

WORTHY SUCCESSOR



Peter Brett was pretty pleased with the old Metabo Duo random orbit sander, so what more could the new SXE 450TurboTEC offer?

My tool of choice when sanding largish areas is the Metabo 450 Duo random orbit sander. With a twist of the base to change orbit diameter I can get it to remove large amounts of stock quickly, or provide a smooth surface ready for finishing, so I was curious to find out just how much better this revamped model could be.

It offers more and better placed rubberised grips, Metabo's Intec dust retention system, better gearing and bearings, lighter weight and more compact size via its smaller motor, faster motor speed for faster stock removal, increased orbit speed and size range.

IN USE

The range of speeds chosen via the wheel on the front of the motor housing seems quite low when compared to the old sander, but hit the Turbo button above the trigger and the difference is immediate;

the action becomes smoother, faster and easier to control. I tried sanding a few blocks of end grain and found that the TurboTEC system works very well.

Initially I wanted to remove a lot of stock to level the blocks out. This was achieved with remarkable speed and the dust collection with the Intec collector was very nearly perfect. When connected to a dust vac barely a mote escaped and, using a 120-grit disc in the finishing stages, I was left with no scratch marks.

Sanded some stair treads, I got right to the edges because the sanding disc has no shroud over it and the front handle is removable. Again, especially with a 60-grit disc on the hook-and-loop fixing base, the results were immediately visible and yet the sander remained easily controllable. ■

Removable front handle, improved rubberised grips, speed control wheel and Turbo switch



Sanding some end grain

THE VERDICT

I am confident that the sander is a worthy successor to its predecessor. I have been told that the motor has been thoroughly tested in Turbo mode at the Metabo factory and despite its smaller size and 50W power deficit compared to the old model, it has proved to be equally as reliable.

THE NUMBERS

Sanding plate diameter 150mm
 Power 350W
 Speeds 8,400-18,400opm
 With Turbo load 22,000opm
 Orbit sizes 2.8mm/6.2mm
 Weight 2.2kg
 Cord length 3.8m
 Comes with: hex key, Intec dust collector, abrasive discs

PRICE & AVAILABILITY

Price: £175 inc VAT; boxed with over £50-worth of accessories, £217.38 inc VAT
 Metabo (UK) Ltd.
 Phone: 023 8073 2000
 Website: www.metabo.co.uk



Orbit size control button



Intec dust retention system