

*Festool are acknowledged by many as the peerless manufacturer of high-end power tools for the discerning professional. Over the last couple of years they've been nearing a breakthrough to a larger UK market, and I believe that the CXS could be just the tool to provide the final push*

# Festool CXS cordless drill/driver

The CXS has a rather unusual design, with a standard pistol grip at the rear and a secondary section at the front that houses the battery cells and the LED worklight. This gives the tool perfect balance. On top is the two-position speed selector and in front of it is the torque ring.



£245.58

### Getting a grip

Straight from the new-look T-Loc Systemer box (an upmarket carry-case for the uninitiated), the CXS is instantly comfortable in the hand and a pleasure to tool up and use. A simple task like driving in a screw immediately transmits the feel of quality, and there's something about the gearing and smooth-running motor that makes you look forward to more work. The variable-speed trigger is very progressive and the worklight is bright.

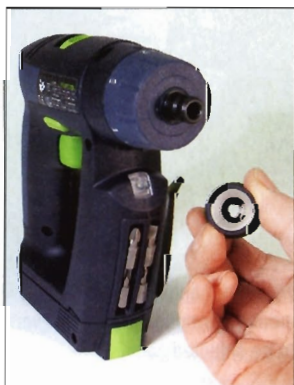
For a relatively small driver, the torque is phenomenal; even on the mid-range settings it took me some time before I slipped the clutch. Changing drill speed and direction is a delight, and is a real vindication for all the time and effort spent by the engineers in the Festool R&D department.

The accessories supplied with the CXS make it highly versatile and able to operate in confined spaces with ease. It's an ideal tool for the cabinetmaker or furniture maker.

### Clever battery

A fast charger is supplied, and this will charge the Li-ion battery from empty to 80 per cent full in 20 minutes, or to 100 per cent in 30 minutes. The battery is protected from overload by circuits in the machine which cut the power.

Battery life is good, and is unaffected by the bright LED work light which is pretty much the norm for cordless power tools these days. The body design not only provides a clever housing for the battery pack; it also makes the tool more stable and superbly balanced. The front of the handle guard houses a clever magnetic bit storage device, and the integral belt clip can be fitted just underneath on either side. The low weight of this drill makes it one of the few that you can hook onto your trousers with little fear of embarrassment.



The Centrotec chuck snaps on and off



The right-angle adapter and chuck



The chuck push-fits onto the adapter



The accessory set fits in a Systainer case



The compact battery slides in place below the front handle

### Centrotec chuck

The CXS comes with the default Centrotec chuck – Festool's quick-change bit holder system – as well as a standard Fastfix 8mm three-jaw chuck. The small chuck clips onto the motor shaft and then grips the screwdriver bit. The Centrotec chuck can be removed and the bit inserted directly into the motor shaft if necessary. The supplied keyless chuck and the right-angle attachment also clip on to the motor shaft, so changing functions takes a matter of moments.

### Extra goodies

Our test machine was also supplied with the Centrotec accessory set, which costs around £286. This is another Systainer case filled with all the bits you could possibly want – a set of twist drills, several sets of screwdriver bits of varying lengths, a screwdriver handle for manual use, a spare chuck, and various countersinks and specialist bits. As you would expect, these are all immaculately made and packaged.

A second accessory box was also supplied to us containing the Festool ratchet set; this is a small socket set, compatible with the Centrotec fittings, that allows you to use the set independently or to fit them to the CXS.

Andy Standing also tested this drill for us, so we have incorporated his comments and findings into Mark Cass' review. Andy described it as 'an exquisite tool, beautifully designed and one of the best I've ever used'.

The magnetic holder stores spare bits



The LED work light is extremely bright



The speed and torque controls are clear



TESTED BY MARK CASS

## SPECIFICATION

<b>BATTERY</b>	10.8V Li-ion	
<b>SPEED RANGES</b>	0-400 and 0-1200rpm	
<b>DRILLING CAPACITY</b>	wood	12mm
	metal	8mm
<b>WEIGHT</b>	0.9kg	
<b>ACCESSORIES</b>	battery charger, Centrotec tool chuck and bit holder, Fastfix keyless chuck, PZ2 bit	

## VERDICT

This is a top-quality tool with faultless design and exemplary build quality. Its high price may put many off, but for the perfectionist who won't compromise, there's no other choice.

- PROS**
- Superb build quality
  - Powerful torque
  - Size and agility
  - Range of accessories

- CONS**
- Only the price

**VALUE FOR MONEY**

**PERFORMANCE**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Healy's Tool Specialist
- 01707 278150
- [www.healystool.co.uk](http://www.healystool.co.uk)

The battery charger is highly intelligent

