

the quality significant, so too is using the appropriate grade; using three grades is usually sufficient. Following this rule of thumb, the VX150 performed well up to expectations.

Palm sander

So called because they're used single handed, palm sanders are really just small orbital sanders. Ferm's FP135 has a 135 watt motor, and is designed to accept a 1/4-size abrasive sheet. It has a no-load speed of 10,000 orbits per minutes, and the method of securing the abrasive is identical to the VM150.

The FP135 has a dust outlet at the rear, and perforated abrasives should be used to maximise extraction efficiency. An adapter is included for linking the sander to an extraction hose.

The sliding on-off switch at the front of the body is conveniently positioned for operating with the forefinger, but is a little on the stiff side.

Standard perforated abrasive sheets are attached to the VX150 orbital sander using the basic clip system



VERDICT

At a total cost of under £40 for all three sanders, anyone who doesn't have a selection of power sanders should consider one or more of these.

Prices (inc. VAT): TS180K £13.99; VX150 £9.99; FP135 £14.99. Delivery extra.

Free delivery for orders of £45 or more. Screwfix Direct, Freephone (sales and catalogue) 0500 414141, fax: 0800 056 2256, website: www.screwfix.com

Palm sanders are ideal for de-nibbing between coats of finishing material. With a suitable abrasive sheet in place, they not only smooth down the surface in preparation for the subsequent coating, but also help to maintain the flatness. They're also very handy for small areas and very delicate surfaces including veneers and inlays.

Tested by Gordon Warr



Guide bushes greatly widen the scope of a router for template work, and Trend are now issuing two sets of plastic guide bushes, with twelve bushes in each set.

The bushes will fit directly onto a wide variety of routers, and most others, using the trend Unibase



Trend guide bush sets

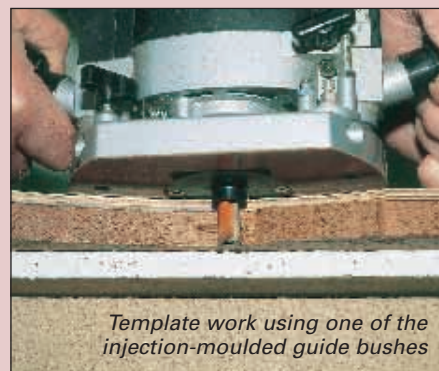
Set one covers even sizes with outside diameters from 10mm to 32mm, the other are the odd sizes from 11mm to 33mm, all with an overall diameter of 60mm. The walls of the bushes are 1.5mm thick with a 6mm projection, and two fixing holes are provided in each bush plate, with 50mm between centres.

Universal fit

Trend list around twenty makes and models of popular routers which these guide bushes will fit. For routers others than those listed, Trend's Unibase will need to be used. (The Unibase is effectively an adaptor which fits onto the sole of virtually all routers, and has the centre part formed to accept 60mm diameter guide bushes).

The bushes are high-precision injection mouldings, with their diameters clearly marked on them, and they're fitted and used in exactly the same as metal bushes.

I used a number of bushes in routers to which they fit directly (Trend T5, the Ferm, and an Elu) and with an



assortment of sizes of cutters in place. No problems expected, and non experienced.

Tested by Gordon Warr

VERDICT

Another clever innovation from Trend. The bushes are easy to use and with the variety of sizes included, there should be one to tackle just about every template and cutter combination.

Price: £19.95 each (+ VAT).

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