



Stanley Bostitch nails it

Matt Long tests the firm's latest nail gun and compressor

Stanley Bostitch has a new range of compressor-driven nail guns, and sent in their BT1855-E brad nailer and 1.5HP U6L roll cage compressor for us to test.

Compressor

This was my first time using an air driven compressor and gun, so if I was able to set it up and get it working, then anyone can.

And, to be fair, it is so easy to operate, I had it working in minutes. After reading the manual, I plugged it in, pulled the on switch and away it went... ease of use is a given.

Obviously in a simple workshop test, which was all I had time for, it is impossible to tell how robust such a machine is, and how it will stand up to the rigours of use.

All I can say is that it is very sturdily built, easy to operate and would seem to be very robust.

In addition, the hose from compressor to nail gun attach and unclip to each other with ease, even when there is pressure in the system.

Simplicity of operation, I usually find, is often the mark of a well thought out and impressive design and manufacture.

Nail gun

As for the nail gun itself, it is easy – and safe – to use. The trigger for this model, the BT1855-E brad nailer, has a lock button, which doubles up as the selector slot for the contact and sequential operation.

The rubber comfort grip, anti-slip bumpers and magnesium housing give the tool a light, but sturdy feel... this is a tool that will last.

The nosepiece is compact, with a no-mar tip to preserve the workpiece, and with the rear exhaust the gun is a joy to use. It also has dial-a-depth for precise countersinking of the nails



– it takes fasteners between 15 and 55mm, to a width of 1.25mm and a head size of 2mm.

Switching between contact and sequential operation is simplicity itself. The contact operation ensures the gun will only fire once when the trigger and nose are depressed at the same time, and the sequential operation allows for multiple firings when the trigger is depressed and each time the nose is pressed into the workpiece.

All in all I found the features of the gun to work well, and it is a fine piece of kit. In reality this gun and

compressor combination is probably for the professional, rather than the hobbyist. However, if you tackle big jobs that require lots of repetitive nailing, then this fellow is for you.

The verdict...

The compressor and nail gun are both great bits of kit. Robustly built and easy to operate. The question you should ask is do you need a compressed air gun with the added cost of a compressor, or an electric version? If you want a quality product then this combination will serve you very well.



BT1855-E brad nailer AT A GLANCE

- Rubber comfort grip
- Magnesium housing
- No-mar tip
- Dial-a-depth

THE NUMBERS

- Weight 1.23kg
- Magazine capacity 100
- Dimensions: 235 x 240 x 70mm
- Price: £125 inc VAT

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
- PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
- BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

1.5HP U6L compressor AT A GLANCE

- Oil lubricated for increased durability
- Integrated carry handle
- Rugged rollcage protective frame
- Complete with 5m hose

THE NUMBERS

- Compressor Noise: 71db @ 1m
- Voltage: 230
- Tank: 6L
- Price £209.95 including VAT

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
- PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
- BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

WHERE TO BUY

- bostitch.co.uk
- Tel: 0870 1630630
- www.dm-tools.co.uk
- Tel: 020 8892 3813