



Bosch GHO 12V-20 Professional compact planer

This new addition to the Bosch compact club delivers impressive results and is handily compatible with the rest of their 12V battery tools

Hot on the heels of their 12V mini router comes the latest Bosch addition to the compact kit club; a very handy planer – in actual fact it could be considered a one-handed planer, such is its small size. Light, with a body length of approximately 220mm and a 56mm blade, you could practically put it in your pocket, but it will still do a job and one which in some circumstances a bigger planer might struggle to match.

Neat & compact

Featuring a winning combination of proven Bosch technology in the lithium-ion battery department and the latest of their brushless motors, this mini planer could well prove to be the star of the current small power tool show. I found it to be neat and compact (as you'd expect) but nicely balanced and with something of a precision feel about it. Depth control is via the leading knob, which twists from zero through a whisper shaving, then progressively thicker up to the first stop at 1mm; it's a gradual adjustment with no increments. At the stop point it's possible to go further by depressing the red button and maxing out at a hefty 2mm – actually quite an achievement for such a diminutive tool. I think the physical barrier at 1mm reminds the user to take it easy, not something every enthusiastic woodworker is always capable of.

A system which delivers

Following the Bosch tradition, chip exhaust can be set to either side with the removal and insertion of the exhaust valve; this can also be hooked up to an extraction unit or dustbag with the addition of an adaptor (not supplied). The design of this planer makes it a natural for either hand operation; left or right it felt equally capable to me. If you're faced with shooting in a couple

of doors you might want to reach for a corded planer, but for small adjustment work on site, it's a great piece of kit.

There's a spare blade onboard in the rear of the base and, together with a hex key tucked away nearby, you'll always be assured of accurate and efficient planing. As most users will probably know, Bosch have long used a single blade system on their planers, and judging by the results I achieved on a variety of timbers, it's a system which continues to deliver. There's a battery level indicator just by the trigger so that you can keep an eye on things, but I've been pleasantly surprised at just how long one charge will last on this new 12V kit.

In summary

Fully compatible with the rest of their 12V battery tools, this compact planer is a positive addition to an expanding range. If you're looking for big results from a small tool, then look no further. **MC**

Specification

Battery voltage: 12V (10.8V)
No load speed: 14,500rpm
Planing width: 56mm
Planing depth: 0-2mm
Width of rebate: 0-17mm
Weight (excluding battery): 1.5kg
Brushless motor: Yes

Price: From **£226.80**

Web: www.bosch-professional.com

PROS

- Light and easy to handle

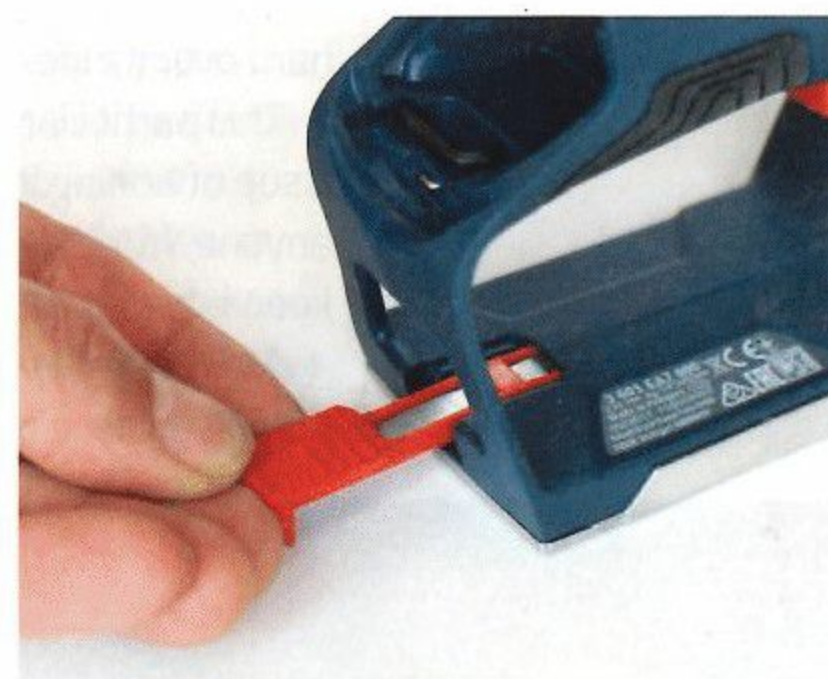
CONS

- You'll need a spare battery for a full-day's work

RATING: 4.5 out of 5



One-handed operation is the norm for this planer



A spare blade can always be available – note hex key above in battery compartment



1st stop; depressing the 'Maximum' button will gain you an additional millimetre of cut



Accurate milling on the aluminium base ensures consistent accuracy



The battery indicator enables the user to know at a glance just how much working power remains