

Further information

Price £229
Hitachi 01908 660663



Computer users expect to pay a premium for the portability of a laptop and it's just the same with cordless tools. You will often have to pay at least three times the cost of a budget mains powered drill for an equivalent cordless version. The advantages are a tool that is safe to use anywhere and free of dangling cords.

Hitachi's new DV12DV is a variable speed 12v combi drill - in other words, the drill will tackle drilling into wood and screwing, as well as featuring a hammer action for drilling. The kit comes with a

Hitachi DV12DV

set of six screwdriver bits, intelligent battery charger and, notably, three batteries.

The drill is a compact design, shorter than most of its rivals and with crisp, perfectly aligned mouldings, making the drill 'feel' right even before you pull the trigger.

Starting at the 10mm keyless chuck end, the Hitachi boasts hammer, drill and no less than a 22-stage torque adjustable clutch. The trigger controls the variable speed and braking circuitry - above is a large forward/reverse switch. Hitachi make a lot of trade equipment and a drill of this specification needs a high and low gear for driving and drilling. This is controlled by a slider on the cover, giving speeds of 350 and 1250rpm.

In use, the compact shape and excellent construction make this tool a

joy to use and three batteries means there's practically no downtime even if your working all day. The torque control has deeply moulded ridges on the collar so it's easy to turn even with sweaty hands.



The verdict...

Adding a wrist strap seems rather superfluous as these tools are just too heavy to have hanging from your wrist. The belt hook is also fiddly to install but these are the only gripes on a professional spec tool.

Double Sided Credit Card Diamond Whetstone

Need an easy way to keep your cutters razor sharp? The first of our new items from Trend could help. This credit card-sized diamond stone has coarse grit on one side and fine grit on the other. Lubricate with water, not oil. Ideal for small cutters but the size makes longer strokes impossible. Supplied in a plastic wallet. A range of other sizes are also available.



Offset Router Base

Edge moulding with bearing-guided cutters can be a tricky business, as only half of the router base is supported by the workpiece, making the machine prone to instability and liable to tip off the edge. This heavy perspex offset base solves the problem with an extra handle to give greater control. Being transparent it gives an unobstructed view of the cutter. Pre-drilled to suit Trend, Elu and DeWalt routers, the base can also be drilled to fit any router. An ideal accessory to provide safe accurate edge moulding but pricey.



Further information

Diamond Whetstone: £22.27
Offset Router Base: £23.44
Trend: 0800 487363