

The kits each fold up with Velcro-type fasteners



TESTED

Trend Snappy tool holders

The Snappy range is a quick-release system for drilling, countersinking and screwdriving with over 140 different tools available. For woodworkers alone, there are counterborers, depth stops, drill bits of all sorts, drill countersinks, plug cutters, taps, reamers and other cutting tools, and you can buy each component separately.

The heart of the Snappy system is the Quick Chuck which fits into any standard keyed or keyless drill chuck. Snappy tools then snap in effortlessly, their hexagonal shanks ensuring precise location in the chuck. You simply pull back the outer sleeve, put the tool into the holder, release the sleeve and you're ready to go. The sprung-loaded outer sleeve makes it easy to remove attachments by reversing the procedure.

Trend have put together a couple of kits, one containing 30 tools and the other 60.

Hexagonal shanks on each tool ensure precise location in the Quick Chuck



The Quick Chuck fits into a standard keyed or keyless drill chuck. Simply slide back the spring-loaded outer sleeve, insert the tool and release the sleeve



The tools are housed in tough storage wallets made from heavy-duty fabric that closes securely with Velcro-type fasteners, and they also have loops on the back so that they can be hung on a belt.

An average wall hanging job requires four tool bit changes and with a conventional drill it can get very tedious. I timed myself making four tool changes using a drill with a key chuck, one with a keyless chuck and one fitted with the Snappy system. With a keyed chuck it took 85 seconds while with the keyless chuck it took 40 seconds. Using the Snappy system it took only 12 seconds — clearly an effective way to increase productivity for drilling and fixing.

On test

As well as trying out several of the more common tools such as the combined drill and countersunk bit and the magnetic screw holder, I also tested the drill bit guides, which were new to me. Normally, drilling holes for the fixing screws in the exact centre of the screw holes on a hinge is a bit tricky, but using the drill guides made it very simple.

The magnetic screw holder also



The magnetic screw holder makes a big difference to the time it takes to complete a job



The drill bit guides will centre the drill in a hinge hole

makes a big difference to the time it takes to complete a job; for example, when you have lots of screws to place and you don't have a third hand to hold the screw steady.

Both these kits are very good, but if you don't need to carry a wallet, all the tools can be purchased separately or in sets and you can also get a storage rack for the workshop wall.

Tested by Dave Mackenzie

VERDICT

These kits are handy additions to the Snappy range and the larger includes tools for most DIY eventualities. The elastic retaining loops are a little fiddly when replacing the tools.

Prices: 30-piece £34.95 ; 60-piece £69.95 (All ex VAT)

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