

# Top machine!

Andy has no hesitation in recommending this one for all your worktop cutouts



Fit this saw with a suitable blade and it's great for detail work too

This latest machine continues my appreciation of Bosch jigsaws. It can tackle up to 160mm in timber, is a top-end tool and very user friendly.

Bosch has retained the tilting alloy shoe, with the tool-free lever being used to make and base alterations easily simply by releasing the lever, pulling the shoe back against its spring, tilting to the desired setting and redeploying the lever. For 90 and 45° tilts to the left and right, dovetailed indents pull the shoe tightly for a very secure fit, making it easy and quick to achieve a bevel cut at no extra cost.

Bosch is king of the SDS fitting and this one is particularly easy to engage. With no blade fitted the access slot is in an open position, allowing the blade shank to be pushed in. Push against a spring until you hear a click; the outer collar rotates an eighth of a turn around the bayonet shank and secures the blade so it's difficult not to get the blade in the right spot before commencing work, and once you do, it's not going to work loose.

Ejecting the blade is a cinch via a sprung-hinged alloy cage that, when rotated, engages

the blade retention collar, swinging it back to its open setting, ejecting it automatically so you don't burn your fingers on a hot blade.

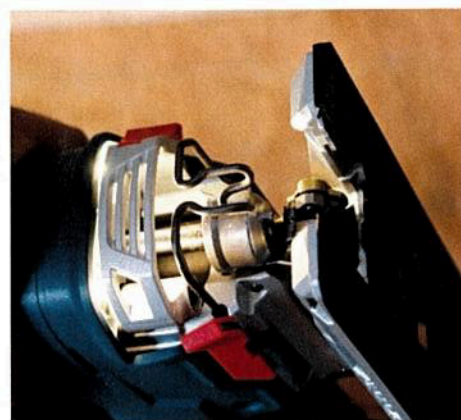
### Dust blower

Keeping the work area clear of dust is sorted with a built-in blower that can be switched on or off depending on whether you use an extractor or not. A fixed dust tube is supplied rather than the pivoting one that makes curved

cuts easier to manoeuvre: a pity.

Bosch has continued the ball socket cable fit to the back of the saw, which helps on intricate cuts and minimises cable breaks.

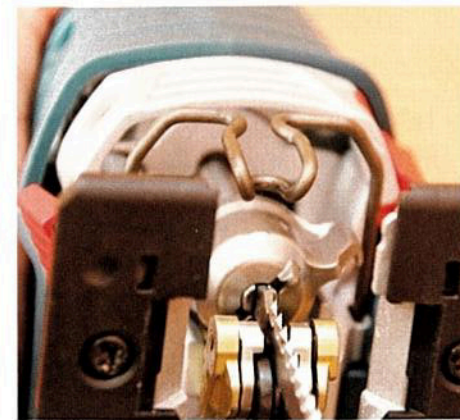
The speed dial is tucked into a rear recess, has a stepless action and works well. A very responsive trigger is included, allowing you to speed up or slow down according to the cut being made: a deal breaker on any saw I look at. Power is via the central trigger, and this can



▲ The recessed worklight provides plenty of light directly around the blade shaft



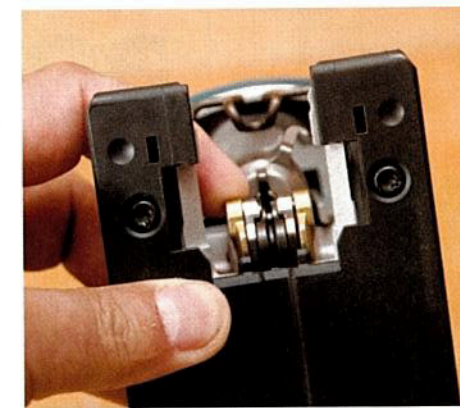
▲ The base tilts and is held firmly once the base angle lever is re-engaged



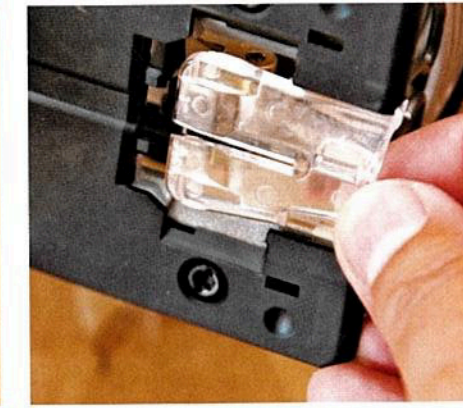
▲ Once engaged correctly the blade rotates around the shank to secure it



▲ This lever ejects the blade without you having to touch it



▲ The double roller and side guide help to keep the cuts square



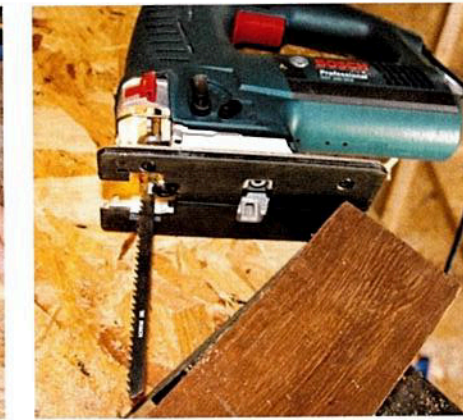
▲ Anti-splinter shoes slide into the base securely



▲ Anti-splinter shoes slide into the base securely



▲ The saw can cut carcassing timbers



▲ With a longer blade you can cut up to 160mm-deep stock

be locked on using the side button. Full marks to Bosch here as the side button is positioned on either side of the handle.

The double LED light is operated with a top-mounted switch. It's enclosed in a rubber cover to prevent dust ingress, making switching on and off a bit tricky.

The pendulum is no different to others, three oscillation settings along with an off position, set with a small side-mounted lever, but instead of a single roller, Bosch has continued with an earlier concept, the blade sitting deep in between a set of side guides, akin to a bandsaw. A set of pivoting rollers above and below the guides gives the blade maximum support as it moves up and down, the pivoting rollers always keeping contact with the blade on pendulum cuts. The concept is designed to give the blade better support through intricate cuts where a jigsaw is more prone to drift, and it makes a decent fist of it.

### In use

For deeper cuts especially, the pendulum needs to be engaged on a higher setting to allow the kerf to clear adequately without overheating the blade, but I doubt many of us will engage it for such work; even so it does give more scope for corbel brackets and so forth on bigger timber-framed stuff but there's still a chance of drift on a full-depth cut, especially on a tight radius where the blade can pinch as there's nothing keeping it from whipping and drifting



▲ Making a series of curved cuts on this piece of 80mm iroko proved no problem



▲ The resulting cut was perfectly square

except the cut itself, and a blade that cuts up to 160mm deep has a huge amount of metal unsupported.

For me the more likely operation would be kitchen worktop cutouts, scribing in panels, and doing fancy shaping to exposed rafter ends and the like, which places it in a general construction timber area, and where I think most of us are likely to use a jigsaw.

### Conclusion

Bosch has a very well constructed saw here, compact and easy to control in the cut, and with all the major adjustments or switches picked out in red, it's an intuitive tool to get to grips with.

## Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Tool-free base tilt; easy blade swap; unique double roller blade support  
- LED light a little tricky to engage

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £250.00

Made in Switzerland

Motor: 800W

Speeds: 800-3000spm

Stroke length: 26mm

Max cut in timber: 160mm

Max cut in steel: 10mm

Weight: 2.3kg

Web: www.bosch.co.uk