



Metabo PowerImpact 12

Matt Long tries out a baby impact driver

It never rains but it pours. I've already tested an 18v impact driver from DeWalt this issue, and then Metabo are on the phone asking if I'll test their baby impact driver, the PowerImpact 12. So, why not?

If you are in the market for an impact driver, then checking out a smaller system may be part of your thinking.

Out of the box, the Metabo is, as you would expect, a solid looking bit of kit.

It fits comfortably in the hand, and has all the usual specifications we expect these days: a forward-reverse switch, a lock for transporting, and a variable speed trigger. The bit lock is



the usual quick change push collar, here for 6.35mm hex bits, with a depth of 9.5mm to the bit recess.

Metabo have also thrown in their battery and motor monitoring system, to prolong battery and tool life.

There's the ubiquitous worklight and the pack comes with two batteries and a charger, with a battery charge time of 40 mins – not the quickest, but I guess Metabo would say it's to protect the batteries.

The blurb claims one charge will

AT A GLANCE

- Compact Li-ion cordless impact screwdriver for tough applications
 - High torque machine with low kick-back torque
 - Variospeed electronics
 - Integrated working light
 - Die cast aluminium gear housing
 - Multifunctional monitoring system to protect the machine and battery pack
- Comes with:
- Two batteries
 - Charger LC 40
 - Plastic carry case

THE NUMBERS

- Type of battery pack: Li-ion
- Battery voltage: 10.8 V (1.5Ah)
- Idle revolution: 0 - 2,300 /min
- Maximum impact rate: 3,000 /min
- Maximum torque: 105 Nm
- Bit retainer: Hexagon recess 1/4" (6.35 mm)
- Weight: (including battery pack) 1 kg
- Price: £153.14 inc VAT

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Powerful
- ✓ Compact
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✗ Longish charge time

WHERE TO BUY

- www.metabo.co.uk
- Tel: 023 8073 2000

5 STAR RATING

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

drive in 236, 5x25 mm screws in one session, which is impressive for such a small drill.

I didn't have time to check out that claim, but I can say that in the test I did, the driver happily screwed 50mm screws directly into oak. I know, I always push these things a bit far! But I can report that for such a small machine, it really coped well.

The verdict

Small, surprisingly powerful, and with the usual Metabo quality, it's a winner. If you need a driver for the workshop and around the home, then this will do nicely. It's not cheap, but you get what you pay for! ■