



Dismantling a pocket-holed frame with the impact driver

Makita Drill driver/Impact driver set



Quick-fit bits for impact driver. The auger drill on the right has a 14mm insertion piece, too long for this tool

Ron Fox gets to comfortable grips with this astonishingly affordable set

Makita have been in the forefront of the development of Lithium Ion batteries and several of their L-Ion powered tools have been reviewed in this magazine. Latest to come my way is the LCT 204W 10.8V set, consisting of a drill/driver with two speed ranges (DF330D) and a variable speed impact driver (TD090D) that delivers 3000 impacts per minute.

Both tools have been available separately but the latest versions are

now presented together in a very neat carry case complete with a battery in each, and the charger to go with them.

I was immediately struck by the diminutive size and balance of the tools since my elderly hands are small and rather arthritic and I simply cannot cope with the 18V and upwards monsters. The small size also enables them to get into tight corners when working on kitchen cabinets, shelf units etc.

DF330D Drill/Driver

The drill/driver has two speed ranges: 0-350 and 0-1300 rpm. Drilling capacities are quoted as 21mm in wood and 10mm in steel. For driving, a torque ring with eighteen different settings controls the clutch, but the beauty of having the set is that you can keep this one for drilling your clearance holes then switch to the other to drive the screws.

TD090D Impact Driver

The little impact driver packs a formidable punch, driving quite long

AT A GLANCE

■ Comes with case, charger, and battery in each tool

THE NUMBERS

■ RRP £253 inc VAT, but can be found at £150 or less inc VAT.

■ Model: LCT 204W.

■ Voltage: 10.8V.

■ Battery charging time: 50 minutes.

■ Drill chuck maximum capacity: 10mm.

■ Maximum speeds:

■ **Drill:** 1,300 rpm

■ **Impact driver:** 2,400 rpm, max impact rate: 3,000 ipm

WHERE TO BUY

■ Contact: Makita

■ Tel: 01908 211 678

■ Website: www.makita.co.uk or Google 'Makita LCT 204W' for deals

5 STAR RATING

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

Drilling a pilot hole for a hinge



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RON FOX

screws without effort. It comes into its own, however, when you want to remove a reluctant screw, as when dismantling a frame or repairing a piece furniture.

The quick-fit chuck accepts $\frac{1}{4}$ in hex-shanked bits with an insertion portion (the bit that goes into the chuck) 9mm long from the groove machined in the shank. Most of my existing bits were this length but I found one or two where the insertion portion was 14mm long. These wouldn't go in the chuck.

The impact action kicks in as the resistance of the screw increases and is permanent i.e. you can't switch it off. This makes it noisier than the drill/driver but I doubt that it will worry you if you are faced with a rusty screw or bolt.

Verdict

These are quality tools that will find many uses both for the tradesman and around the house. They are light, powerful and do their job. At current street prices they represent excellent value for money. ■

