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In the frame

Stuart Lawson Editor of *F&C's* sister magazine *The Router* runs his expert eye over the Varijig Frame System from Trend

Whilst internal cut-outs, rebates, panel moulds or the templates for all three can be easily set up using battens and double-sided tape, there is nothing like having a dedicated system to simplify the process.

Although it still requires squaring and clamping, Trend's Varijig Frame System works extremely well, due, in no small part, to the use of a guidebush as the frame following device.

This system, of course, means that rebates and multi-profile panel moulds are possible, providing you have a range of guidebushes available.

The high quality anodised aluminium extrusion and the simple plastic stabilising foot provides a super-smooth running base which certainly reduces the risk of mishaps.

I had some success with making some one-piece MDF picture frames, although I only

used the Frame System for the internal rebate and cut-out. The external cuts were still made with a saw and then routed flush with a planted-on template.

However, the process was made much easier and quicker by the use of the Frame System.

VARIJIG STRAIGHT GUIDE

The Varijig Straight Guide is a super-long straightedge made from the same extrusion as the Frame System. It can either be used as single length guides or an easy-to-make, two-part assembly which goes together very straight indeed. However, despite its rigidity, too much sideways pressure on the full-length guide will take a router or saw off course slightly. I would be tempted to drill a small hole near the halfway point of the extrusion in order to add a bracing pin – workpiece permitting. The clamps are very pleasing brass and aluminium

assemblies that slide into the underside of the extrusion.

THE VERDICT

The Varijig Straight Guide is well engineered, long and undoubtedly useful, although ultimately an 8ft length of 18mm MDF and some quick clamps will do virtually the same job for nothing more than a few quid. I will happily use the Guide on loan, but I'm not sure if I'd buy it. **F&C**

The numbers

Product Code: VARIJIG

Maximum working area: 600 x 600mm

RRP: £55 plus VAT

Optional Extras

Clamp kit: £17 plus VAT a pair

(Clamps identical to those on the Straight Guide)

30mm Guidebush: £6 plus VAT (with extra long spigot)

Product Code: VJS/G/100

Max working length: 2540mm

RRP: £42.50 plus VAT

Contact: Trend on 0800 487363

or visit: www.trendmachinery.co.uk

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