

TS2500ci Sawbench



The adjuster is designed to reproduce fractions of a millimetre

Does the new TS2500ci circular sawbench from Sheppach make the grade? Join **John Bullar** as he finds out

When offered the chance to test this cast-iron topped Scheppach sawbench, I had mixed expectations. The size would be alright for an individual maker's workshop but with a starting price just short of a thousand pounds for the basic saw, could this machine really be up to professional use?

The lightly ribbed 800 x 680mm (31⁹/₁₆ x 26²⁵/₃₂ in) cast iron tabletop is rigidly mounted on a folded steel box frame, with a powder

coat finish in Scheppach standard sand and blue livery. The table carries a 250mm (9⁷/₁₆ in) blade on a 45° tilting arbor protruding through an inset table plate. This is driven by a 4-horsepower output 3-phase motor, or a respectable 2.7-horsepower from the single phase option. Height and angle adjustments for the blade are controlled by a pair of hand-wheels conveniently positioned together on the front panel – these are rather small for precise accurate adjustment on a

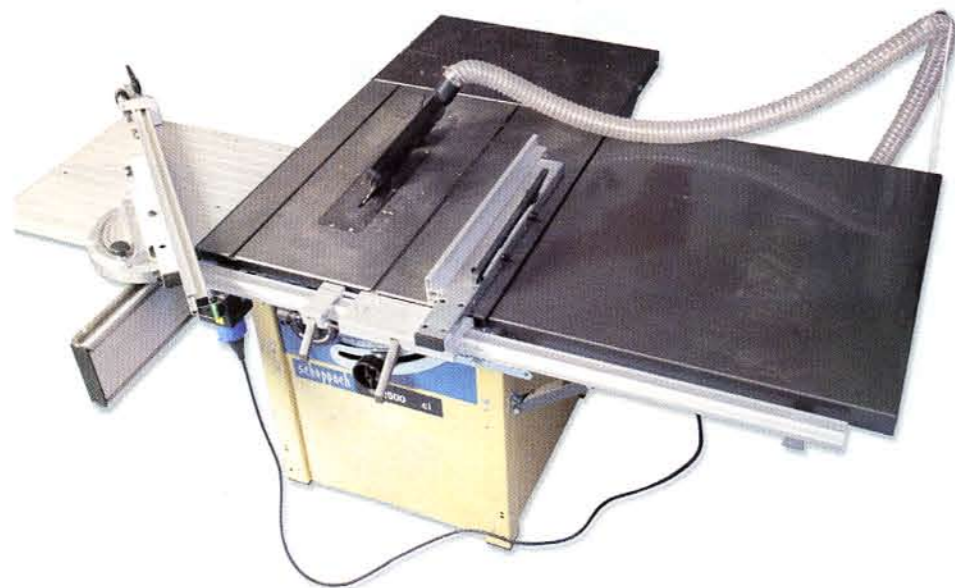
machine this size.

Tee-shaped table slots run parallel to the blade for guiding small fences or sledges. A lightweight steel outfeed table can be bolted in place behind the main cast iron table to support offcuts.

STANDARD RIP FENCE

The fences are lightweight aluminium extrusions and the rip-fence slides on another extrusion across the front of the table. This is calibrated in millimetres with an optional fine adjuster providing control to a fraction of a millimetre. The machine I tried was set up correctly and worked well with

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The TS2500ci is an affordable, robust and accurate panel saw ideal for the home workshop

< quite impressive accuracy.

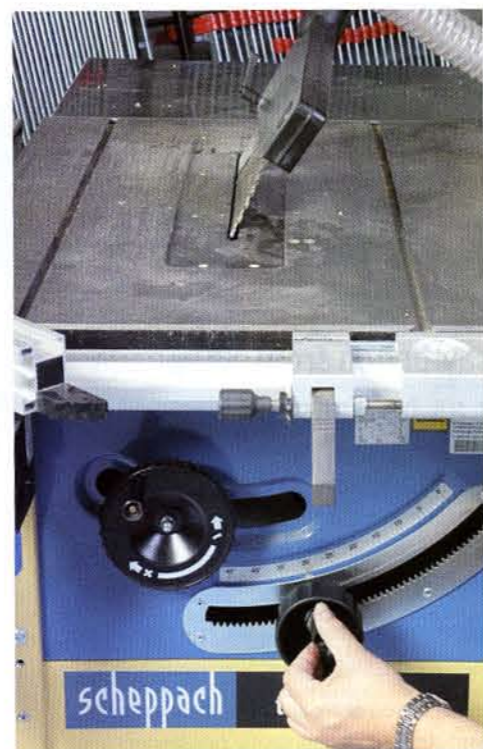
Behind the blade, a riving knife rises and falls in the usual way, and carries the plastic crown guard to which the overhead dust extraction hose kit is fitted. The guard and the riving knife assembly were not as rigid as I would have liked, but better than some more expensive machines. A handy wire clip conveniently keeps the hose raised above the table.



A hinged side table folds neatly out of the way after use, great for the space challenged workshop

OPTIONAL CARRIAGE

The machine I used was fitted with the optional 1.4 metre (55in) sliding carriage on the left-hand side and a crosscut fence, capable of aligning material up to 800mm (31³/₁₆in) wide in front of the blade. The design of this is pleasingly simple,



Height and angle adjustment hand-wheels are conveniently together on the front panel

comprising a pair of straight rails made from steel bars held vertically apart by an aluminium extrusion. These are hooked on the side of the table when needed. The sliding fence relies on a set of exposed roller bearings to ride along the rails. Thin plastic dust-shrouds around these bearings make the carriage awkward to fit and I suspect will do little to keep dust out.

As on most saws of this type, the fence finishes well short of the line of cut but this one is fitted with a plastic extensions piece on the end that almost reaches the blade. Apart from being likely to break off, this may encourage inexperienced users to position their fingers too close to the blade – I could not see the need for it. The fence can be angled on the sliding table at up to 45°.

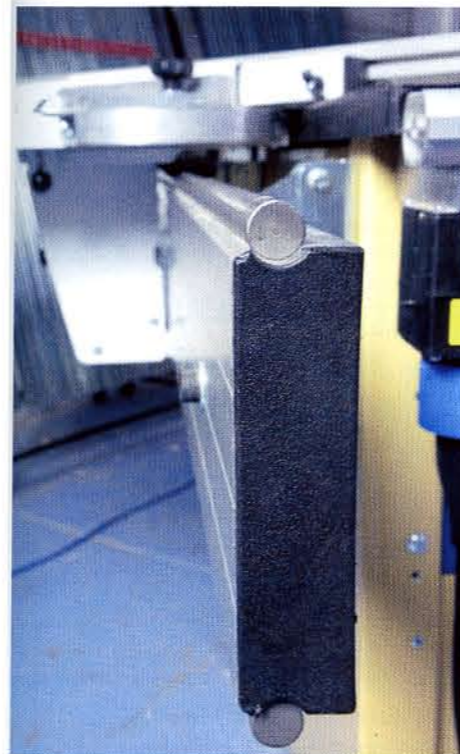
The crosscut carriage feels sturdy enough for panel work but I would avoid dimensioning large stock on it for fear of distorting the supports. There is a two metre version of the crosscut carriage available and a stabilising leg can sensibly be fitted to give this extra support.

SIDE TABLE

An optional side table, fabricated from sheet steel, can be fitted on the right-hand side



The sliding crosscut carriage hooks on the side of the machine



A pair of steel bars provide a simple, durable rail for the carriage

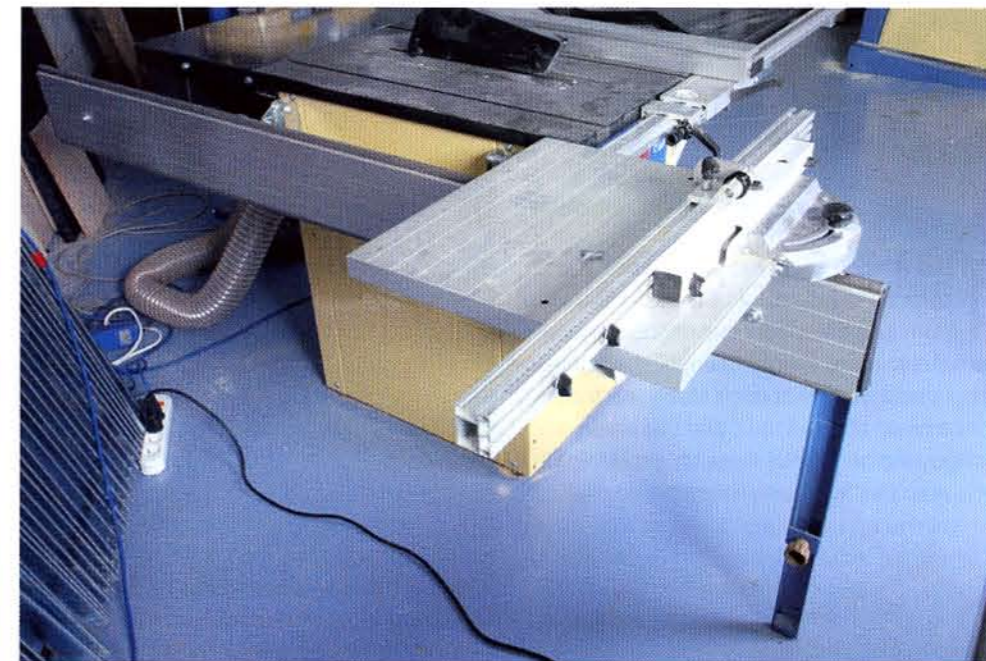
of the machine, providing a further 1100mm (43³/₁₆in) support for offcuts. This hinges neatly out of the way when not in use. With side table raised and the rear offcut table fitted as well as the crosscut fence, the machine is large and occupies a considerable amount of valuable workshop space. A wheel set is available to allow the table to be moved.

IN OPERATION

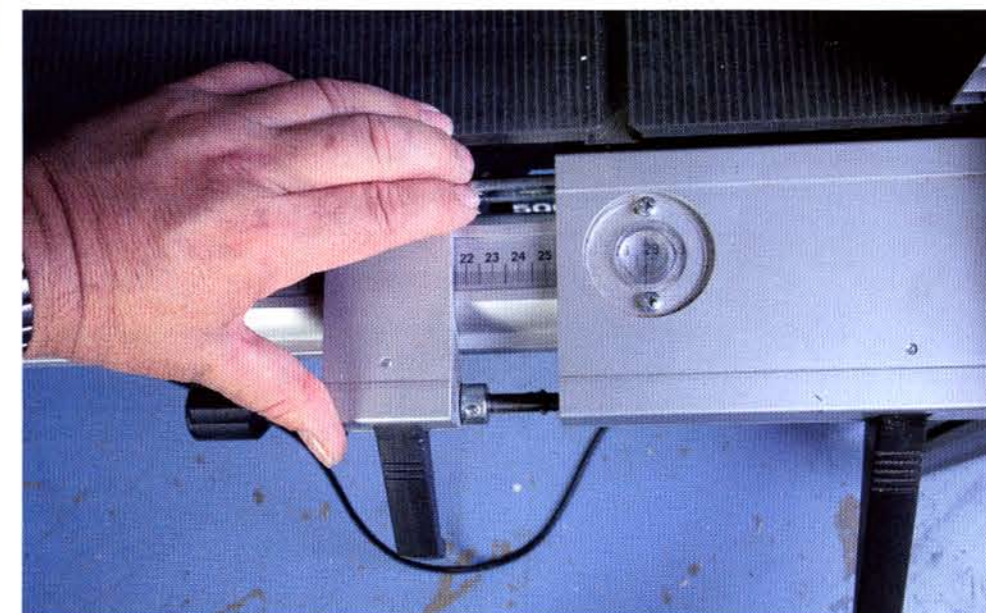
Stop-start controls are combined in the small connector box tucked under the table front. On hitting the no-volt release start button, the motor ran up to speed quietly and smoothly. With the standard blade fitted, it coped well with timber up to 85mm (3¹/₁₆in). Movement of the carriage was smooth and the crosscut straight and accurate at 90°. The fine adjustment lens on the rip fence was impressively precise but easily obscured by dust. Dust extraction from the main chute and the crown guard are good, and the raised hose very handy. On hitting the left-handed stop, the motor brake kicked in immediately.

CONCLUSION

It is generally true in life that you don't get what you don't pay for, and this seems to apply to saw benches. The 2500ci has been



An outrigger leg stabilises the optional two metre carriage



Fine adjustment is an option on the fence

efficiently manufactured down to a price. The basic sawbench with its cast iron table and powerful motor are clearly built for hard work. However, the functionality of the basic unit is limited until you start loading on the extras, and in general, these are not as ruggedly constructed as the table itself. They do not look as if they would stand up well to the heavy continuous use of someone earning a living with them. For this reason, I suggest the 2500 would be best suited for a light user such as a keen amateur, or the basic unit

might be bought as a stand-alone second saw for small ripping jobs.

Even with all the extras added, the Scheppach TS2500ci is good value for money. While I believe that professional or semi-professional makers who have space for the full package with sliding carriage and extension tables may be looking for something rather sturdier, they would need to pay considerably more money if they wanted a machine with the same capacity and features. **F&C**