

When it comes to accurate timber dimensioning, the machine of choice is usually the table saw. However, there are occasions when this simply isn't practical and a portable circular saw is needed. This Metabo model is a rugged and powerful tool with a generous cutting capacity, and is available with or without a guide rail



## Metabo KS66 Plus circular saw and guide rail

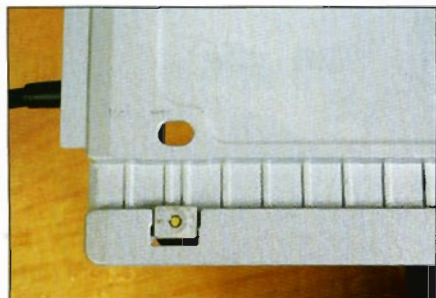
Even if you're lucky enough to have a fully equipped workshop, a portable circular saw is still an extremely useful tool. For ripping large boards down to size or converting sheet materials, you need to be able to cut straight. A handsaw can be used, of course, but a powered saw is easier. The Metabo KS66 Plus is a heavyweight professional saw that's built to cope with demanding jobs.

It's a fairly conventional design that isn't festooned with lasers or other gadgetry, just solid engineering. The main grip is rubber-insulated and houses the large power trigger. An additional handle is mounted on the front. The majority of the machine is made from cast magnesium, apart from the motor body and handle.

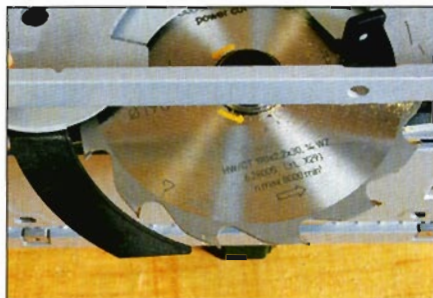
### Safety features

Circular saws are among the more dangerous power tools and need to be handled with respect. This saw incorporates welcome safety features such as an automatic safety clutch that cuts the power if the blade becomes jammed or overloaded.

Another feature that is becoming increasingly rare is the riving knife. Manufacturers quite reasonably assume that there is little need for one, as the majority of users work with sheet materials, where it would be superfluous. But if you want to rip solid timber, a riving knife is a necessity, as without it you risk the kerf closing on the saw blade and making life difficult. A riving knife is fitted to the Metabo.



The fine adjusters under the baseplate ensure a good fit on the guide rail



The riving knife supplied with this saw is essential for ripping solid wood



The cast magnesium baseplate can be set to any bevel angle up to 45°



Adjustable stop blocks can be set to restrict the saw's travel along the rail



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### Blades and guards

A thin-kerf 14-tooth TCT blade comes with the saw. This works well for ripping and general use, but a finer blade is needed for sheet materials and more delicate work. Blade changing is straightforward, thanks to the spindle lock and Allen key, both of which are supplied.

The saw blade is protected by a pair of sturdy metal guards. The upper guard also houses the connection for the dust extraction outlet. The lower guard is strongly sprung but is fitted with a lever for manual opening.

### Baseplate details

The saw's baseplate is neatly cast with extensive bracing. It provides a smooth, solid surface on which to run the saw. A groove is cut in the underside to fit onto the guide rail. A pair of fine adjusters ensures that the saw is a snug fit on the rail. There's also a pair of small clamps to hold the side fence; this can be attached to either side of the baseplate. The depth of cut and bevel adjusters are both well marked and reliable.

### Guide rail option

The test machine was supplied with the optional guide rail. This is 1500mm long and has rubber strips on its base to anchor it on the workpiece. A pair of clamps is available to secure it in position, but it's perfectly usable without them.

The saw sits on the guide rail with the blade running directly along the plastic edging strip. This serves two functions. Firstly, it protects the top of the workpiece from breakout as the saw cuts, and secondly it makes it simple to align the rail onto the marked cutting line.

The rail is supplied with a pair of adjustable stop-blocks to restrict the travel of the saw along it, though this feature is probably more useful when using the rail with a router.

### Using the saw

This is a large and fairly heavy machine, which is both a good and a bad thing. Good, because it sits securely on top of the workpiece or guide rail and is very stable to use. Bad, because you have to carry it around. However, this is a small price to pay for such a solid and well-mannered tool. The motor runs smoothly and isn't that noisy. It produces considerable power and will rapidly cut through the hardest timber. The handles are comfortable, the adjusters are secure and overall this is an impressive machine.

### SPECIFICATION

MOTOR	1400W
BLADE DIAMETER	190mm
NO-LOAD SPEED	4200rpm
MAX DEPTH OF CUT	90° 66mm
	45° 47mm
WEIGHT	5.5kg

### VERDICT

This is a powerful and precise machine that's solidly made and comfortable to use.

- PROS**
- Good safety features
  - No gimmicks
  - Precise guide rail

- CONS**
- Heavy to carry around

VALUE FOR MONEY

PERFORMANCE

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- Metabo
- 02380 732000
- [www.metabo.co.uk](http://www.metabo.co.uk)



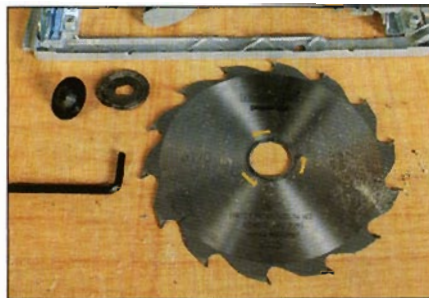
The saw sits on the guide rail with the blade running against its plastic edging strip



The main handle is rubber-insulated and houses the large power trigger



Changing blades is easy thanks to the spindle lock and supplied Allen key



For cutting sheet materials, you'll need to fit a finer blade than the one supplied