



Bosch GCM 12 GDL Professional Mitre Saw

Paul Hannaby is impressed by this Bosch

When the courier arrived and said he had a pallet for me I thought maybe I had been sent the wrong saw but (much to my relief) it was a small pallet with a fairly large box attached.

Once I figured out how to get the saw out of the box, I was bewildered by the number of levers and knobs for what I expected to be a fairly simple tool. Before I went any further, I downloaded a manual from the Bosch professional website.

My first test was a piece of 225 x 75mm pine cut at 90°. There is a separate switch for turning the lasers on so they work independently of the blade. The dual lasers needed a little adjustment before I started but it was easily done in a few seconds. The laser lines made it easy to align the pencil mark on the piece of wood with the cut. The blade guard has slots in it, so the laser lines illuminate the work even with the guard in place.

The manual explained how to adjust the angle of the laser lines if necessary, but I didn't need to. Once the wood was clamped securely I made the cut. I was impressed at how fast and cleanly

the blade cut. Not all the shavings were captured in the supplied dust bag but a fair amount of them were. The dust extraction port allowed me to fit a 32mm hose so I used a workshop vacuum cleaner as an extractor in preference to the dust bag. This caught a lot more shavings.

The next test was to cut a 45° bevel or vertical mitre on a piece of 240 x 40mm ash. It was necessary to extend the fence on the right to allow the blade to be set to a 45° angle on the right hand side. The denser ash cut a little slower than the pine but that was to be expected. Progress through the cut was effortless and the blade traversed without any noticeable vibration. When I removed the wood to check the cut, I was amazed at just how clean the surface was. It almost looked like it was a planed finish. I know it was a new blade but the finish was impressive, nonetheless.

I went back to the 225 x 75mm pine and set up for a horizontal 45° mitre with depth stop just to see how easy it was to do a partial depth cut. It was easy to set the depth stop and by sliding the depth stop lever, it was easy to alternate between partial depth and full depth cuts. I made the partial depth cut over the whole width with ease. This obviously comes into its own

AT A GLANCE

- Mitre saw
- Laser guides
- Fully adjustable settings

In the box:

- Dust bag
- 2 Allen keys (2mm for adjusting the laser and 4/6mm for angle adjustments)

THE NUMBERS

- Power: 1800/5100 rpm
- No load speed: 3800 rpm
- Blade diameter: 305mm
- Weight: 32.1kg
- Maximum cutting depth: 104mm against fence/110mm against spacer
- Max cutting width at 0°: 335mm
- Max cutting width at 45°: horizontal mitre 240mm
- Max cutting width at 45°: vertical mitre 50mm
- Max cutting width at 45°: vertical mitre 335mm
- Horizontal mitre range: 52° left – 60° right
- Vertical mitre range: 47° left – 47° right
- Price: £958.80 inc VAT

5 STAR RATING

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

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Speed
- ✓ Accuracy
- ✓ Adjustments
- ✓ Good range of mitre angles

WHERE TO BUY

- Website: www.bosch.co.uk

for cutting joints. For my next trick, I slid the depth stop lever the other way and cut the horizontal mitre right through. Again the cut surface was very clean and straight.

Verdict

The saw has all the features I could ask for (including a few I hadn't thought of). The fences and supports are so quick to use they are a real bonus and the lasers speed up cut alignment. All the angle settings and stops can be adjusted and calibrated. A good range for both right and left mitre angles allow angles to be cut either way. ■