

Makita P-66226 router table

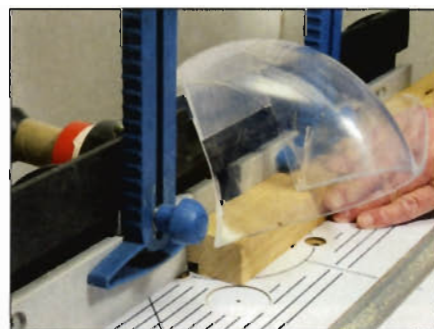
£120



The circular adapter base plate supplied



The quick and accurate clamping system



Cutting a rebate in a frame section



Grooving a board for a drawer side



Cutting a tenon using the mitre fence



Moulding the edge of a circular disc

I hadn't really associated Makita with router tables until I saw this one at a recent woodworking show. It looked interesting, so I arranged for a review model to be sent to me for testing. After putting it through its paces, I must admit to being agreeably surprised...



TESTED BY RON FOX

The P-66226 table is a bench-mounted model with a top of 20mm laminated MDF. It's a bit bigger than most tables of this type, and the impression of size is reinforced by the white top with its printed scales and angles. The four feet are fitted with soft pads, with a hole in each for screwing to the bench top or a mounting board.

A poorly fence

The fence, guards and hold-downs are of plastic and there's an aluminium T-channel for the mitre fence to slide in. This is a puny specimen, with a small plastic fence riding on a thin alloy slider. It's no worse than other mitre fences in this class of table, but for my own work I would use one of my home-made accessories to steer the workpiece past the cutter. The mitre fence slot also carries the horizontal pressure guard, however, so it isn't entirely useless.

The table fence is also of plastic, described as 'polystyrol'. It has adjustable cheeks to cater for different cutter diameters and carries two vertical pressure guards plus a clear plastic 'bubble' guard over the cutter aperture. Maximum cutter diameter is 70mm, and three reducing rings reduce this for smaller diameters. A fourth ring is for centring the router when the clamping system is used to mount it.

Mounting the router

Two methods of attaching the router to the table plate are provided. The first is a circular adapter plate drilled with a number of fixing holes. These are labelled in sets, but there's no instruction as to which models can be fitted to which holes. All the manual says is that the table will take routers with bases up to 7in in diameter. I tried matching my collection of router base patterns, but could only find one with holes that corresponded – and that wasn't a Makita!

Giving up on the plate, I turned to the second method – a clamping system somewhat similar in principle to that of the Triton table. Four bolts pass through the table from the top and four eccentric stops are dropped over the bolts to locate the router. These are tightened with hex nuts and four adjustable hand clamps.

The table on test

With a Perles OF808 router positioned, the table screwed to a mounting board and the fence and hold-downs fitted, I was ready to go. I put the table through my usual standard set of tests: edge moulding, grooving, rebating, tenoning, biscuit jointing, and pattern routing. My most ambitious job was to make a panelled door, using the Trend Easyset Ogee panel door set (ref CR/PDS1).

The table passed all its tests with flying colours. The infeed and outfeed cheeks of the fence were in line without any shimming

SPECIFICATION

TOP	800 x 460 x 355mm
FENCE	609 x 103mm
FIXING METHOD	Drilled adaptor plate or universal clamping system
MAX CUTTER DIAMETER	70mm
WEIGHT	12.85kg
ACCESSORIES	Three adjustable pressure guards, three cutter aperture reducing rings, mitre fence, lead-in pin, safety switch

VERDICT

This a good, well-specified little table for small and medium routers. Among its commendable features are a straightforward router clamping system and the ability to correct slight warping of the top should this occur. At the price it's very good value.

- PROS**
- Large flat top
 - Pressure guards and safety switch included
 - Long fence with adjustable cheeks
- CONS**
- Poor quality mitre fence

VALUE FOR MONEY



PERFORMANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Makita
- 01908 211678
- www.makitauk.com

required, the hold-downs were effective and the dust extraction was good. My home-made adapter is just visible in some of the pictures.

The only weak link was the mitre fence. I used it to cut a couple of test tenons, but for general work I would use a home-made device rather like the carriage I use for scribing the rails of panelled doors.

I would hesitate to install one of the bigger routers, such as the Trend T11 or Makita's own 3612, in this table, but with something like the DeWalt 615, Trend T5 or Freud 850 you could expect to get a lot of good work from it.

Some of my test cuts are shown in the photographs. In most of the shots, the bubble safety guard was raised for clarity.



Scribing the ends of a door rail



Profiling a door stile with a twin cutter



Using a large panel-raising cutter