

New Product

Evolution Rage Circular Saw

Whatever you want to cut, this is the tool

Typical Price: £99.98
Made in: not specified
Motor: 1050w
Blade diameter: 185mm
Speed: 3500rpm
Tel: 0870 609 2297
Web: www.evolutionrage.com

The circular saw is often the most abused of handheld power tools, especially once it gets to site. More often than not it's expected to chomp through concrete as well as wood, invariably hitting a stray nail or two along the way.

There are special blades on the market designed to cope with the occasional nail but until now, there hasn't been a saw capable of competently cutting multiple materials.

The Evolution Rage addresses this problem with a radically different design to the standard UK circular saw and a blade to match.

It's the blade that does the work, so I'll start by looking at that. It had a different design to the norm, using a negative-rake TCT tooth instead of the usual, aggressive tooth-forward design. In front of each tooth chip limiter, which looks like a reverse of the cutting tooth, preventing the blade from biting too deep.

This allows it to cut all materials from timber through to plastics and aluminium, but most impressive is the ability to cut steel upto 6mm thick. Unlike manufacturers of those kitchen knives that never dull, Evolution make no claims of everlasting sharpness and durability. But it can cut for 50m through 6mm-thick steel before the blade dulls, which is very impressive.

The saw is aimed at anyone who works with multiple materials and it's in its element cutting through channeling for metal studding, aluminium box section, copper pipes, plastics... you name it, this saw will cut it.

Sure, you may not need to cut steel plate too often, but having a blade that's man enough to cope with such an encounter is a big benefit, especially if you work second hand



▲ The front handle can be moved back to a middle position if necessary

stock where embedded nails are always a hazard.

The saw itself is similar in design to ones favoured in the USA, with the handle dropped down behind the saw like an inline belt sander. That means you have a tendency to stand behind the saw rather than directly over the top, so you're pushing through the cut rather than down. The front handle is linked to the plastic base adjusting bracket, so it stays horizontal whatever the blade angle.

I like this type because it gives you more control of the saw directly on the work. If you want a shorter position for your hands, the handle can be relocated to the main casing.

The saw's top guard has a bulbous shape,

incorporating a dust collection system. This is simple to remove; two knobs are unscrewed to release it, which in doing so, gives good access to the blade retention nut when swapping. If you prefer to use extraction, a 36mm adaptor is supplied to replace the bung that's fitted to the collection box.

The base configuration is standard fare. It's nothing as luxurious as cast alloy, this is a workhorse pressed steel type with a 45° tilting facility operated from the front knob.

A riving knife is fitted, which I like when I'm working wet stock, although it's easily removed for plunge cuts. It's recommended that you take it off when you're cutting nail-embedded timber.

Although there is no lower guard lever to help on certain cuts, the guard has a large front radius, so swings away easily once it engages any stock.

The overall build quality of the saw is pretty good. The main body casing is cast alloy although the adjusting knobs look a little cheap by comparison.

Even so, the selling point of the saw is its ability to cut multiple materials and, as they say, the proof of the pudding... well, we had an old DIY steel router plate let into a piece of 19mm ply kicking around the Good Wood workshop and that seemed a perfect test of both the saw and the blade.

As you can imagine, even having read the manufacturers' claims, it was with some trepidation that I made the first cut.

Using the small guide fence, the start of the cut through the ply was easy, so I was expecting a slow down and gridding as the saw engaged the 4mm plate. Nothing of the sort: it sailed through without a flinch!



► The top guard has a built-in dust collection system that simply unscrews to empty



▲ This steel plate is 4mm thick and the ply is 19mm. The saw didn't flinch!



▲ The blade profile is what does all the work

Expecting the blade to be dull, I then cut a piece of 45mm-thick oak, and was amazed to find as fresh cut as the previous one. It felt like it was still a brand new blade! By the way, this goes beyond the specified depth indicated in the literature. The maximum blade projection is 54mm, yet it states the maximum timber cut as

25mm. I've checked, and this is a misprint. It certainly flew through the thicker oak.

I also like the fact that the saw comes with goggles and a set of disposable earplugs, although it sounds very sweet without them.

The Evolution Rage is an incredible circular saw. Whether it's the blade, the machine or a combination of both, I'm not sure, but either way, for just shy of a hundred quid, it's a great piece of kit. It copes perfectly with timber and really is ideal for any user who encounters multi-materials on a regular basis.

The Good Woodworking Verdict

+ Does everything its makers claim, and I wouldn't be surprised if it does even more - Build quality lets it down in places, although the selling price dictates part of this

Rating ★★★★★