VAT price of £69. The TR37 x $\frac{1}{2}$ TC cutter is £25.85 and the TR12 x $\frac{1}{2}$ TC is £18.80, both prices inc. VAT. The Corner Chisel is £10.52 inc. VAT.

Trend 0800 487363



The mortise being cut with a 'drilling' action



The depth of cut being reset for the face plate mortise, using the lock and face plate as a feeler gauge

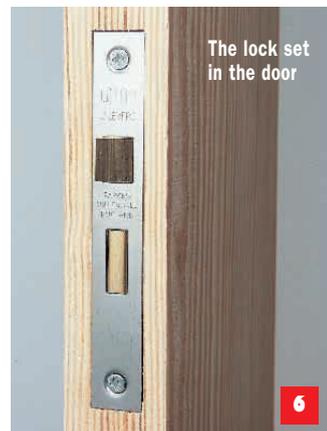
clockwise direction with a series of shallow passes. The work is carried out in a series of 25mm steps. This process is continued until the full depth of mortise is reached. With a 1/2in router the mortise is routed as deep as the cutter will allow then finished with a drill and chisel. Photo 3 shows the mortise being cut with a 1/2in router. Having cut the mortise, the template is changed for the

appropriate face plate template and the depth of cut set by placing the lock fixing plate together with the face plate on the turret screw and lowering the stop bar on to it.

The faceplate recess is then routed in one pass made in a clockwise direction around the template. The corners of the recess will have to be squared with a chisel before fitting the



A completed mortise and face plate cut. The corners were squared with the corner chisel



The lock set in the door



A 13mm auger bit in a drill deepening the mortise cut with a 1/2in router with a shorter cutter



The Trend special cutters for use with the lock jig

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The verdict...

This jig makes short work of a job that can take a long time by conventional means. It is aimed primarily at the building professional and tradesman as a means of increasing productivity, but it will also appeal to the ambitious DIYer with a number of doors to fit. The jig does exactly what it claims to do, is straightforward to use and, being built like a tank, is not likely to wear out or break. One thing I am certain of is that having used this jig I would not willingly revert to the old drill and chisel method of fitting door locks. The final flourish is produced by using the Corner Chisel to square the corners of the face-plate recess. Now if only Trend can come up with an equally simple way of cutting the striking plate recess.

lock but an alternative is to add the Trend Corner Chisel to the Lock Mitre. This makes short work of the corners with one tap of a hammer and can also be used for hinge recesses. Photo 6 shows the lock set in the door. This was my first attempt with the jig and took less than ten minutes.

If a 1/4in router were used with its shorter cutter, the mortise cut with the router would have to be deepened with a suitable drill and chisel. Photo 7 shows a 13mm auger bit in a drill deepening the mortise.

Finally, the job is finished by drilling holes for the keyhole and spindle and cutting the appropriate recess for the striking plate on the door jamb. The lock jig cannot help with these operations but I think I could devise a simple jig for the striking plate recess. All these operations are clearly described in the excellent instruction manual which accompanies the jig.

Cutters

Lock mortises are very deep by router standards and Trend provide three special cutters; two on half-inch shanks and one on a quarter-inch shank.

The standard 1/2in cutter, the TR37 x 1/2TC is a deep cutting 12mm diameter cutter with an overall length of 115mm and cutting length of 63mm. For certain routers such as the Ryobi RE601, Makita 3612C and Skil 1875U1 a shorter alternative cutter, the TR37M x 1/2TC, is provided.

The recommended 1/4in cutter is the TR12 x 1/4TC, which is 12mm diameter with an overall length of 70mm and a cut length of 19mm. This is also the recommended cutter for use with the Trend hinge jig.

All these cutters have long shanks, which are marked to indicate how far into the collet they should be inserted and centre carbide inserts to facilitate the drilling cuts.