

The current trend towards multi-based routers with motor housings that slip into a variety of bases makes the standard small plunge router almost redundant. Here's the latest base offering from Bosch

Bosch TE600 plunge router base

Bosch often leads the way where innovation is concerned, and the GKF600 router certainly established itself as a cracking little router immediately it was launched. Thanks to the fixed and tilt bases and various additional accessories that came with it, it covered a lot of the smaller jobs required of such a machine such as trimming laminates, edge moulding and inlay work. However, it lost ground on its rivals by not having the plunge base they offered. That's now been redressed with the launch of the TE600 base, which gives it similar capacities to those of a dedicated small plunge router. This new base has all the settings you need.

Fitting the base

The same rule applies when fitting any of the Bosch bases to the single-speed motor housing. You align the arrows on the base with the corresponding arrows on the body, twist it to engage the locating pin and set it in position ready to go. Closing the large toggle clamp then nips the base securely to the body.

Comfort and convenience

The rubberised grips are large and comfortable to hold, and are tilted forwards to give a more relaxed wrist position and therefore better control. Alongside this, the clever plunge action is a major advantage and gives a very smooth performance, backed up by the excellent plunge lever.

This is positioned behind the left grip and is sculpted to be easily accessible with the thumb. A further advantage is the springing of



the lever, which works in the opposite way to many such levers. Pushing the lever on this base works against the spring tension and therefore releases the plunge. Once you release the pressure on the lever, the spring immediately tightens the plunge and locks the setting, continuing to apply pressure so it can't slacken off once the router is powered up.



The plunge base is designed to accept the Bosch GKF600 router



Lock the base to the motor housing with this easy-to-operate toggle



The turret post has a small adjuster screw for fine-tuning the cut



The new plunge router base is very easy to use on shaped stuff

An excellent base

The 145mm diameter baseplate with its clear acrylic insert and 54mm opening allows good views of the work area. You can run the baseplate against a simple guide, or use the fence holes within the casting to fit a standard Bosch fence. However, this is an optional accessory. Note that this base is available as an add-on for the owners of the GFK600 system looking to get the full range of features, but that package omits the traditional twin-bar fence that fits the base.

Standard features

Following standard plunge base designs, there's a rotating turret. This one has seven positions, along with a simple finely-adjustable post that's marked in both metric and imperial measurements for convenience.

The base has a maximum 55mm plunge depth. That's equal to most small stand-alone routers, and makes this base a very desirable addition to anyone owning the original router kit. Finer and more controlled cuts often need finer tools, and a smaller machine can deliver a light touch and easier control. Now there's a full range of routing options available for the Bosch GKF600. **AK**

SPECIFICATION

BASE DIAMETER	145mm
BASE APERTURE	54mm
MAXIMUM BIT SIZE	44mm
PLUNGE CAPACITY	55mm

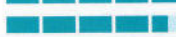
VERDICT

Owners of the Bosch GKF600 router now have a neat set-up for a wider range of routing projects.

- PROS**
- Superb plunge lever
 - Same capacities as a stand-alone router
 - Metric and imperial depth scale

- CONS**
- No fence supplied
 - Awkward to swap cutters

VALUE FOR MONEY 

PERFORMANCE 

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Bosch Power Tools
- 01895 838743
- www.bosch.co.uk



It's equally at home working mouldings on bigger stock



After adjusting the turret post, you secure it with this locking knob



The plunge lever is well designed and extremely easy to operate



You have to remove the body from the base to change cutters