

Metabo has been expanding its 18V cordless tool family for some time. The latest offering is the 18 LTX jigsaw, which the company claims will outperform any competitor in terms of the distance it will cut on a single battery charge – over 30m of 19mm chipboard

## Metabo STA 18 LTX jigsaw



£360  
(kit price)

The STA 18 has been designed from scratch to be tough enough to stand up to the rigours of site use, the more usual application for a cordless tool. The diecast aluminium gearbox housing certainly looks extremely robust from the outside, and has that quality finish typical of the new generation of Metabo tools.

As you would expect in a machine of this class, blade changing is tool-free. The mechanism also features a quick ejection system that shoots the blade out after use – great for the removal of a hot blade, so long as you watch where it lands.

### Speed and swing

Curiously, although the machine has a variable-speed trigger giving a stroke rate up to 2700spm, there is no preset stop. You have to rely on squeezing the trigger to the required speed and then holding it there for the duration of the cut, although there is a lock for the maximum position. However, a four-position pendulum switch allows you to select an orbital action suitable for the speed of cut and the quality of finish that you require. The

blade stroke length is a healthy 25mm which allows a maximum cutting depth in timber of 135mm.

The soleplate has the normal tilting arrangement up to 45° in either direction, though I don't believe many people actually use this facility on a jigsaw. It also features a soft clip-on protector for scratch-free cutting on delicate surfaces.

There doesn't appear to be any provision for external dust extraction, but a very efficient integral switchable blower ensures a clear view of the cutting line.

### Packing a punch

The heart of this jigsaw is the amazing PowerExtreme battery pack, which is interchangeable with other tools in the Metabo LTX system. This has a very high output, with a 3.0Ah capacity that is claimed to produce 25 per cent more power output than any other similar tool. There is a lot of other clever gadgetry in this battery to monitor its



The diecast aluminium gearbox housing looks extremely solid and robust



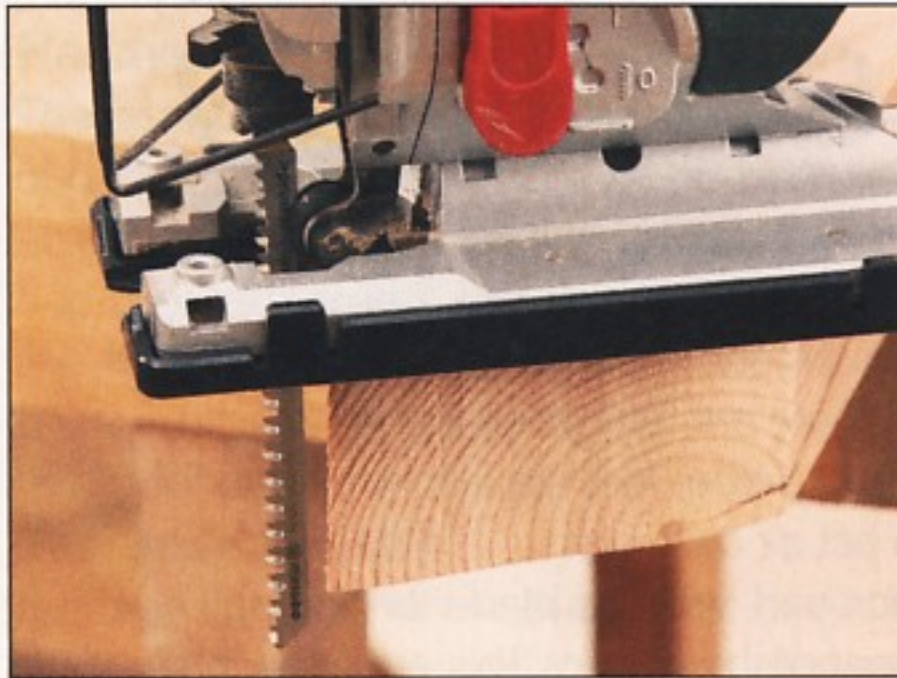
The quick ejection system shoots the blade out after use; just watch where it lands



A four-position switch allows you to select the orbital action you require



TESTED BY ALAN HOLTHAM



The cutting performance is excellent; any cuts you make will be perfectly straight and true

condition and provide protection from overloading and overheating.

I was certainly very impressed by the power output, and a battery status switch enables you to keep an eye on the charge level at all times. There's plenty of power available for making deep cuts in solid hardwood, and all this power ensures that the cut is perfectly true and doesn't run off at an angle, as so often happens with cheaper underpowered tools.

A three-year guarantee on the battery certainly convinces me that this tool is built to last.

### Light and easy

Many power tools feature an LED worklight these days, often just as a gimmick. However, on this jigsaw it's a real benefit, providing much needed illumination when working in confined cutting areas.

In use, the rubber-coated handle and the cutaway front end make this a very comfortable jigsaw to hold and to operate.

### Summing up

This is undoubtedly a tool built for heavy-duty work, with a capability matching that of a mains-powered tool but with all the convenience of being cordless. It's big and built to last, and is supplied in a carry case with two batteries and the charger. Alternatively you can buy just the bare tool if you already have suitable batteries for it.

Despite the rather angular looking design, the saw is well-balanced and comfortable to use. The quick-release system is excellent and leaves no excuse for not changing the blade to suit the material being cut! My only reservation is the lack of a speed selector, which is of little importance if you are only cutting timber but becomes more relevant for other materials like metal or plastic.

The price quoted is for a kit including a carry case, two batteries and 20 free blades.

## SPECIFICATION

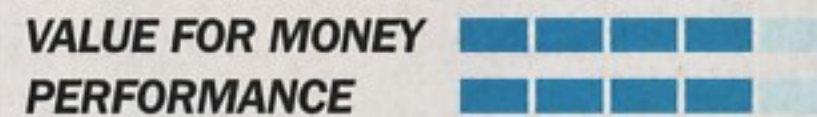
|                            |                   |       |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| <b>BATTERY</b>             | 18V 3Ah Li-ion    |       |
| <b>NO-LOAD STROKE RATE</b> | 2700spm           |       |
| <b>STROKE HEIGHT</b>       | 25mm              |       |
| <b>MAX CUTTING DEPTH</b>   | wood              | 135mm |
|                            | non-ferrous metal | 35mm  |
|                            | steel             | 10mm  |
| <b>BLADE TILT</b>          | ± 45°             |       |
| <b>WEIGHT</b>              | 2.8kg             |       |

## VERDICT

This is a very robust and sturdy jigsaw with an amazingly powerful battery.

- PROS**
- Powerful battery pack
  - Quick-change blade system
  - Three-year warranty

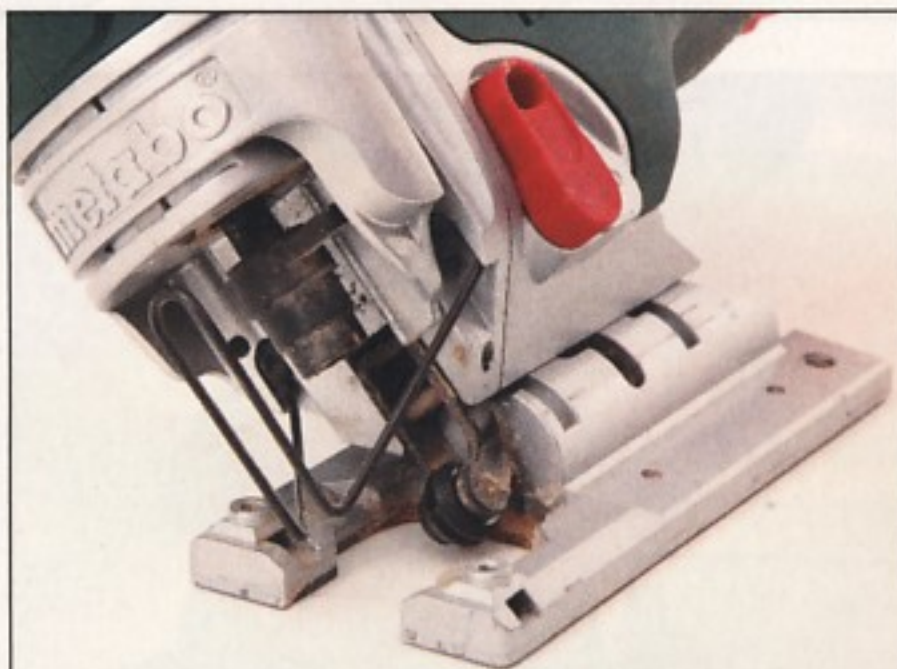
- CONS**
- No speed selection dial



## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Metabo
- 02380 732000
- [www.metabo.co.uk](http://www.metabo.co.uk)

Having so much power available is a huge boon when you're working on site



The saw's soleplate has the normal tilting arrangement up to 45° in either direction



The battery status switch enables you to check the charge level at any time



There is plenty of power available for making deep cuts in solid hardwood