

# Makita 4329 jigsaw

For the buyer on a budget, this jigsaw ticks all the boxes

▼ The compact jigsaw might be subject to cost-cutting, but is well constructed

Everyone likes using top-end tools, but there are times when you have to look a little lower down the scale and maybe settle for a brand that doesn't quite hit the mark. If you like Makita, though, this sort of compromise doesn't have to mean disappointment: this low-priced jigsaw makes a couple of concessions to economy but still embodies Makita's usual standard of construction. What's more, despite the cost-cutting, it still has the pendulum cutting action, which I consider to be a jigsaw's most desirable feature. Although it's not the solid round bar pendulum of higher-end machines, as long as you stick within the recommended cutting parameters, the simple 12 x 4mm flat steel bar should work fine; it can cut up to 65mm in timber and 6mm in steel. You can of course fit longer blades and cut deeper stock, but this will do the motor and/or the blade shaft no favours, and is likely to invalidate any warranty claims.

While the pendulum is essential in my mind, a variable speed option is also well worth having, and although the Makita does have this feature, it's via a variable speed dial rather than a trigger. This means that the jigsaw jumps to its speed setting immediately rather than letting you control the initial start or finish of a cut with a squeeze of the trigger, and doesn't give you as much control for intricate cuts. It's still useful for working different materials though, and at least gives you a means to increase the speed while you cut.

One thing that is lacking entirely, however, is a tool-free blade change, as you need a small hex key to swap them over. This same blade clamping method was used on some of the top-end Makita jigsaws until recently, but this doesn't make up for the fact that it's a pain in the backside!

The shoe is nice: it has an alloy top casting with a steel insert for wear resistance. You can



tilt it (with the hex key) with indications for angles up to 45°. Setting the saw back to 90° isn't as good as it could be, though. There is a slot in the base to locate it back to square, but there's a fair bit of slop in the fit, allowing about 5° of play either way. This means it will need checking after it has been altered for bevel cuts.

## Aftermarket accessories

As it's pretty basic, you're not supplied with a dust adaptor, although the 'saw has a 25mm diameter hole in the rear for a push-in hose adaptor. Nor does the 'saw come with an anti-scratch shoe or anti-splintering device, though both are available as aftermarket add-ons. You can also accessorise the 'saw with

a rip fence, too: I've never found these very successful on any jigsaw, though this one can also be used for circle cutting, and so may be of more use.

As for cutting performance, it's certainly decent enough, and the pendulum is robust on the highest of its four settings to give fast cutting in thicker stock. The compact design also makes the 'saw easy to steer when cutting tighter radius cuts.

While I find the lack of a fast blade changing facility frustrating, if I needed a jigsaw for occasional rather than day-to-day use, I'd go for one that offers the build quality of a brand name that I can trust, which is where Makita ticks all the boxes. Oh, wait! I almost forgot the other area where Makita's cost-cutting shows through — it comes in a cardboard box rather than a plastic carrycase! 🛠️



▲ Pic 1: The speed adjuster wheel is basic, but easy to alter as you cut



▲ Pic 2: Blade changing is done with the hex wrench, which stores on the body of the saw

## The Good Woodworking Verdict

- + Compact size, well constructed
- No fast tool change; need to check base is square

Rating ★★★★★

Typical Price: £60

Made in: Japan

Motor: 450W

Speeds: 500-3100 strokes per minute

www.makita.com