

The CMS TS55R



Last week the first of the new TS55R CMS modules arrived in store and of course I volunteered to set it up.

For those of you who haven't heard yet, the new TS55R is not compatible with the old CMS TS55 module owing to the changes in the body shape of the new saw.

There is supposed to be a conversion kit coming which will allow users with an existing CMS TS55 module to upgrade to a new TS55R saw, but as at the start of October, there's no news as to its release date.

So, I grabbed a new 55R from stock and opened the packaging on the new CMS module. The first thing I noticed was the remarkable similarities to the old CMS module. The only things different were the



the expanded slot in the plate and the new style of riving knife.

I opened the packaging, laid all the parts on the bench and went in search of the instructions.

I was rather amused to find that the instructions supplied with the CMS TS55R module related to the old TS55 and that in all the information, there was nothing related to the new TS55R saw.

Now this didn't present a major problem for me as I've put together a lot of CMS modules for

customers as well as during training sessions, but the lack of instructions would present a major problem for any number of my customers who are new to the Festool CMS system.

The major challenge I found was the



installation of the new CMS riving knife in the TS55R saw. In the previous version you had to activate the Fast Fix blade changing mechanism, unscrew the plunge cut riving knife and replace it with the CMS riving knife.

Well, I activated the Fast Fix set the TS55R in position and upon inspection found that there was no screw to remove to release the riving knife. Bugger

I grabbed the new riving knife and after about five minutes of increasing frustration found that the bent section of the riving knife fits in behind the TS55R's riving knife without the need to remove it from the saw.



It's important that the hole in the riving knife on the saw lines up exactly with the hole on the CMS riving knife.

With the saw locked into the fast fix blade changing position it's then simply a matter of pushing the riving knife assembly into the saw body until both holes in the riving knives line up with the round hole in the saw body. You then place the flat headed cap screw into the hole and tighten it up using the hex key that comes with the TS55R to lock the assembly into place. Once tightened the riving knife assembly



doesn't move at all which negates the need for that fiddly little part which used to hold the riving knife in place in the old

TS55 module, (that part is still supplied by the way).

Once you've got the riving knife in place the rest of the assembly process aligns to the installation of the old CMS TS55 module.

When you've got the unit assembled and in the CMS stand the last thing to do is re-calibrate the rulers. Due to the changes in the CMS plate the saw now sits slightly more over to the right. Using a ruler, I set the fence to the right of the blade at 50mm and measured from the front and back of the blade to ensure it was square. Once I was happy with that it was a simple process to move the scales on the CMS frame to the correct position then lock them in place. To complete the assembly I repeated the process with the fence to the left of the blade, adjusted the fence, then gave everything a final tighten.

I must admit to being a little surprised at Festool when assembling this unit. The lack of instructions and inclusion of obsolete parts in the CMS TS55R plate will cause problems to end users and I hope that Festool will rectify this as soon as possible.

As always, be safe and have fun

Cheers



