

Professional planing made easy

This planer features a 710W motor, impressive chip ejection and a handy V-groove for chamfering, although it's a pity a depth stop for the rebating function is not supplied



Bosch do put out some very good, solidly built power tools and this is certainly one of them. There's little to get excited about with any planer, as they are relatively basic tools, but picking this one up it immediately feels like it will work forever and a day.

Decent stock removal

If you rely on a planer to do the basics of decent stock removal and some smaller rebating work, then this model comes up with the goods, but

it doesn't boast overly impressive statistics, with only a 9mm rebate depth. This would prove limiting if you rely on a planer to make a deep enough rebate to sit over a water bar on an external door, for instance, but for general work, it's more than up to the task and if you are in need of the deeper rebating capacity, there are bigger models out there.

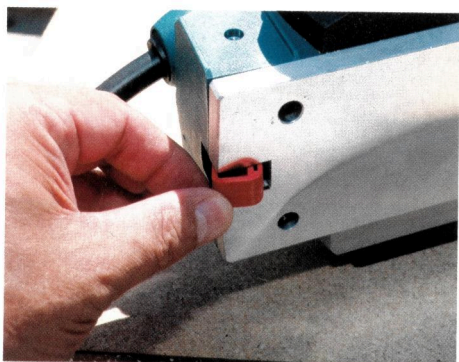
Excellent bed alignment

Depth of cut is up to 2.6mm per pass, which is more than adequate for me, and again, there

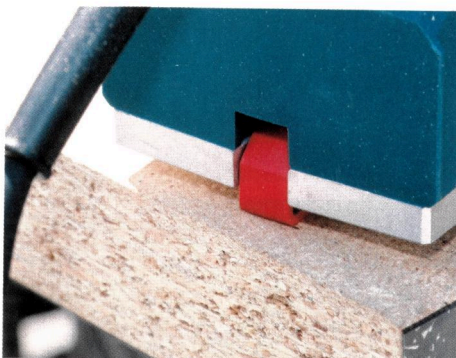
are models that hog more away per pass but I prefer to sneak up on a fit rather than a bull at a gate approach, and this maximum capacity is more than good enough to do so while still removing at a decent rate if required. The depth is altered with the front-mounted twist knob, which click into 0.1mm increments for fine adjustment if a precise fit is needed. I found this particularly useful in my tests when easing a sticking door and fitting a kitchen worktop to an out of square wall; both areas where a finer touch is needed on the final passes. The plane is also manoeuvrable enough to hold one-handed in both instances as well as being able to run off an edge of the workpiece without leaving a snipe mark, which indicates excellent bed alignment.

Dust control

Dust control is a standard setup on Bosch planers, and very good it is too! With ejector ports on either side of the planer, a rotating



The parking shoe is spring-loaded so always sticks below the sole until used



It protects a surface by lifting the cutter away when placed down while still running



This lever directs the dust and shavings to either side of the tool as required



A neat ball socket on the cable helps protect it as well as easing movement in use

sleeve inside the port deflects the shavings to the left or right to suit your own preference, or if you are in a tight area and require the shavings to be ejected in one direction.

As with planers in general, the wider, deeper cuts on softer pines and suchlike, along with new blades, can result in the dust bag being quickly overwhelmed and backing up, and that's the case here, but it's a useful addition to have a bag included as standard, and if emptied regularly the backing up can be minimised.

Ideally an extractor is the better solution and the dual outlet option allows the best positioning once again, and there's an adaptor included to fit standard extraction hoses.

Flat soles

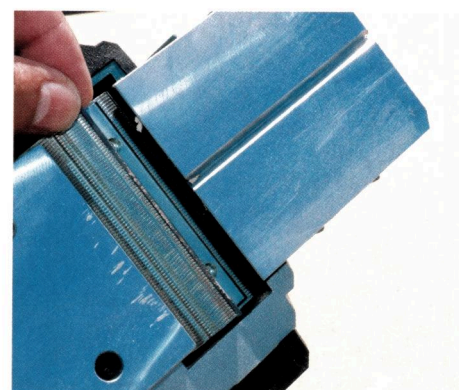
A quick look at the base shows excellent flat soles with the front sole having a single central groove for basic chamfer work and the rear sole featuring a spring-loaded parking shoe to lift the blade away from any surface when placed down. I find this design better than the gravity types, which can stick with dust and not drop down when they should. I found that the spring is soft enough not to restrict the action of the plane as it is passed over the work, so it's a definite asset.

Plenty of power

Bosch operate a different approach with blades on their planers, opting for a single 'Woodrazor' version. This is still a replaceable 82mm carbide blade, but with just one in the block the idea is



The rebating depth capacity is 9mm – a little shy for some applications



The laminated block uses a single blade; note the chamfer option on the front sole

that it is more economical should it become damaged and need replacing. However, it does mean the tool is working harder as it runs at similar speeds to similar two-bladed rival models. Putting it to use I found I could still work at a decent feed rate without any discernible difference to the finish, and there's plenty of power available to match the capacity.

Conclusion

Despite the simplicity of planers in general, Bosch still manage to stick a tweak or two on board to make it a more user-friendly option: the trigger has a safety button that can be slid from either side of the handle to engage the trigger, making it suitable for left- and right-handed use, and a further enhancement is the ball socket cable. Simple as this is, it has a double advantage: firstly, making the tool

more manoeuvrable if you encounter any twists or turns, and secondly, minimising wear and tear on the cable where it enters the tool.

As part of the Bosch range, this is a planer that works hard and performs well, and coming in its fitted case with a dust bag and side fence as standard, represents great value for money. It's a pity it doesn't have a depth stop for the rebating function included, but then you can't have everything! **GW**

Specification:

- ▶ **Motor:** 710W
- ▶ **Speed:** 18,000rpm
- ▶ **Max cutting depth:** 2.6mm
- ▶ **Max rebate depth:** 9mm
- ▶ **Typical price:** £119.99
- ▶ **Web:** www.bosch-professional.com



Easing and fitting doors are bread and butter work for this planer



Laminated worktops are easily planed and without snipe when running off the edge

THE GW VERDICT

- ▶ **PROS:**
Dust bag and rebate fence supplied; neat ball and socket cable
- ▶ **CONS:**
Limited rebate depth; single blade needs a steadier feed rate; dust bag can get clogged
- ▶ **RATING:** 4.5 out of 5