

Makita BUC122Z chainsaw

If ever a tool for working wood can strike fear into the first time user, then it's got to be the chainsaw! While this instrument of destruction is probably out of the remit of woodworking at a pure level, it fits in with the quirky nature of this feature as it's battery powered.

Of course a tool reliant on batteries and taking a big kerf cut such as a chainsaw isn't likely to break any records with its capacities, and that's the case here, only 115mm as its maximum on a cross cut.

With a standard chainsaw you can attack from two sides if you are confident with them and in doing so, double this capacity. But here the chain has a nose protector so you can only use the long part of the chain, not the rounded end. It's safer as it minimises kickback, and although kickback from such a dinky little tool isn't as scary as a mains or petrol model with a long bar, it helps keep you in full control.

It doesn't conform to usual safety aspects of a standard chainsaw, the front paddle guard


also acts as the fence, but unlike a petrol saw where it has to be engaged before the trigger can be operated this is simply a fixed guard. The power-up operation is identical to circular saws, meaning a safety button and trigger configuration that works well enough, and in use it's a well-balanced and easy to control machine.

Essential maintenance is standard with chainsaws, so you need to ensure the chain is

lubricated, but this is simply a matter of filling the reservoir tank. And that's it – it self-lubricates as you use it. The filler cap seems to be a polythene type cap, I'd expect better.

Swapping the chains is equally painless, the large dial on the side slackening the tension to allow it to slip off and be replaced, so no spanners or screwdrivers. But for all this, you need to question whether you would gain use from it. A tree surgeon or landscape gardener would find uses, as lopping branches with one of these is far safer than with a big powerful petrol model, and it will chop reasonable sized timbers down if needed for landscaping work. For the rest of us, the turners will get some worth for cutting branchwood into blanks, and it's safer than trying it on a bandsaw unless you have cradle for the job.

Personally, I'd get worth from it at the timber yard, especially buying hardwoods which can often be massive planks and far too bulky to manhandle alone. Armed with a cutting list and one of these, you can zip the planks to rough lengths with ease and transport it far easier.

The saw is sold as a 'naked' option, so if you've already embraced the Makita Lithium tools, it's a relatively cheap add on. With the batteries, it's a different ball game. 

The Woodworking Verdict

- + Neat little tool for lopping and crosscutting
- Limited scope for real woodwork

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: **£136.00**

Power: 18v Li Ion Battery

Max cutting capacity 115mm

Weight 2.5kg

Chain speed: 5 metres per minute

Web: www.makitauk.com



▲ Pic.1 You need to apply chain oil to the reservoir but after that it's self lubricating



▲ Pic.2 Swapping chains is simple, the cover simply unscrews with the large dial knob



▲ Pic.3 This nose guard is riveted on to prevent plunge cuts and possible kickback