



GKF 12 V-8 Professional compact router

If you like the idea of cordless routing, then this new offering from Bosch will certainly appeal, although you may find a mains version will do the job quicker

Specification

No load speed: 13,000rpm
 Voltage: 12V
 Weight: 1.3kg
 Dimensions: 144 x 80 x 252mm
 Buying option: Body only (no batteries, case or charger)
 Battery compatibility: Bosch 12V Li-ion

Price: From **£166.80**

Web: www.bosch-pt.com

PROS

- It's small and cordless

CONS

- Mildly challenging to set up
- Will do the job but a regular mains router will do it quicker

RATING: 4 out of 5

The steady improvement in power tool engineering technology – most notably of late the brushless motor – has brought about changes few could have foreseen or expected. Better batteries mean they can be smaller and the same goes for just about everything else. I first used a battery-powered router about 15 years ago and felt that, while it had potential, it wasn't really what people wanted at the time. With increased reliance on (and familiarity with) cordless tools, regular and frequent changes of battery are now the norm and everyone has backups and spares.

Ingenuity in design & manufacture

All of these factors have combined to bring us the Bosch Professional 10.8V compact router. There's no question that this is a small router indeed, and yet another example of ingenuity in design and manufacture. It comes in at a nice weight and is one of the most comfortable power tools I've yet to hold, full control being entirely possible with just the one hand. All is present and obvious: a spindle lock to change bits, both macro (i.e. quick) depth setting and a fine tuner to get the precision, then a simple lock to keep it. The on and off switch also indicates battery levels (at start) and that's your lot. In fact, that's all you need.

Bear in mind it's only a small machine, so I wouldn't be expecting too much in terms of waste removal, and it doesn't have a fence so it's pretty much restricted to edge work (with a bearing-guided bit); I think they could have called it a trimmer and been nearer the mark with its name. That said, after some initial experimentation, I treated it as a regular router and ran some ovolo mouldings on a hardwood window job I've got in at the moment. I must confess I thought it would struggle a bit but, though it heated up nicely, it completed the job (9 linear metres) on the same battery.

Although the sole plate is generously sized by proportion, there's sadly no room for a fence nor dust extraction. I found that its slightly lower than normal running speed produced coarser shavings than would be usual, so there is less fine dust to contend with. Clearly this is a fixed-base machine so don't expect any plunging, and it will take collets for 6 and 8mm as well as the default 1/4in.

In summary

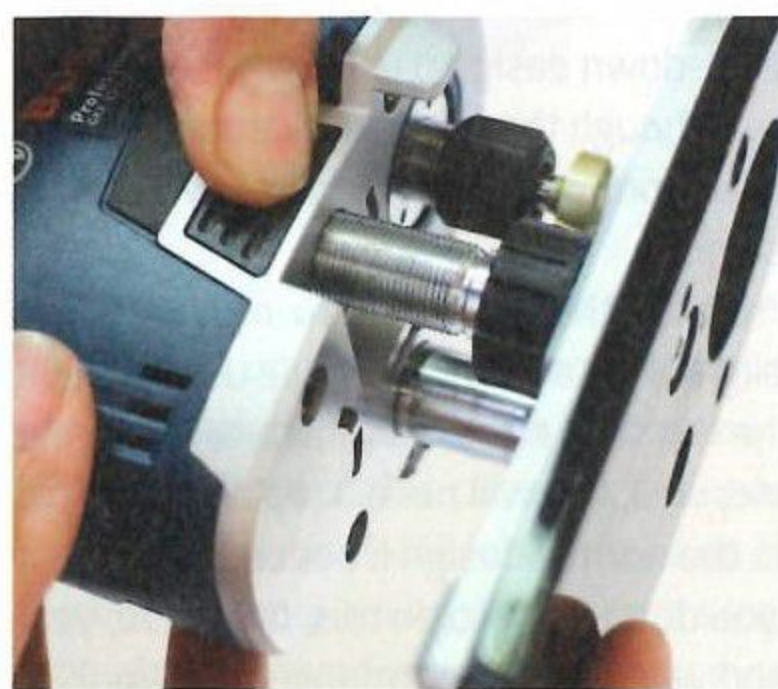
While some may wonder why, there's no denying that a dedicated trimmer on a job means your main router can be left set up for the heavy work. **MC**



The spindle lock pulls out for bit changes



Tightening a bit in the collet



The quick depth setting button (macro)



Adjusting the fine tuner, the lock is on the other side



I ran this ovolo moulding with battery to spare