

READER GROUP TEST

Einhell cordless jigsaw and CMT jigsaw blades

Welcome to our Reader Group Test by members of our very own Woodworker's Institute Forum

The Einhell TE-JS 18 Li Jigsaw is part of Einhell's new Power X Change range of 18V Li-ion cordless tools. It brings together a whole range of tools for different purposes utilising standard batteries and chargers. The range is ever expanding but, for instance, currently there is an impact drill, impact screwdriver, reciprocating saw, multi-sander, angle grinder and a variety of garden tools all working with one hour or 30 minute fast charging, depending on the battery size.

DETAILS:
Price: £49.99 (inc VAT)
Contact: Einhell
Web: www.einhellpowerxchange.co.uk



Left: Matthew using the Einhell cordless jigsaw



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SULLEY

We asked the testers a range of questions, some of which were graded, others needed more articulated answers rather than just scoring. We asked for their experience using the product and if they had any problems using them.

Einhell cordless jigsaw

Matthew Sulley: I had not used a machine with a splinter guard before and having now used the Einhell, I would not go back. With the guard installed the cut finish was fantastic! Normally, cutting ply results in numerous splinters and chips along the

length of the cut, irrespective of blade used, and present, to some degree, on all brands of machine. The splinter guard removed nearly all splintering and I was impressed by the quality of my workpiece afterwards. The sides of the cut were also smooth and splinter-free and I had confidence to use the tool on some precision cuts in thin oak (*Quercus robur*), knowing the quality of the cut would be high. I found all cuts to be 90° to the horizontal, which was very pleasing; no blade deflection.

James Bishop: I made some straight cuts with the whole of the soleplate on

the workpiece. The angle of cut was not consistent. This makes one wonder how it would get on with kitchen worktops. As a trial I crosscut a piece of 100 × 50mm pine (*Pinus spp.*). The cut had wandered off the right angle slightly within a cut of 75mm. The line guide gives a cut on the line rather than to one side. It needs dust extraction to clear the sawdust when following a line. I was unable to obtain a dead straight line with the parallel stop. Maybe more practice needed?

Walter Hall: The blade showed no tendency to wander and the adjustable



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SULLEY

Detail of a cut using the splinter guard compared to a cut without the guard

pendulum action made cutting a variety of materials trouble free. The LED lamp, clear chip guard and effective extraction facility made it easy to see and follow a curved line, while the – supplied – line guide and parallel stop facilitated straight cutting. I would recommend it for serious DIY or light trade. Looks and feels strong enough to cope with rough handling on site.

Richard Thornton: I used this jigsaw to cut 38mm worktop with a down cut blade and found it to be well within its capabilities, but it was necessary to take it steady, allowing the blade to cut. I then repeated this task with a standard clean-cut blade and found exactly the same result. Having checked the cost of this tool, I feel that it is very good value for money and while I do not think that it would stand up to the rigours of commercial use, it would be an asset to any domestic user.

Editor's comments

I had the chance to try out the Power X Change range back in the April issue of *Woodworking Plans and Projects* magazine. Einhell is definitely on to something with their range of 18V cordless tools at reasonable prices. They are bringing to the domestic consumer the interchangeability concept already exploited by the big trade brands. They are tough looking tools but not intended for heavy construction work. If you are on a budget, then this is a way into a system for a wide variety of tasks for both DIY and garden.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER HALL

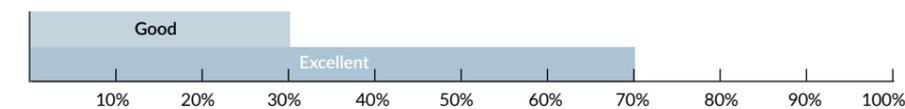
This jigsaw is capable of cutting a variety of materials, from softwood to hardwood



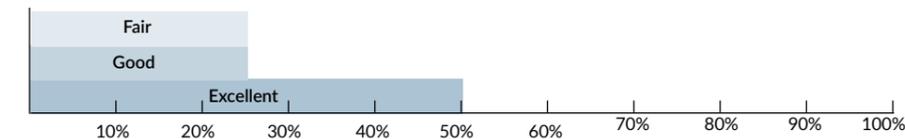
PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES BISHOP

James Bishop using the Einhell jigsaw

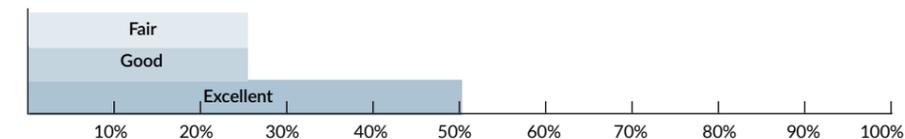
How would you rate the product performance?



How would you rate the product ease of use?



How would you rate the product overall?



For our testers' comments on CMT jigsaw blades, please turn the page ➤

CMT jigsaw blades

Matthew Sulley: I tried the blades in different materials of varying thicknesses, ranging from 3mm ply to 10mm European oak and 30mm pine. The blades performed extremely well on all materials, cutting at a good rate of speed for the relevant timber, creating clean, accurate cuts each time and maintaining a solid 90° angle to the horizontal with minimal deflection on the thickest timber.

Breakout in ply was as to be expected with slight splintering on the upper face and the blade can jump about creating a less than perfect cut; however, by fitting a splinter guard and adjusting the pendulum action, this was totally eliminated to give a splinter-free accurate cut. The speed and ease of cutting oak was excellent with very little splintering and none with the installation of the splinter guard. .

Richard Thornton: The teeth appear to be very precisely ground, which results in a very fine finish. The recommendation is for use on 3-30mm material but I exceeded this by cutting some lengths of various 40mm thick wood. To prevent burning I used the first stage of pendulum action. Although destroying the fine finish on softwood, the results on hardwood were still quite good. I also tried fairly tight curves and found that I achieved good results down to 60mm radius. Within the recommended limits, all cuts experienced were good.

On difficult oak veneered 4mm plywood, using a fairly high speed and a slow feed, the breakout was almost

CMT jigsaw blades

CMT is a long established tooling brand so it seemed a good idea to team their fine wood cutting blades with the Einhell jigsaw. Tomaco have a wide range of CMT blade types, which you can buy online from their website.

DETAILS:

Price: Pack of five blades £5.32 (inc VAT)

Contact: Tomaco

Web: www.tomaco.co.uk



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TOMACO

non-existent – even when cutting across the grain of the veneer – and virtually as good as a down cutting blade.

Gary Fowler: The blades are well made, the packaging is good with plenty of information on the product. The blades cut well on all material tested, from 3mm even past 30mm thickness. Maximum thickness cut on test was 50mm. Breakout was minimal on a wide range of materials, including laminate flooring, plywood and various soft and hardwoods. I would have no problem recommending these blades.

Walter Hall: CMT products have a well deserved reputation for quality and these blades are no exception. They cut cleanly in hardwood, softwood, plywood and MDF. There was some breakout cross-cutting plywood but this is to be expected. Very little breakout when cross-cutting hard and softwoods and expected levels of breakout in plywood. Breakout reduced further with the Einhell splinter guard fitted to the saw.

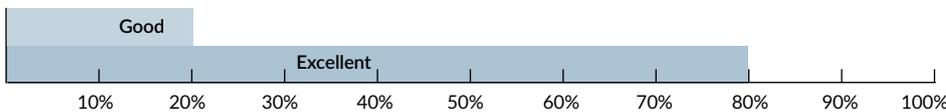
James Bishop: I tested these blades on 19mm pine, 19mm laminate, MDF and 50mm pine. I didn't encounter any problems on any of these test pieces, although I did experience a lot of breakout when cross-cutting pine, but no problems when ripping with the grain. Laminate suffered breakout but it was minimised by turning off the pendulum function of the jigsaw. It's the combination of blade and jigsaw that produces the results and I can see no reason why these blades would not perform well in any jigsaw. ■



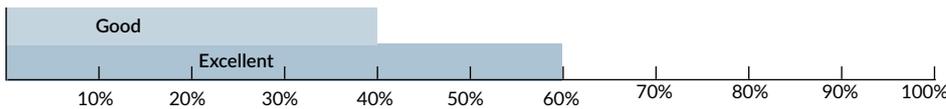
PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER HALL

Walter Hall fitting the CMT blade to the jigsaw

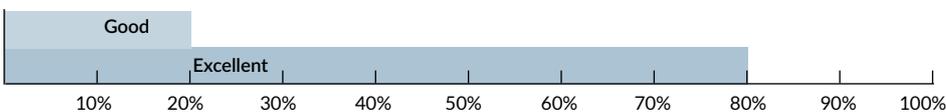
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Editor's comment

These blades, as our testers have noted, are very high quality and comparable to Bosch and Festool blades. It would have been good to have a variety pack to try as there are various types of blade in the CMT range. Nevertheless, they have performed well and come highly recommended to readers!



If you would like to be part of our panel of product testers, please go to our website – www.woodworkersinstitute.com – and SIGN UP NOW!