



On Test



After a new power tool? Want to replace your bandsaw?
ANDY KING gives new products a workout to help you decide

Metabo KHE28 Drill

£374.82 ☎ 02380 732000

www.metabo.co.uk

Motor: 1010W

Weight: 2.7kg

Speed: 0 to 1000rpm

Capacity: 40mm wood

Professional power tools are easy targets for thieves, and with insurance hard to obtain an unlucky victim will often look for a cheaper replacement if stolen. This may only last a few weeks, and won't have the build quality or reliability of a pro machine. If this in turn gets stolen, it's not such a loss.

Metabo have taken the lead in helping the trade user by building an immobiliser into some of their core products. Currently five mains drills have CODE! technology built in. This consists of a chip inside the tool and a remote control to operate the immobiliser. As more tools are added, each can be programmed to operate from a single remote.

An infra-red receiver on top of the drill picks up the signal from the controller and then flashes a red indicator to show it's disabled (the drill needs to be plugged in to operate the remote disable function).

Three dials inside the remote, each with 16 positions, are used to set your own personal code. This is transferred to the machine by pressing both buttons together.

I've always rated Metabo power drills as being about the best SDS hammers available for the building trade. The new KHE28 is a prime example of what makes them the champions. It's heavy, due to the big motor and heavy front alloy housing. The back handle design makes it hard to use single-handed for horizontal drilling, but the auxiliary front handle makes life easier. The drill is just as comfortable to support by gripping around the body. A rubberised strip on the handle



Just like locking a car, you point the remote at the CODE! drill for it to be immobilised. There are 4000 possible security combinations to choose from

extends around the casing to soften the hammer effect when drilling.

Although the SDS function is the mainstay of the tool, with hammer action off you can drill into timber. Rotate a dial and you have a small breaking hammer for chipping plaster off or chasing walls. Chucks can be swapped in seconds. A twist collar releases it from the drive spigot, so a standard three-jaw chuck (an option) can slot into place.

This German-built drill performed flawlessly. It took only seconds to punch 7mm diameter crisp, clean holes into concrete. As a standard SDS tool it's top quality, but with the CODE! function, professionals can now buy kit safe in the knowledge that there's much less chance of it getting nicked. If I had my way this technology would be widely available on far more tools. It's early days, but Metabo are to be congratulated. Expect to pay about £250.

GW verdict

- Anti-theft technology Build quality
- No three-jaw chuck or chisel included

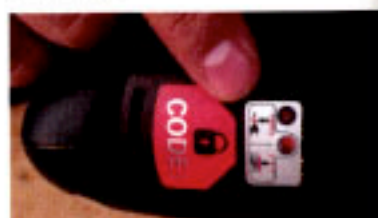
Value for money
Performance



A dial selects three functions: standard drilling, hammer or breaking action



Forward or reverse action can be selected comfortably on either side of the drill



You point the remote control at the infra-red receiver on top of the drill to activate

Prices

We show manufacturers' list prices where possible, including VAT. Value for Money ratings are based on these prices. Many items will be cheaper in the stores, so it pays to shop around

What the performance ratings mean



Superb. Can't be faulted



Excellent performance



Good, but not the best



Scope for improvement



Don't bother