



Straight and true

Matt Long tries crosscutting with a power saw and the Trend Worktop Straight Guide

Trend have come up with this handy little design for a straight edge that can really help take the pain out of providing a clamped guide along which to guide power tools.

I used the guide for a kitchen worktop which needed a little trimming and found the device more than useful.

The soft pad adjustable friction clamps slide along the underside of the straight edge and when screwed tightly, get a nice grip on the workpiece. The guide is 900mm (35in) long and is designed for worktops and the like, and will clamp materials up to 51mm deep. The

slideable tape measure is perhaps of limited use, but can give a rough idea of how far into the workpiece to cut. With the use of a rigged-up pointer aligned with the cutter edge it could help give accurate cut length, but that seems a bit of a faff.

It's a decent enough bit of kit, but nothing that couldn't be achieved with a good straight edge and a couple of clamps. However, this piece will keep itself true thanks to its extruded design, and the integral clamps do make it easier to use. The guide can also be combined with Trend's Varijig frame system, so if you already have that bit of kit then this addition makes more sense.

AT A GLANCE

- Compatible with Trend's Varijig set-up
- Soft pad adjustable friction clamps, which will clamp to a thickness of 51mm
- Straight line guide for routers, jigsaws and circular saws
- Ideal for crosscutting kitchen worktops
- 900mm working length

THE NUMBERS

- Trend Worktop Straight Guide vjs/g/35
- 900mm (35in)

WHERE TO BUY

- All good tool stockists
- Website: www.trend-uk.com
- Tel: 01923 224657

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
- PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
- BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★



Detail showing the adjustable friction clamps and tape measure

The verdict

It's an effective bit of kit and is well put together, and useful with its inbuilt tape measure. It's pricey for something a straight edge and two G-clamps could achieve, but useful for those with Trend's Varijig system. ■