

# Makita cordless planer



## Anthony Bailey goes plane crazy for Makita

I have a very on-off relationship with hand electric planers. Mine must be over 20 years old and sits on the shelf gathering dust, until that is, I have an urgent need to use it, usually on site.

Then of course, nothing else will do the job as quickly and efficiently and get me out of trouble.

If I wasn't so mean I would upgrade to a new model that at least dealt with the trailing lead and extension reel problem and the slow-to-fit, resharpenable blades that are always blunt when I pick it up. The Makita BKP180 seems like the answer and well worth consideration.

This is now the biggest cordless model in the Makita range, the smaller one being 14.4 volt. The BKP180 is a reworked version of the standard KP0800 corded model and therefore shares the same capacities and, one would hope, the same amount of power and a reasonable working time between charges. It comes either as a two-battery kit with a fast charger

or as a bare unit, which is useful if you already own compatible LXT 18v Li-ion tools.

The build is very solid and a convincingly professional tool. The rubber overmoulded grips are either flush or slightly recessed so it is comfortable to hold. The depth-setting knob is very positive to turn in 0.1mm increments. A fence can be added and the messy bit, the chippings, are ejected from one side only although an



### Mike says

"A reliable workhorse for a site joiner!"

### AT A GLANCE

- Cordless planer
- Safety lock
- Li-ion
- Fast charging

### THE NUMBERS

- Manufacturer: Makita UK
- Model: BKP 180 cordless planer
- Battery type: 18volt 3.0Ah Li-ion
- No load speed: 14,000rpm
- Planing width: 82mm
- Planing depth: 2.0mm
- Max rebate depth: 9.0mm
- Charging time: 22min
- Price: £425.94 inc VAT (kit with charger, two batteries and case) £184.74 inc VAT (bare unit)

### PROS & CONS

- ✓ Comfortable to hold
- ✓ Cuts nicely
- ✓ Cord-free operation
- ✓ Well built
- ✗ Slight soleplate error
- ✗ Scale zero incorrect

### WHERE TO BUY

- [www.makitauk.com](http://www.makitauk.com)

### 5 STAR RATING

- Performance: ★★★★★
- Build quality: ★★★★★
- Value for money: ★★★★★

extractor could be added, but that rather undermines having such a mobile unit. Battery attachment is very positive and charge time is only 20 minutes on the DC18RA fast charger. A last touch is the spring-loaded safety rest to avoid the blade catching when placed down.

### Verdict

The safety lock is a push-down paddle which takes slight getting used to. The motor response is instantaneous as is power down. It cuts really smoothly and is a pleasure to use. The main soleplate is dead flat, the front adjustable section on this review item was fractionally tilted up at the back end of it. The zero cut wasn't zero at all, not helped by the previously mentioned problem. However, taking that into account the cut result was very good and I would recommend it as a reliable site tool. ■