



Fein Multimaster FMM 250 Q

I think it's always a good sign when a tool has healthy competition to drive it forwards. Fein dominated the market with the MultiMaster, but Bosch has now taken on that technology with a budget mains and battery professional model. Both of these models from Bosch use the original concept used by Fein to hold the blades – a hex wrench on a single threaded flange type fitting.

Fein has beaten Bosch at its own game with the FMM 250 Q, however, as this one has a quick release system for swapping between accessories, using a toggle type cam lever on top of the body. In essence, the SDS tool-free fitting that I imagine Bosch would have loved to have. It's a tad stiff to operate as you flip it over, but that does ensure that any fitting clamped in remains firmly in place.

The individual fittings and accessories are held with a flat button type post with a serrated top to the shank. This engages the cam lever as it's repositioned, pulling the button firmly against the accessory. To prevent

the accessory from moving, a cross-shaped raised area engages the star-shaped hole punched in each one, locking it firmly, and also allowing it to be positioned at the best angle to suit the work.

It's easy to dismiss this type of multifunction tool as a delta sander that does a bit more, but they are very, very good at these additional jobs. Although seemingly a jack of all trades, if you delve into and utilise its capabilities this tool is actually a master of them as well.

The oscillation is also different from standard delta sanders. With no orbital pattern the tool post swings at 1.6° from side to side in an oscillating manner, so any fitting that is fitted has a more aggressive action at its perimeter.

For sanding, this means that the very tip of the tool will remove any old finish or clean up an intricate area far more efficiently than a standard delta model, although the abrasive does wear quickly because of this, and the actual backing pad is prone to equal wear, but the new design allows you to rotate the pad in

seconds to get the most from it.

It's a trade-off I can live with if it means you can get right into nooks and crannies with speed and ease, and it excels in intricate areas such as sanding around stair spindles, cleaning up rails against legs or any similar operation where you are sanding tight against another surface.

It's also the cutting blades where the tool is surprisingly efficient. Given its very small oscillation arc you could easily be forgiven in thinking it would struggle to cut anything, when in fact it will cut surprisingly fast in most materials with the correct blade fitted.

Flush cutting is where it does a fantastic job, much the same as sanding. Against an edge or in a corner, the MultiMaster can remove a piece cleanly where chisel work could take an age and leave the back splintered and broken away.

It's these sort of applications, where you have to think about how you would do it to a degree of accuracy and/or finish where the



▲ Pic. 1 Using a sawing blade it's ideal for trimming door linings when fitting laminate



▲ Pic. 2 The accessories are clamped with the serrated post held with the cam lock



▲ Pic. 3 The star profile lets any accessory swing to the best position to suit the work



▲ Pic. 4 These rubber sanding blocks are ideal for cleaning up intricate mouldings



▲ Pic. 5 A huge range of cutting and polishing accessories are available



MultiMaster invariably has a fitting that will do the job. Renovation work is one such option, where removing damaged areas can cause more problems, and if you have ever tried hacking rock hard putty out of a sash window with elegant Georgian glazing bars with a chisel or a knife without damaging them, you'll appreciate how well the MultiMaster works to break or saw it away cleanly with minimal or no damage.

The variable speed option is ideal for working

GRP or plastics, and whether cutting sanding or polishing, the MultiMaster has a fitting for the job, and more beyond.

It may seemingly be one of those tools that you would buy on impulse never to use, but in truth, if you consider its capabilities, the speed and cleanness of the cut or sanding in awkward areas for instance, it's a tool that will get plenty of use, and deservedly so.

The new fast change clamping method is certainly a massive advantage, and the

increase in motor power gives it that bit more 'oomph' on the more demanding work. The accessories can be expensive, but the usefulness of each one can ensure its worth on time and effort alone.

You can pick up the basic model at around £100, with the 'Top' version, complete with a massive range of accessories bundled with it for around £210. 🛠️



◀ The Multimaster is one of those tools you simply keep on finding tasks for – high quality and useful, we like it!

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Fast changeover, huge range of accessories
- Accessories can be expensive

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £100.00 - £210.00

Made in: Germany

Speeds: 11000-20000

Power: 250Wd

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