

# Ace detective work



This hazard detector has a few tricks up its sleeve

**M**ost cable, pipe and stud detectors throw up rogue or inaccurate readings so I usually prefer to tap a stud wall to listen for a change in tone or, in the case of cables, look for sockets and switches directly above or below where I need to put a fixing. So a detector that is claimed to pick up these common materials and at some pretty impressive depths has to be desirable.

The GMS 120 is a multi-material detector with three buttons that select 'drywall', 'metal' or 'power cable'; the 'metal' and 'drywall' are over-ridden when any live cables are detected so that no matter what mode you are in, the device will always detect and indicate a live cable.

In drywall mode the detector will find not only timber and metal studs, but also non-ferrous metal, cables and even water-filled plastic pipes.

Icons illuminate as soon as a specific material is detected, with indicator bars coming in from either side as you get closer for accurate pinpointing. There is also a beep signal. The green centre changes to amber when it begins to detect anything, before going a solid red once a source is identified, flashing red for a power cable.

## Proof positive

At home I first checked out a stud wall and, within that, a copper gas pipe to the boiler. In drywall mode I tracked across the surface of the wall to see what lies beneath... As the wall is plastered, I wasn't too sure if the centre of the stud was where the device was indicating but, using the Magic Stud Finder in GW265, I dragged it across until it left a disc stuck to a fixing, which married up perfectly with what the Bosch was indicating. A few more tests and it got them all smack on.

The gas pipe was also detected, as were water pipes and wiring.

## Conclusion

At around the £80+ mark it's maybe a touch pricy for the home user, but chippies fixing to studs or walls with buried pipes and cables might be saved a lot of heartache and cost. It's about the only one I've used that does exactly what it says on the pack, with consistent accuracy.



## The Good Woodworking Verdict

- + Accuracy; audio and visual indicators
- Price

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £85.00

Max detection depth: 120mm

Steel: 120mm

Copper: 80mm

Live cables: 50mm

Timber: 38mm

Web: [www.bosch.co.uk](http://www.bosch.co.uk)



▲ Checking for studs with a known centreline proved perfect. You can mark through the centre hole



▲ The icon changes to indicate a different problem, in this case a non-ferrous gas pipe



▲ Move near a cable and the ring flashes and the unit beeps loudly



▲ The display can be illuminated and the audio muted with these buttons



▲ Each function has its own button but they all pick up live cables