



Tormek T-7 test

Improve the accuracy of your tool sharpening with the new and improved Tormek T-7, writes **Michael Huntley**

Tormek has released the latest version of their successful slow running water-cooled grindstone, now with a seven year guarantee. I have had a Tormek for several years now and rely on it for re-grinding damaged tools that students bring to me.

Setting up

The first thing I noticed was that the

universal support bar now comes with one arm threaded and a fine tuning nut is fitted. This nut is indexed which helps in making adjustments. Gone are the days of having to mark the bar with a felt tip pen! The horizontal base has also been improved to give a tighter fit to the bar.

Grindstone faces have to be true both to the axis and to the jig being used. Tormek's previous method

of truing and dressing was hard to keep accurate so I bought a diamond dressing bar from another manufacturer because I found the Tormek version difficult to use. However, they have addressed this now with the introduction of the TT-50. This is a jig which fits firmly to the universal support bar and has a threaded rod passing through the diamond carrier holder. Turning the threaded rod causes the carrier to traverse the face of the grindstone. The speed at which the rod is turned controls the fineness of the dressing.

The jigs

The T-7 can be used with the multitude of Tormek jigs which cover turning, carving, cabinet making, gardening and domestic-edged tools. All the standard jigs for turning tools will fit the jigs in the new TNT-708 Woodturning Kit.

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In the T-7 box there is a square edged jig, a truing and dressing tool, an angle setter, honing compound, a stone grader, a DVD and most importantly, a detailed handbook that contains lots of useful information. The handbook is worth buying separately if you have any kind of slow running grindstone.

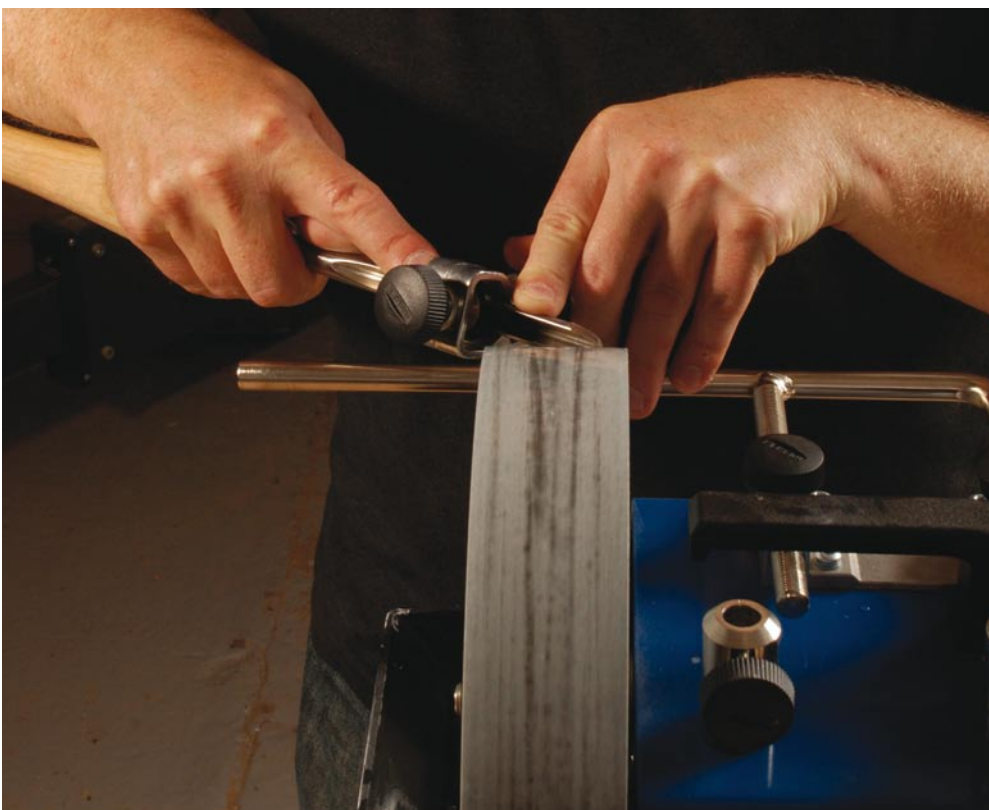
The square edge jig for chisels and plane irons has been improved. It now has a three point clamping system that allows chisels with tapered bodies to be held firmly. This is particularly relevant for Japanese chisels. It also has two stops that can be attached to the new universal support to prevent the tool from overshooting the edge of the stone. Other improvements are the use of stainless steel for the arbour and other metal fittings which will reduce wear and prevent rust.

The dressing tool, the universal support and the square edge jig are all available separately but the seven year warranty makes it worth investing in a whole new unit with all the jigs. It is

not excessive to have two grindstones on the bench, one dead square for precision work and one older grinder set up for rough work. Of course you could argue that a cambered or crowned stone is also useful, but three grindstones – surely no one has three? Well, actually I do. But then, I am accused of taking sharpening rather seriously!

Stop press!

I have just heard that there are two new Tormek stones: one is designed for the new harder steels and the other is a 4000 grit Japanese stone. I'll be testing these as soon as I get samples and will have them at The New Midland Woodworking and Power Tool Show.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TORMEK

ABOVE: The Tormek T-7 box

ABOVE LEFT: Polishing the bevel using the leather wheel

LEFT: Now you can sharpen your woodturning tools efficiently

Verdict

I've used practically every incarnation of the Tormek system and the improvements incorporated in the T-7 make this version the best yet. For beginners or experienced users who want to save steel by accurate repeat grinding, this is a most worthwhile investment. ●

DETAILS

Price: £399.95 (inc. VAT)
Contact: Brimarc Tools & Machinery
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