

ON TEST

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News and tests of tools and kit for anyone equipping or upgrading their workshop

Up-Down Wealden

New shear trimmer aimed at reducing breakout at the top and bottom of a cut

In the last few years Trend and Radian have launched four-flute, top and bottom bearing following cutters for trimming to a finer finish, with longer edges. Now Wealden have introduced a refinement of that idea by incorporating four cutters at a skewed angle. That way the pair at the top of the cutter are similar to down-cutters on a spiral cutter, and the pair at the bottom are up-cutters.

Effectively Wealden have produced a combo-spiral, the principle being that because each blade cuts the wood at a shearing angle, it pushes the fibres downwards (or upwards) with less risk of fraying. This is especially important if the trimming cut is also your finish cut.

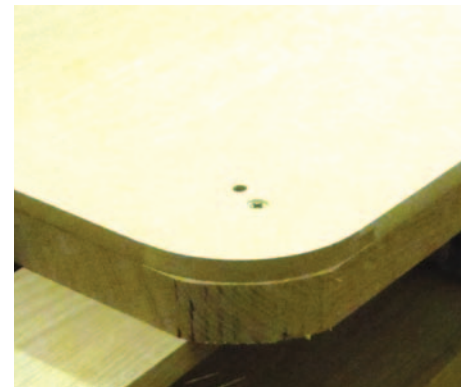
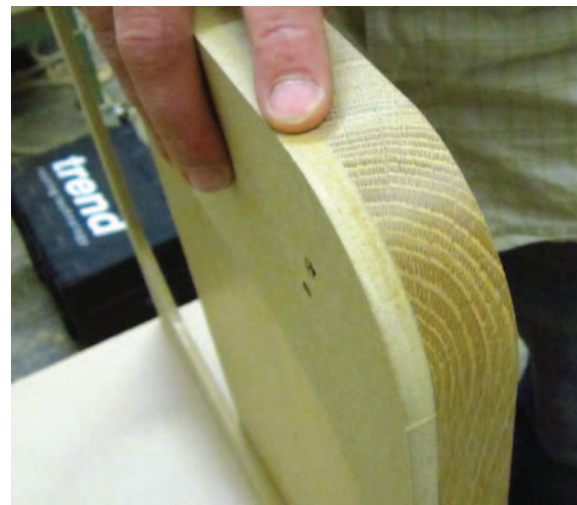
In reality, though, the cutter is only a two flute, with an 5mm overlap at the centre. Because it has bearings top and bottom you can fix your template either to the top or underside of the workpiece, cutting most of the waste away first on a bandsaw or with a jigsaw. The Up-Down Shear Multi-Trim cutter, which is available with 8mm or 1/2in shank, is then used to trim the edge. It does produce an excellent finish, but we have tried to establish if there is any change in the fibres top, middle and bottom where they are cut in different ways by the sheared cutters. In one instance we noticed a mark at the centre of the cut, but are not sure if that was caused by the cutter or something else. It may need further experiment with different species of wood.

What is clear is that there is very little breakout using this new type of cutter and it will be popular for anyone doing regular trimming work, sometimes with the template above, sometimes below.

Details Wealden Up-Down Shear Multi-Trim (T8178B or T8179B); 30mm cutting edge, 19mm dia.; £34.20inc.VAT; wealdentool.com.



Shear Trend's four-flute trimming cutter (above and top) with Wealden's new Up-Down Shear Multi-Trim in use. The finish is very smooth (right), with no tearout



Preparation It's a good idea to remove as much waste as possible on the bandsaw before routing with a trimming cutter