

TREND ADJUSTABLE BENCH-TOP MITRE SAW ROLLER STAND

As **Phil Davy** finds, this ball-bearing roller from **Trend** allows work to be easily pulled onto the bed of the machine

Unless your mitre saw is permanently installed on a purpose-built stand in the workshop, it's likely that you either use it on a bench top or even on the floor if working on site. When cutting long lengths of timber, boards often need to be supported at the farthest end from the blade. Whether it's a piece of skirting or more substantial CLS timber, unless the free end sits at the same height as the saw table you could end up with inaccurate cuts. Not to mention the safety issue, when a lengthy board drops after cutting.

I often use a mitre saw outdoors and have to revert to finding offcuts to raise the material sufficiently, which is tedious. Of course, it would make sense to make a simple fixed support at the correct height, but that's another of those jobs on the to-do list.

Scissor stand

This new roller stand from Trend solves the problem and with a bit of ingenuity could be



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used with other machines, too. Made from 2mm thick steel, it's really sturdy and weighs 1.9kg. With an overall size of 350 x 125mm, it consists of a baseplate with screw holes should you want to fix it permanently in position. Pads underneath stop the stand from moving about on a smooth surface.

The polished steel roller is 250mm long, springs at either end of the shaft enabling it to move lengthways as well as rotate. Ball-bearings ensure this revolves freely, making it easy to slide heavier timbers into position at the saw.

Working on a similar principle to a car scissor jack, you rotate a plastic knob at one end to raise or lower the screw mechanism. Although a slowish process, once you've set the height you probably won't need to readjust, unless swapping from one machine to another. Height to the top of the roller is between 50mm and 160mm from the floor, so a wide enough range to suit any mitre saw. The steel pin joints are robust, operate smoothly and shouldn't need lubrication, though



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Conclusion

At a pinch you could build a stand so that Trend's clever device could be used as an outfeed roller for a surface planer or perhaps a small table saw. It does take a while to adjust from zero to maximum height, but this is a heavy-duty tool and will actually support up to 62kg. For regular use with long lengths, it may be worth investing in a pair, one each side of the saw. For site work, it's compact enough to keep in the van, too. ✖

SPECIFICATION

Maximum weight capacity: 62kg

Maximum height: 160mm

Minimum height: 50mm

Roller diameter: 25mm

Roller length: 250mm

Typical price: £65.94

Web: www.trend-uk.com

THE VERDICT

PROS

- Heavy-duty; easy to use

CONS

- Slow to set maximum height

RATING: 4.5 out of 5



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