

Metabo SXE 450 TurboTec ROS

Anthony Bailey tries a turbo-charged teuton



KIT & TOOLS METABO SXE 450 TURBOTEC ROS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

AT A GLANCE

- Pro spec
- Available as a kit
- Different sanding modes
- Versatile

THE NUMBERS

- Manufacturer: Metabo UK
- Model: SXE 450 Turbo Tec
- Input wattage: 350watts
- Disc diameter: 150mm
- Oscillation size: 2.8/6.2mm
- Speed: variable, turbo boost switch
- Weight: 2.2kg
- Suggested selling price: £179.95 inc VAT (machine only) £229.95 inc VAT (Pro Pack Kit)

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Heavy build
- ✓ Efficient scour-free sanding
- ✓ Polishing accessories
- ✓ Variable orbit size
- ✗ No orbit size indicator

WHERE TO BUY

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

5 STAR RATING

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



Metabo's catalogue boasts that the SXE 450 TurboTec is the UK's favourite sander, brave words, indeed!

This is a hefty 150mm diameter random orbital sander built to a professional standard, and should stack up against the like of machines such as the Bosch GEX 125-150 AVE Professional, which sets a high standard for dust removal and reduced vibration.

The sander follows Metabo livery and design lines completely, with plenty of virtually flush rubber overmoulding for comfort.

The front grip knob is removable should you need to work into an enclosed corner.

On top is a rather discreet and slightly awkward speed change wheel, further back is the switch trigger and lock-on button, while on top there's a flick switch for maximum power when you need it. A Formula One touch if you're in a hurry!

Down below we have a removable 150mm perforated Velcro faced rubber platen with a soft rubber braking ring above it.

In the casing are the ventilation slots and an intriguing red push button. Pressing this while counter rotating the platen engages a gearing that changes the orbit diameter from

a gentle 2.8mm to a larger 6.2mm and presumably back again. Can't wait to try this one!

The Intec dust-box bayonets on to the rear outlet and the case opens at the back so you can carefully extract the pleated filter to tap it and empty the dust, wearing a mask when doing this of course. An extraction hose can be attached, which Metabo suggest is more efficient.

Accessories include abrasive discs, a foam polishing pad and a lambswool polishing bonnet, these can be supplied as a kit with the sander.

Verdict:

This is a well-behaved and efficient piece of kit. It sands quickly and evenly and, as Metabo claims, does not appear to leave scour marks from dropping on or lifting off the job. The speed changes will help if you need to sand high gloss finishes at a lower speed and the extra power switch gives more welly, probably my favourite setting.

The orbit change button works but it isn't clear when you have changed from one size to the other, an indicator is needed!

Extraction works best, the Intec dustbox is OK, but it doesn't capture all the dust. Overall, a good machine in need of minor improvement. ■