



SHUTTERSTOCK/ANTHONY BAILEY

# Just a jigsaw?

Anthony Bailey takes a look at Bosch's latest jigsaw offering to see whether it is a radical departure or simply a range gap-filler

**B**osch continues to build out their range of Professional to the extent that one wonders if there is anything new to design or even imagine in the world of power tools.

The first thing I always do is consult the Bosch 'blue' website for information and press releases. Without that understanding of the ethic behind designing and building a power tool, especially one where Bosch are already pastmasters, there is little point in trying to be objective or trying to seem well informed. The GST 140 BCE seems to be an example of 'strength in depth' to use a military analogy. No professional is going to buy a lightweight, underpowered jigsaw. They simply won't perform. So this machine packs a hefty 720watts of power, but the design tweaks Bosch has already implemented acknowledge superiority in jigsaw design.

For a start the rubber overmould is the most discreet yet, as it is fractionally recessed where most would stand proud. The switch trigger is off every other Bosch model, while the ambidextrous lock on/off button stands out quite a way for easy touch. The speed dial at the rear is ridiculously awkward to operate and

needs to project more. There are the familiar orbit and blower switches, wire blade guard and the quick release lever; nothing new there.

The design effort has been concentrated in making the cut smooth and accurate with low vibration apparently. The cast aluminium base has a raised, bevelled design and comes with a smooth non-scratch sole covering. The bevel angle is altered by pulling out a red-tipped lever on the side and pushing the base forward against spring pressure then tilting the base and locking it again, there are three preset positions as well, at 0° and 45° either way.

Levelling the baseplate is done using a flat-bladed screwdriver in a slotted pin underneath, no tools are provided. Perhaps the most interesting area is blade support with a more complex pivoting double roller support, which incorporates hardened side guides. The whole idea is to confer more control so the blade doesn't do the usual thing and wander, especially when doing deep and curved cuts.

Bosch of course have a very comprehensive range of blades including extreme clean cutting variants and it will of course work with the new Bosch guide rail system. *F&C*

## F&C Verdict

*I tried all the usual cuts including a thick hardwood, following a pencil line and a tight curve to see if the blade wanders, because for a jigsaw the critical things are speed, accuracy and spelch (breakout). The correct choice of blade will help take care of the latter. The speed was as good as expected according to the orbit selection and again the blade type. On a tight curve the blade did give a slightly angled cut. This jigsaw is claimed to give a new standard in precision, an interesting statement given that the GST 135 BCE has adjustable guide jaws, whereas this model has a rather loose guidance arrangement with some free play evident. It does, however, help reduce surface chipping somewhat.*

*The extraction was nonexistent I'm sorry to say, but then I struggle to find any jigsaw where extraction is beneficial. The blower works if the clear plastic cover is removed from the front of the jigsaw. To sum up, a really good tool but it's still a jigsaw, not a miracle machine.*

## Pros

- Pro build quality
- Nice design touches
- Easy handling
- LED worklights
- Constant load speed

## Cons

- Extraction ineffective
- Standard cutting accuracy
- Pricey

## The numbers

- Motor input 720 watts
- No load stroke rate 800-3,100spm
- Stroke length 26mm
- Cut depth 140mm wood
- 20mm aluminium
- 10mm non-alloyed steel
- Weight 2.3kg
- Typical price £247.20 inc. VAT

Available from  
[www.bosch-professional.com](http://www.bosch-professional.com)

## What's in the box?

- 1 x Bosch GST 140 BCE
- 1 x detachable dust port
- 1 x chip breaker & guard
- 1 x Allen key
- 3 x blades

