

Trend T5 v2



£230

Based on the iconic Elu MOF 96, the T5v2 embodies everything you need in a router, in a simple, uncomplicated form, albeit at a significant cost. I tested the standard version that's fitted with a sliding on/off switch, although this switch is a bit insignificant in size compared to the other two models. There is also an identical T5v2 version with the 'dead man' type of switch.

Standard features

The kit includes a very good side fence, 1/4in and 8mm collets, a 20mm guide bush, a trammel point, a fine height adjuster and a carrying case.

The depth stop is the ubiquitous rod operating on the three-position turret, as with the other two tools. The soft-grip handles are a major improvement on the old plastic ones, and I favour the idea of the right-hand side handle operating as the plunge lock; this is so intuitive.

The base has sightlines engraved on the sides and back, and as you would expect it has the standard TBC configuration, which means that the huge range of Trend accessories and jigs can be fitted easily.

If depth of cut adjustment is critical, as with some jigs like the dovetailer, the T5 kit includes a fine height adjuster fitting onto the long screw of the depth turret.

The spindle lock makes it easy to change cutters using a 17 mm spanner, though I must add that it is not quite as positive as either of the two cheaper models.

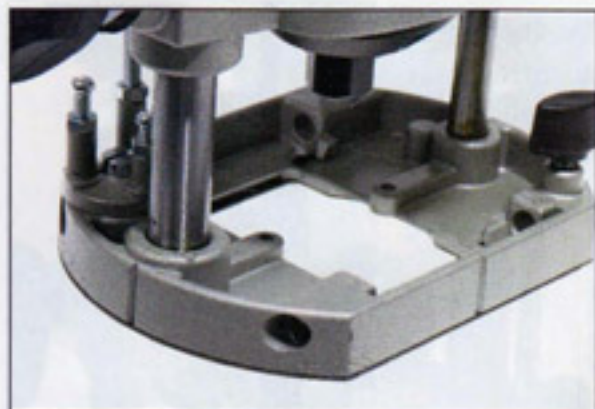
The side fence has an integral fine adjuster that allows you to move the fence backwards and forwards in 0.1 mm increments. The fence mounting bars are rather too short, making it difficult to reach in very far from the edge of a board. However you can buy extension bars if this is a problem.

For dust extraction the clear plastic hood now clips in on either

The depth stop is the ubiquitous rod type



The right side handle operates as the plunge lock



The base has sightlines on the sides and back



The plastic hood can fit on either side of the base



Once dismantled, the build quality was obvious



The main bearing is more substantial than the others

SPECIFICATION


POWER	1010W	
SPEED	9,000-27,000rpm	
COLLETS	1/4in, 8mm	
PLUNGE DEPTH	50mm (2in)	
GUIDE BUSH	20mm (3/4in)	
FLEX LENGTH	3.2m (10ft 6in)	
WEIGHT	3kg (6 3/4lb)	
NOISE LEVELS	Free-running	113.5dB
	Routing	107.3dB
WORKING TEMPERATURE	28°C	
STRAIGHT CUT	28 secs	
AVERAGE GROOVE WIDTH	9.52mm	


VERDICT

The recent upgrade to the original T5 has produced a machine that's hard to criticise in any way.

- PROS**
- Smooth running
 - Excellent build quality
 - Constant speed under load

- CONS**
- Awkward switch
 - Fiddly dust port

VALUE FOR MONEY 

PERFORMANCE 

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
- 0800 487363
- www.trend-uk.com

side of the base, and is probably as good as you get without extracting through the base of the router.

On the run

In use it is hard to fault the T5. It's as easy to handle as the original Elu MOF 96, despite the increase of power, yet still weighs only 3kg. Everything is firm and rigid; there's none of the rocking about on the plunge columns that you get with the two cheaper routers. It's as quiet as it can be, particularly when not under load, and it also runs very cool even after a serious workout; the maximum temperature I recorded was 28°C.

The 50mm plunge action is smooth and accurate and quickly locks with the side handle. The test cut was made in 28 secs, the relative slowness no doubt due to a motor slightly less powerful than the other two, but the full-wave electronics maintain a constant speed even under load. The accuracy was virtually spot-on.

Inside out

This tool was probably the hardest to dismantle, but the build quality is undeniable. The main bearing is more substantial than the others, but the plunge rod guides are also much longer which adds greatly to the overall rigidity. The armature is very much neater with little signs of balancing, hence the smooth running. All the internal wiring is much more solid, and I was particularly impressed with the constant speed module – a nifty bit of electronic wizardry that maintains constant speed under load.

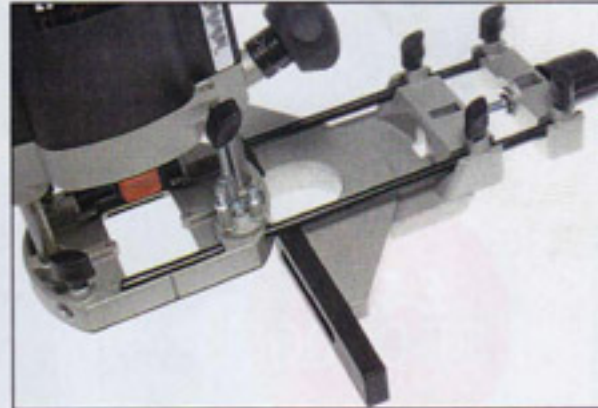
NEWS FLASH: Product recall

Trend are recalling all T5Ev2 routers sold between 9th April and 30th July 2009. Some models may have a manufacturing defect involving the hardening process of the armature. For more details go to the Trend website at www.trend-uk.com/en/UK/T5_recall/ or call their customer services on 0800 487363 or 01923 212497.

The fine height adjuster fits on the depth turret



The spindle lock makes it easy to change cutters



The side fence has an integral fine adjuster



The armature shows little sign of needing balancing



All the internal wiring looks reliably solid



The constant speed model is an electronic wizard