

Record Power BS250 bandsaw



Matt Long gets to grips with a baby bandsaw

As you've seen earlier in the magazine, I've been setting up a small workshop. One of the bits of kit in the workshop is Record's compact bandsaw, the BS250. Having got a new one sent in, I thought it would be great to test this little fellow. I've been using the larger BS300 in the workshop for quite some time, so am familiar with the firm's machines, and I like the big brother of the 250...but would I like this smaller version?

First off, set up. Now, I've never actually set up a new bandsaw before, so didn't quite know what to expect.

The bandsaw arrives with a blade pre-fitted, a 3/8in 6tpi, and everything in place except the table, table trunnion and the various fences.

Adjusting the thrust bearing

As it turned out, setting up the saw took a little time but was easy to do, following the manual.

The first job was adjusting the bottom blade guides, getting the rollers and thrust bearing in the right position, achieved with a couple of allen keys... and nice and easy, too.

Next the table trunnion, and then the table itself, bolted to the trunnion in four positions. It was a little tricky to do by myself, but I got there eventually. And the trunnion was perfectly square to the blade without having to make any adjustments. The rip fence is fitted in two parts, first the guide, via a couple of knobs (though the manual said there were four!)

This guide runs along the front of the table, and has a metric and imperial scale, zeroing at the blade

AT A GLANCE

- Bench top bandsaw
- Strong steel frame
- Dynamically balanced bandwheels
- Cast iron table
- Induction motor

THE NUMBERS

- Blade length: 1778mm
- Blade width: 6mm - 13mm
- Max depth of cut: 120mm
- Throat depth: 240mm
- Table size: 315 x 350mm
- Max width (blade to rip fence): 140mm
- Table height (from base): 370mm
- Extraction port: 100mm
- Motor power (output): 1/2hp
- Weight: 30kg
- Footprint: 340 x 240mm
- Dimensions: 860mm x 550mm x 480mm
- Price: £269.99 inc VAT

PROS & CONS

- ✓ Solid
- ✓ Easy set up
- ✓ Good build quality
- ✓ Cast iron table

WHERE TO BUY

- <http://www.recordpower.co.uk>
- Tel 01246 561 520

5 STAR RATING

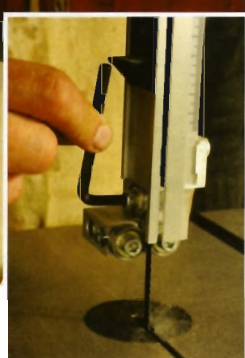
- Value for money: ★★★★★
- Performance: ★★★★★
- Build quality: ★★★★★

line. This guide is fully adjustable. The mitre fence just runs in the groove.

Once the table is in place, you can line up the top blade guides and thrust bearing, and get the tension correct, via the tensioning knob. The tracking needed adjusting too.

The verdict

Well, I've got to say I love it. It's perfect for a small workshop and runs and cuts like a dream. The set up it came with was pretty accurate and with a few minor tweaks to the fence and guides, it cuts true and square, without a trace of blade wander. If you have a small workshop, and need a bandsaw, you really can't go wrong with this little beauty. For such a small machine, it is impressively solid, and capable of accurate work. Now I've just got to make the stand! ■



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY