

# RADIO TIMES



run the radio. There are auxiliary sockets, one in the compartment and one on the front for headphones. It comes with a mains adaptor and is showerproof – up to 5 minutes in the rain.

Control-wise there is a central knob for tuning and volume, and preset buttons for five FM/AM channels, a scan button, and a digital quartz backlit display and timer function.

## ON TEST

The BMR100 has a very full, clear rich stereo sound and is loud too if you want, at up to 5-watts per channel. The mains adaptor can be stowed in the back if the battery is not present. The unit is not too heavy, is compact and great fun! If you are looking for the ideal radio to accompany your routing then I recommended the BMR100. **F&C**

## Anthony Bailey goes radio gaga over Makita's new BMR100 Site Radio

Everyone has iPods or radios, but a proper site radio not only sounds good in full stereo but it is a hardy animal that can survive the rough and tumble of the building site. It may use batteries compatible with existing same brand powertools, it looks suitably 'macho', it creates a desire in co-workers to own one, and lastly and very importantly, it reinforces 'brand identity'; a big chunky radio with a well known brand name helps to sell that brand wherever it is seen – cunning huh?

So one of the most recent of this hardy breed is the Makita BMR100. Is it good? Is it tough? Do I want one? Answer: yes please!

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

At first the narrow front seemed odd for a radio, especially with side-ported speakers. However, I've got used to it and in truth, its 'footprint' makes it easy to place on the bench or elsewhere without wasting space. Not as 'loud' colour-wise as some, being in standard Makita blue, but it looks very chunky and modern.

The front and back have big rubber surrounds bolted on. The vertical chrome bars protect the controls and look a bit more 'flash' than it otherwise would. A big rubber covered swing-down hand grip on top makes it easy to carry around, and the bendy aerial avoids the old 'snapped off aerial' syndrome.

Opening the rear using the handy catch on top reveals the battery compartment designed to take various Makita batteries to

## THE NUMBERS

**MAKITA BMR100**  
**PRICE £149.22 inc VAT**

(shop around for a good deal though)

**Power** 9.6v-24v Makita batteries  
(check your battery type will fit)  
**Loudspeaker output** 5-watts per channel  
**Broadcast bands** FM 87.5-108Mhz / AM 522-1629kHz  
**Dimensions** 305(H) (minus aerial) x 165(W) x 280mm (D) (12 x 6½ x 11in)  
**Weight** 4.2kg

**Contact Makita**  
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