

DeWalt DC608 nailgun

Bulky, but excellent for fast compressor-free work

In GW156 I waxed lyrical over the bigger brother to this nailer, the DC618 16-gauge angled nailer. Looking at its sibling, I think it's likely to be as firm a favourite. In terms of size, it's of similar stature to its counterpart, which is to say it's a bit on the bulky side — it weighs in at nearly a kilo more than a top-end 18V drill, so it could get tiring after prolonged use.

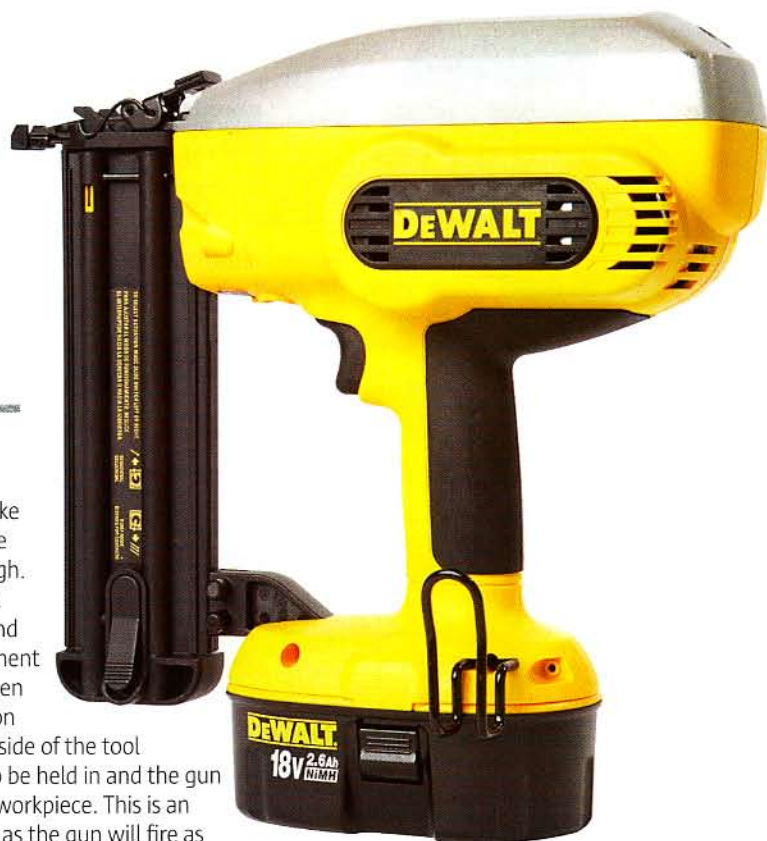
The build spec' is pretty much identical to that of the DC618, the main difference being the straight clip which replaces the angled one, with finer and shorter maximum-length fixings. The tendency with these tools is to drop them on their back, so an alloy top housing takes the brunt of any impact.

While the bigger diameter fixings used by the DC618 are best suited to heavier second fix work or lightweight framing, the finer 18-gauge nails of the DC608 are ideal for lightweight tasks including architraves and beadings or for pinning plywood backs and suchlike. Safety-wise, the gun uses the same system as other guns, so it won't fire until the small, protected rubber nose is pushed against the work; the nose gives a reasonably good view of the work area which

allows the accurate setting of fixings.

You do need to take care if you utilise the 'bump' mode, though. This is used for work demanding faster and less accurate placement of the fasteners, when sliding a small button across on the underside of the tool allows the trigger to be held in and the gun 'bumped' onto the workpiece. This is an astounding feature, as the gun will fire as fast as you can bump it onto the work. Also, unlike a Paslode or other nailers that use a gas and battery system, there's no charging cycle to contend with — it just races along. If you can work fast enough, it will nail at four or five a second, so you have to be careful not to pull the trigger inadvertently, as nails are very easily discharged. Ideally, you should use the safety lever that prevents the gun from being operating accidentally.

The nailgun has a depth-of-drive dial for



different nail lengths and timber densities. The thinner-gauge nails can be prone to jamming if they encounter a knot or harder timber, so the toggle clip nose is an easy way to clear the jam.

The battery stamina depends on how long the nails are and the material you're firing them into, but with its spare battery, the DC608 will easily meet the demands of the professional market.

The only other solely battery-operated tool currently out there seems to be the Tacwise Ranger 40 which, although aimed at the pro', comes up well short in comparison. The Tacwise may be a third of the cost, but the DeWalt performs far better. Its gas-free operation and speed mean that the DeWalt also outguns its main rival, the Paslode, despite the fact that it's £100 more expensive. It's bulky, which makes it a little tricky in tight areas, but the DC608 is a fabulous tool, as powerful as an air-driven nailgun but with the freedom of true portability. 🛠️



▲ Pic 1: Jammed fixings are easily freed thanks to this toggle clip nose



▲ Pic 2: Flipping this lever locks the gun to prevent it from firing



▲ Pic 3: The click-stop dial with which the depth of drive is set is a bit stiff but works well



▲ Pic 4: Flipping this switch puts the gun into 'bump' mode for fast nailing

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + As good as an air model without the compressor
- A bit heavy for some applications

Rating ★★★★★

Typical Price: **£470**

Capacity: 110 nails

Nail sizes: 16-50mm

Nail gauge: 18 gauge (1.2mm)

Weight 3.4kg

Batteries: 2 x 18V 2.6Ah NiMH

DeWalt

www.dewalt.co.uk