

First-fix power

Andy King is impressed by this saw's portability and power, but does its price warrant a place in your workshop?

I had a call recently from one of my contacts at Bosch asking if he could drop in with their new table saw and legstand to chat about the main strengths with me and get my opinion.

After setting up the saw and stand in the workshop, we discussed a few of them before leaving it with me so that I could get a more 'up close' look at what the saw is about.

Assembly involved putting on the riving knife, unpacking the supplied accessories and, most importantly, releasing the perforated dust plate on the underside to remove a foam block and allow the blade adjustments to work.

That was easy though; the plate is hinged, which is also handy for any additional maintenance.

The stand is an accessory, and there are two available, a standard scissor type for more static applications, or, as here, a neat fold-down wheeled design to which the saw can remain bolted.

It's a simple enough operation to lift or fold down as well; a big red lever operates the lock to disengage the retaining pins, allowing the frame to drop down. It's excellently balanced as well so there's no strain wheeling it around.

Portability

Coming in at around the same price as a decent entry-level induction-motored table saw with cast-iron table, you could be forgiven as to wondering why you would want to shell out on a brush-motored saw with a cast-alloy one.

But if you want good cutting capacity and performance with a portability factor – accessories are stored in the casing – then Bosch certainly seems to have come up with a decent solution in the GTS 10XC. The fence, mitre fence, crown guard and auxiliary fence facing all have special 'homes' and there's also a spare blade storage bay. This allows the blade to wind down below the top, keeping it free of obstructions, and with a couple of built-in handles, makes it very easy to transport from the workshop to the van.

Even so, at 35kg, it's not something you would want to carry too far on your own, so those legs become all the more desirable.



The constant electronics kept the revs up on deeper ripping in hardwood

Fences

With a table size of 584 x 759mm this table could easily fool you into thinking that actual cutting dimensions are limited, but with an integral slide-out side table on the right of the blade the saw will rip up to 635mm wide so standard sheet stock can be converted

very economically.

The fence will also reposition to the left of the table for rips up to 250mm wide, although I always find ripping in this setup a little alien. However, for smaller repeat cuts from longer lengths using the fence as a reference point and the supplied mitre gauge in the T slot,

Bosch GTS 10XC table saw



A built-in spindle lock is neat for blade swaps



Only one wheel is used for blade adjustments



The paddle lock on the fence is positive and locks rigidly



An integral pull-out extension keep things compact with big capacities



The sliding carriage is a great feature for smaller crosscutting operations



And with the supplied mitre fence, compound and mitre cuts are a breeze

there is better support for the work using the pullout extension. For safety the saw has a retractable fence facing, but this only fits with the narrow edge usable, which is normally the one required when ripping thin or narrow stock.

In itself this isn't a problem; for cutting to length it's simply a setting stop, but for ripping deeper stock I prefer the facing to be deeper as this offers better support, especially with a stack of bowed timber that may ride up over the thin facing.

What it needs is another T slot within the extrusion – a simple oversight on Bosch's part that should really have been picked up; designers not consulting with users I guess.

The fence clips onto the rear rail and secures firmly at the front using a large easy-to-operate paddle via what Bosch describes as 'Squarelock'. Designed to eliminate 'toeing' in or out on the fence, it seems to work perfectly; everything I put through was accurately dimensioned without pinching.

It has a small magnifying cursor for accurate setting, but there's no micro adjust.

Other considerations

Blade adjustments are simple, reliant on a central wheel to raise and lower, with a large paddle lever to set the tilt. This paddle lock does make it a bit tricky to hit a specific angle and tweak it slightly, but it locks solidly, and the rise and fall are pretty fluid in their action.

In common with Bosch's usual design parameters, it's as tool-free a machine as possible for these adjustments, the extensions for the table lock having levers, and even the blade change is halfway there with a neat built-in spindle lock lever, so all you need is a single spanner to release the nut; and of course, the spanner stores on board.



With a 635mm rip capacity, sheet stock can be converted economically

Conclusion

At 2100W along with overload protection and constant electronics to protect the motor should you push it too hard or if the stock binds, the motor never faltered ripping 60mm sapele, so it was a no-brainer that sheet stock would be a cinch.

The sliding carriage is neat; limited to 350mm cutting capacity it's useful nonetheless, and with the supplied mitre fence, handy for on-site mitre jobs such as skirting and architraves so long as you support the free end safely.

It's equally useful for compound cuts so a site worker will have first- and second-fix options well catered for, but it will do a decent job in the workshop for joinery jobs as well, so is a good all-rounder in that respect.

If there is a downside apart from the limitations of the sub fence, it has to be the price.

The main rivals are likely to be the DeWalt

745 or the Makita MLT100, and with both retailing for around £250 or so less than the Bosch, it may prove difficult.

The Makita at 1500W and the DeWalt at 1700W are far less powerful than the Bosch, which could work in wet deep stock in a first-fix situation; this alone may cause people to choose it over its rivals. Indeed it certainly has many plus points apart from the high price...

The Good Woodworking Verdict

+ Compact; sliding carriage; good onboard storage
– Pricey; no separate tilt adjuster wheel

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £699.00

Motor: 2100W

Speed: 3200rpm

Weight: 35kg

Cutting capacities: 79mm @ 90°, 56mm @ 45°

Table size: 584x759mm

Web: www.bosch.co.uk