

# Record Power RPBG8 Grinder



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC FABRICATIONS-ANTHONY BAILEY

Mark Baker puts this functional 8in grinder from Record Power to the test

**M**any people have a bench grinder to shape and sharpen their turning tools. Their major feature is that they are fast, versatile and readily available. Wheels are available from many sources to suit the types of material you intend to grind, and the budget. The major choice to start with is whether you opt for a 150mm (6in) or 200mm (8in) version. Here we look at the latest 8in grinder from Record Power. There are many people who say that the slightly shallower concave bevel created by an 8in grinder is superior to that of the tighter and deeper one created by a 6in grinder.

That said, this unit sports a 500W induction motor, the usual adjustable polycarbonate (or similar material), spark shields, the usual small pressed steel adjustable toolrests, a 25mm (1in) wide coarse grey wheel for reshaping and profiling, and a 40mm (1½in) wide white stone of a fine grit grade for sharpening.

Once the grinder is out of the box you will need to spend approximately 15 minutes fitting the shields and toolrests and then it is ready to use. The little

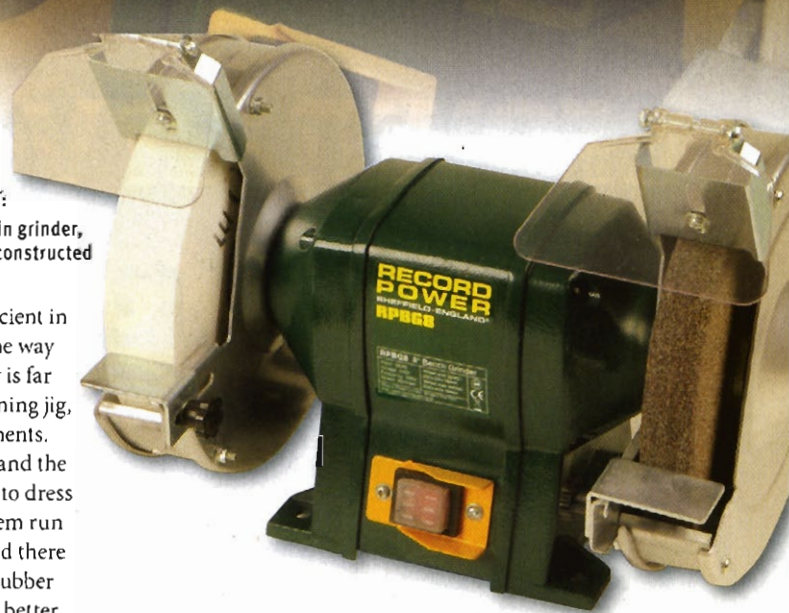
rests are suitable if you are proficient in freehand sharpening – that is the way I learned – but as we all know, it is far easier to use a dedicated sharpening jig, so fit these to suit your requirements. The grinder is reasonably quiet and the wheels run true. Usually, I have to dress the front face a little to make them run properly, but not in this case, and there was little vibration. It has little rubber feet underneath, but I think it is better screwed down.

I re-profiled three blades, two gouges and one scraper, and then proceeded to turn a few items. The machine created a good edge off the white wheel and the grey one was more than suitable for the repro filing, but cut hotter than the white one. Remember: only a light touch is required for sharpening.

## Verdict

This is a functional, no frills grinder. It works well and is unlikely to give any problems; it performed faultlessly in our tests. You can accessorise it with jigs of your choice, and as such it becomes even more versatile. The special offer price of £59.99 represents very good value for money.

RIGHT:  
The 8in grinder,  
once constructed



## SECOND OPINION – PETER SNOWBALL

I have had one of these for sometime now and have not experienced any problems with it. I turn a lot, use it daily and have worn out one wheel. I ordered a replacement and that came within 24 hours. I have fitted a different sharpening jig to both wheels and I think it is great machine; I can't fault it

## DETAILS

**Build Quality:** 4  
**Value for money:** 4  
**Performance:** 4  
**Ease of use:** 4  
**Price:** Normal price – £79.99 (special winter offer – £59.99)  
**Contact:** Record Power  
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