

Scheppach Basato 4 bandsaw

The Basato 4 has capacities to suit the professional user, yet is small enough for the amateur workshop. Like all the bandsaws in the Scheppach range, it is constructed primarily from welded steel sheet, designed to give total rigidity. It's mounted on a cabinet base that offers useful storage space. This base also houses retractable wheels at one end, and a handle at the other which slides in and out. Despite the weight of the saw, the wheels and handle provide a ready means of moving the saw easily around the workshop. It doesn't need fixing to the floor.

Design features

A very worthwhile advance in the design is the mechanism which gives quick release to the tension on the blade. This means that blade changing couldn't be speedier; once a new blade has been fitted, flicking the tension lever returns this part of the machine back to normal. The upper wheel also has the usual controls for tension and tracking.

The blade wheels are alloy, with the lower one having a small brush trailing over its rim to help to keep it clean. Speed changing is manual; the drive belt runs to the rear of the lower wheel, and a lever close to the motor releases the tension on the belt to facilitate switching the belt over the drive pulleys. Also near to the lower wheel is the dust exit; this passes through the body, enabling a 100 mm diameter hose to be fitted.

Good guides

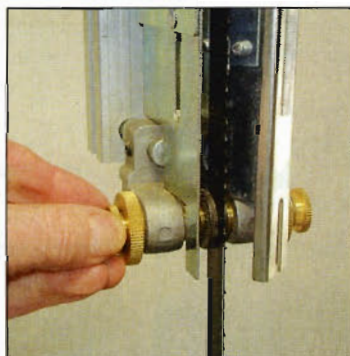
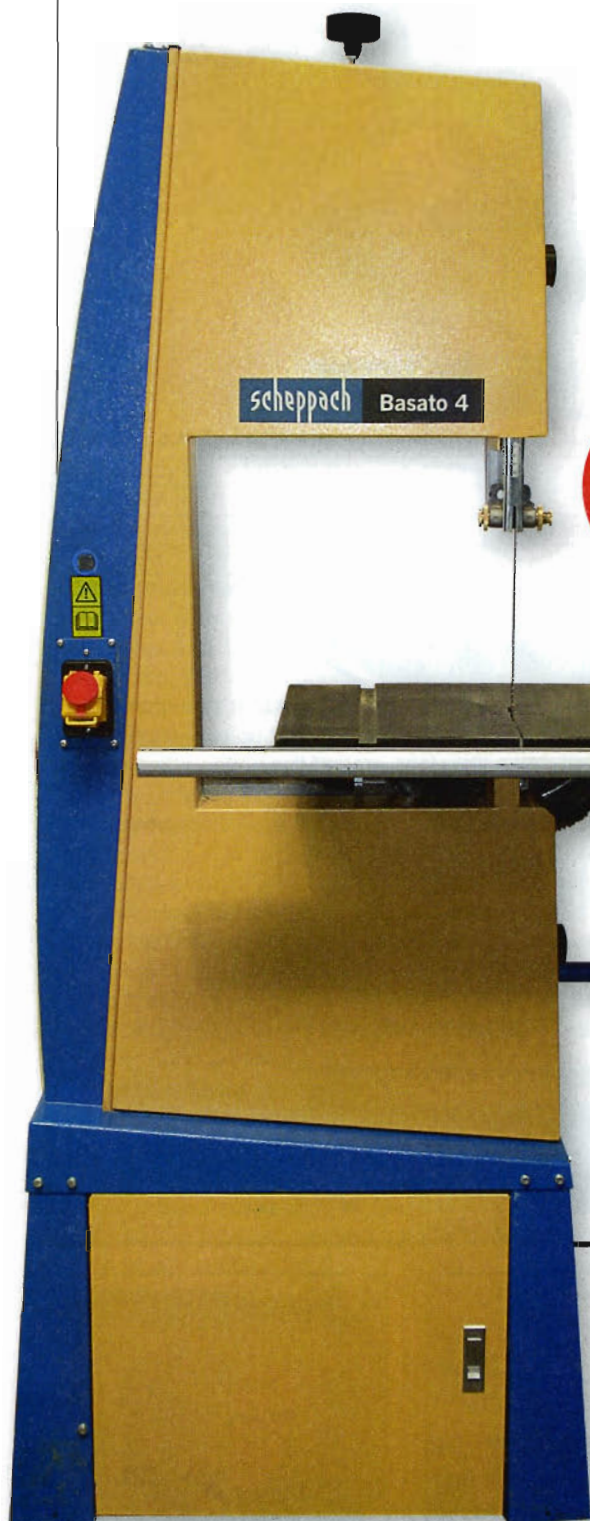
The blade guide system is well refined. Adjustment and locking of the side guides is readily carried out without the use of tools, and this includes locking the setting as required. The actual guide wheel to the rear of the blade is identical to the two at the sides, so they're interchangeable, but an Allen key is required to adjust it. The whole arrangement is repeated below the table. The upper guide system is readily adjusted for height according to the thickness of wood being sawn.

Top table

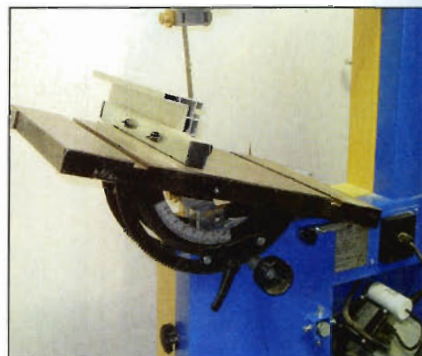
The table is mounted on a substantial quadrant bracket, the angle of which is controlled by a knob, and the setting chosen can be locked. As well as the usual tilt setting to the right, the table can be set at up to 17° to the left. An adjustable return stop is fitted beneath the table; this can be instantly flicked out of the way to allow the table to be tilted to the left.

A rail is fitted the full extent of the table. This carries the rip fence,

£599



The side guides are adjusted by hand



The table will tilt up to 17° to the left

Bandsaws have been around for more than 100 years, but they were a long time in the development stage. This was due to difficulties in manufacturing a blade of acceptable quality, forming a durable joint in the blade, and producing an effective material to cover the wheels. Today's bandsaws have long since solved all these problems



TESTED BY GORDON WARR

as well as making the table more rigid where the gap for the blade occurs. It locks to the table at several points, with the one on the right providing a pivoting point to allow the rail to be swung clear when a blade needs to be changed.

Versatile fence

The fence is 400mm long, and has a high side of 70mm and a low one of 12mm. Normally, the high side is the one used, but the low side allows the fence to be positioned close to the blade when narrow pieces are being sawn.

The fence can be readily adjusted in a forwards-backwards position, and it can also be located to the left of the blade. It secures to the rail by a cam-acting lever, with the rail being graduated to both sides of the centre so as to provide readings whichever way the fence is positioned. There are also graduations, highlighted in blue, which are used when the fence has its low side towards the blade. And as a final refinement, a magnifier is incorporated to make reading the scale easier and more accurate.

The all-metal crosscut fence will locate to either side of the blade. It's an excellent fit in the grooves, with virtually no play. The face can be adjusted laterally, and set up to 60° in either direction.

The saw in use

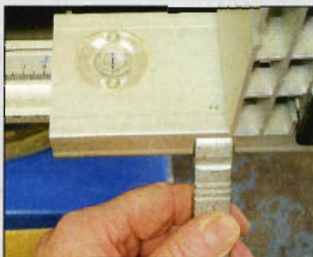
Once I had connected the dust extraction hose to the rear of the machine, I was ready to start my trials. The principal use of a bandsaw is for cutting material to shaped outlines, when the wood has to be controlled by hand. After sawing various pieces to the curved profile, it was on to some ripping: no problem!

Next, I tried some deep sawing, almost up to the saw's limit. First I tackled a piece of walnut which I needed for a project, and which had to be sawn to give two pieces of equal thickness, followed by a slab of oak which I required to be cut to give three boards.

The saw cut these as if it was no more than a warm-up exercise for more serious work, so I tested it still further with some conversion work on a billet of ash. It was a particularly dense small log, but I didn't detect any heavy breathing from the machine as the motor maintained full speed and cut the wood as fast as I could feed it forwards with safety.

Bevel ripping is little different from normal ripping, but the fence should be positioned on the lower edge of the table so that gravity helps to maintain close contact of the wood against the fence.

Some cross cutting followed – square, mitre, bevel, and compound. The saw made all these cuts effortlessly.



A cam acting lever locks the fence in place



The front rail swings clear for blade changing

SPECIFICATION

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| POWER | 1100W |
| SPEED | 800 and 1200m/min |
| TABLE SIZE | 548 x 400mm |
| HEIGHT UNDER GUIDES | 375mm |
| MAX CUTTING DEPTH | 250mm |
| BLADE WIDTHS | 6-30mm |
| BLADE LENGTH | 2895mm |
| WEIGHT | 108kg |

VERDICT

This machine does everything you would want in a bandsaw, and has a lot of useful features often found only on more expensive machines.

- PROS**
- Good blade guide system
 - Instant blade tension release
 - Adaptable fence
 - Ease of mobility
- CONS**
- Blade changing is a bit fiddly

VALUE FOR MONEY

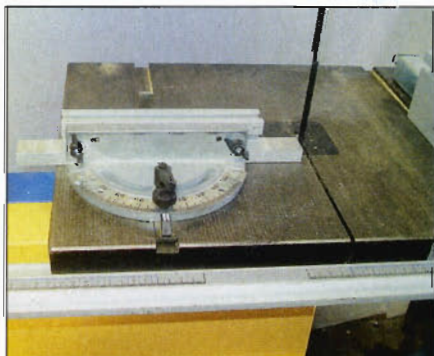


PERFORMANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION

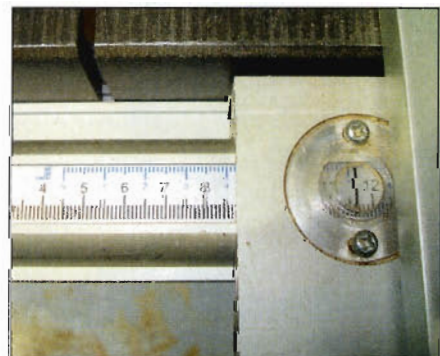
- NMA (Agencies)
- 01484 400488
- www.nmauk.com



The crosscut fence fits in the left-hand groove



The fence with the low side to the blade



A magnifier is built into the end of the fence