



This drill will make light work of heavy-duty drilling into masonry

# MADE TO LAST

Ollie Clark asks himself why he should need to add another drill to his armoury

**S**o here it is. The new top-of-the-range corded drill from Metabo... but wait a minute, haven't we all got enough drills already?

My personal haul is now as follows: a small cordless for screwdriving, piloting and cabinet work; a second larger cordless for on-site work and drilling holes in wood and light masonry; and a big SDS corded drill for serious walls.

And yet there is still room for another – and this Metabo may be it, for use when the batteries of the cordless are all used up and you need a powerful, relentless drill for a tough, repetitive job. What about the SDS then? Well, it won't do the trick because it only takes SDS bits.

So to clarify, I appear to be advocating owning four drills, a notion that is clearly nuts, but let's push on and focus on this Metabo offering.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

It comes in a slim, tough, high-quality plastic carry case in the familiar Metabo

dark green and red livery, with excellent positive closing clasps.

The case opens to reveal one of those moulded plastic inserts that drive me mad. Although everything is neatly displayed, the reality is that you have to spend ages carefully folding the lead away if you're going to have any chance of shutting the lid. So left to me the insert goes straight into the bin – problem solved.

The drill itself looks very businesslike, with a heavy metal and plastic body. I like the high metal content and sense that materials were chosen for their suitability and not for reasons of budget.

## CONTROLS

The controls comprise:

- gear selection turn knob at the front on the side
- drilling or impact switch on top of the drill
- speed selection wheel on top of the drill
- forward and reverse above the



The dial is simplicity itself

handle, easily moved by your thumb, both sides for left and right handers ■ conventional on/off trigger with a side locking button.

These controls are all clearly laid out and are built robustly.

## SIDE HANDLE

I am delighted to say that the drill comes with a side handle; although it makes it look like a 40s' Bren gun it seriously increases control when drilling.

The handle is tightened into place with a twist of its locking shaft. It also holds a steel rod that acts as a depth gauge. These are not new ideas but they are very well made using simple, tried-and-tested old ideas, so well done Metabo for not trying to reinvent these ideas but in fact consolidating the existing designs with quality materials.

## CHUCK

This model offers an all-metal keyless chuck. When turned with one hand, a retaining ring at the base allows the



**The chuck**



**Bit changing is a doddle**



**Setting the speed**



**...here's the full contents**



**The drill comes in a robust carry case...**



**Everything fits snugly so long as you are tidy with the cable**

front barrel section to be twisted, allowing the chuck teeth to be adjusted. This exceptional piece of high-precision construction allows bit changing to be accomplished quickly and safely.

### SOFT START

The electronic soft start is very reassuring and enhances control and, therefore, safety.

### SPECIAL ELECTRONICS

- s-automatic safety clutch. If the tool jams the power flow to the motor stops in auto-stop carbon brushes. If the brushes are completely worn the machine stops. A small LED flashes a warning before the brushes are completely worn

- restart protection which prevents the unintentional starting of the machine when being plugged in again and when power is restored after a power failure. It's not often that this facility would be relevant but in the interests of safety it is welcome

- overload protection indicator. In the event of overloading, an LED is permanently lit and the power input is limited to prevent a further inadmissible temperature rise of the motor. For those of us who have ever taken tools to meltdown point through brute force and misplaced enthusiasm this comes as a welcome insurance policy.

### CODE LOCKING SYSTEM

And so to this machine's trump card. An innovative infra-red keyring-operated locking device like those for locking cars allows you to disable the drill – and other Metabo products should your loyalty and exchequer stretch that far.

The drill arrives with the lock open. To set the code you have to open up the key fob to reveal three numbered dials on a circuit board. These are then code-set to a number of your choice.

The fob unit has two buttons, 'locked'

and 'unlocked'. When locked the LED on the fob flashes continuously and briefly emits an audible signal. When unlocked the audible signal sounds again and the flashing stops.

The range of the infra-red beam is limited to within about 150mm (6in) of the drill and would certainly have more appeal if, like your car lock, it could be engaged from across the other side of the room, making the whole idea more casual and carefree – just for goodness sake don't lose the electronic key fob.

### THE VERDICT

Everything about this drill tells me that the manufacturer intends you to enjoy many years of service from it.

It comes with a three-year guarantee, and the brush-changing warning light surely tells you that this machine is expected to last and last.

Yes, this is an excellent drill on all counts.

### SPECIFICATIONS AND PRICE

- No-load speed: .....0-900 to 0-2600/min rpm
- Chuck capacity:.....13mm (1/2in)
- Weight:..... 2.4kg
- Flex: ..... 4m, rubber covered
- Price: .....expect to pay around £150 inc VAT
- Suppliers: .....stockists around the UK
- Contact: .....sales & technical 02380 732000
- Website: .....www.metabo.com