



We were absolutely blown away by the ingenuity of the cleverly-angled scoring cut that's built into the saw. It left melamine absolutely splach free!

Mafell MT5CC

Rob Sandall finds himself astonished with just how much Mafell have to offer with their new plunge cut saw

AT A GLANCE

- Exceptional accuracy
- Built to last
- Packed with features

THE NUMBERS

- RRP: £506 inc VAT

WHERE TO BUY

- Available from NMA
- Tel: 01484 400488
- Web: www.mafell.com

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
- PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
- BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

The tighter we find our belts, the more we'll be inclined to plump for the cheaper options, especially if there's not enough of a discernible difference between budget, mid-price and high-end models. Simply then, there are a lot of companies out there who will be feeling the bite as customers adopt a more skeptical approach to 'features', and start to see them more as gimmicks. If you're going to shout about all the unique bits and bobs out there, you'd better hope that every single one of them is there for a very good reason, or if anything you'll find it detrimental to your marketing.

Engineered to excel

Before we tackle the extras, it's worth saying this in itself: the basic manufacture of this plunge saw is to be commended. Of a reassuring weight without becoming unwieldy, there's an overall rugged construction that suggests that not only will this tool take more than a few bound-to-happen knocks, it'll put in a long and loyal service too.

That's the other thing we're looking for more than ever these days: tools that won't let us down after the first few cursory uses, or even after the first year. With a three year warranty available, it's clear that Mafell themselves are confident in the saw's

Compact, sturdy and, if we're honest, just really good looking: Mafell are onto a real winner here!



A quick turn at the top of the measuring scale will afford you perfect accuracy on those fiddly half measurements: no more trusting your own eyes!

durability, and that's all the more reassuring to the end user. More than anything, it allows you to put a little more faith in the engineered accuracy of a product, and we were happy to find that our suspicions were very much correct in the case.

Features galore

The emphasis here is on practicality, not gimmick: it's something as

simple as the insanely quick blade-change system that will make all the difference to the busy worker: pop open the flap at the side via a safely-positioned switch, apply the key carried onboard for a quick turn,



It took literally seconds to change between the two included blades, with no danger to the user and a snap in, snap out approach that won't hinder the worker under pressure

and we're there. In addition, the key itself is also included to allow you to properly make half millimetre adjustments. Set the slider to the measurement you want, apply the key to the fine adjuster at the top of the scale – one half turn will put you exactly halfway between one mark and the next. In terms of incredibly accurate cuts, we're already talking about a considerable advantage over other brands.

The depth of cut selector is absolutely genius too, a pivot on the marker itself allowing you to compensate for the measurement difference a guide rail will incur: there's no need to readjust your scale when working on the rail, just flip the marker around, and it does the maths for you!

Compatibility

Speaking of 'the enemy', while this model comes with its own long length of guide rail, it's worth noting that Mafell have built this beauty to work with Festool rails too. This is a savvy move indeed, as it's arguable that the two high-quality brands could very conceivably end up sharing customers. This way, you won't have to chuck away your old rails and start again with further expense.



With an incredible, quick to implement range of angles, allowing you to quickly click between -1 and 46° , you'll find specialist work an absolute doddle

Thoughtful, and sure to win Mafell supporters from the Festool camp.

Making cuts

1400 watts of power is, well, a lot of power indeed, and myself and Anthony found ourselves gliding through wood and melamine without anything in the way of difficulty: a clever anti-splch scoring cut that the saw is capable of worked a charm, and left us with two useably clean faces on the melamine: unheard of in other saws, and massively impressive to see.



A unique pivoting rail system, one of the two included clamps for the guide rail, and the plunge-cut measurement marker



Here we are taking the rubbery protective coating off the edge of the guide rail for the first cut, soon to make short work of the tricky melamine

Dive!

The plunge saw functionality is equally impressive, effortlessly making short work of the block of kitchen unit we'd produced as an aggressive test. With a special marker to measure exactly where the cut will begin and end at different depths, you'll be able to work confidently without exception.

Conclusion

We had no room to mention the bonus pop-down extraction, or the incredible range of angles you're capable of cutting, because there's literally so much here that's worth talking about it's impossible to fit all of it in! I would buy this, and I know I won't have to think about replacing it for years to come. Even then, I'd probably buy another one! ■