



STUART LAWSON

Stuart Lawson takes a look at a lock jig from Trend

LOCKED UP

For painted timber doors, a poorly cut lock plate recess doesn't matter too much as any mistakes can be hidden. For a timber door without paint, however, a poor technique or a lack of care will be evident every time it is used.

Although I don't own either a ready-made lock or a hinge jig, if I were to hang a few doors at home, the pressures of time would encourage me to consider purchasing one. I know that I can cut them by hand but don't feel the need to prove it to myself in the few hours of free time I get each week.

IN USE

The first function of the jig is to provide a template (guide) for cutting the main mortice for the lock body. Its second is to provide a guide (different template) for the lock plate recess. Further templates will also give you a guide for the latch mortices that receive the lock bolts in the door frame.

A ½in router, a 30mm guidebush and a 125mm long, 12mm-diameter cutter is all the additional kit you will need, provided



Cutting the lock mortice with a long cutter

your router has the capacity for a 60mm+ plunge. Considering that only 30% of the routers on the market have this depth of plunge, it is worth checking your machine before you spend £22 on the long cutter. For shallower mortices a shorter length bit will suffice.

For those of us who don't possess such a capable machine (I had to borrow a T9 for the test) the other option is to use the same



PHOTOGRAPH BY GAC: ANTHONY BAILEY

SPECIFICATIONS

Trend Lock
Jig stock code:LOCK/JIG
Price (RRP):...£69.00 (Inc VAT)

Trend recommend that you use their 30mm (GB30) (£5.00) or 16mm (GB160) (£7.35) guidebushes (info in text) and either a long 12mm diameter x 125mm cutter (TR37X1/2TC) (£22.00), or the shorter 12mm diameter x 70mm cutter (TR12X1/4TC) (£16.00).

jig set-up but with a smaller router and shorter bit. This will function in exactly the same way although it will be unable to cut the full mortice depth, leaving you to cut the last 75mm (3in) or more with an auger or a flat bit. This is a little more hassle but still quick and easy.

Once all of the routing is complete you will need to square up the hinge recess corners using either a chisel or, if you want to get fully kitted up, one of the dedicated corner punches available from Trend, Tilgear and other tool distributors.

The jig comes supplied with 16 mortice and faceplate templates and a laminated and easy to read chart of different brands, their sizes and relevant templates.

THE VERDICT

Carpenters are increasingly using this kind of jig for the simple reason that it produces excellent results, quickly and with a minimum of fuss. The price tag may put off many hobbyists but it certainly represents real value, if you're time is money that is.

Of course it would be possible for many capable router users to make their own jig, but the majority of professionals at least, don't have the time nor the inclination when £60 can be priced into a job.

A well-made, good value work aid.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, contact: Trend Machinery and Cutting Tools Ltd on 0800 487363 or contact their website at www.trendmachinery.co.uk