

Digital readouts combine ease of use with extreme accuracy, and are suitable for all use in all sorts of measuring and setting devices. The Trend digital angle rule is one such device that makes good use of this technology

TESTED BY RALPH LAUGHTON



Trend 200mm digital angle rule

Marking and setting out has never been so easy. The old days of squinting at a rule or carefully setting a sliding bevel to a protractor are over. Digital calipers and the like have taken care of linear measuring, and now this neat little device is about to replace the sliding bevel.

Dual standard

The stainless steel rule is marked in both metric and imperial scales. Although I can't imagine I'll be using this tool for measuring anything, it's extremely useful as an electronic replacement for my sliding bevel. In the short time I've had it, I've already used it successfully for setting the angle of the table saw blade and checking the bandsaw table as well as marking mitre angles.

I'm sure the more adventurous turners will find the accuracy of this device useful when marking out and setting up for cutting the sections of a segmented ring. An accuracy of 0.3° will dramatically reduce the compound error that often occurs when making such constructions.

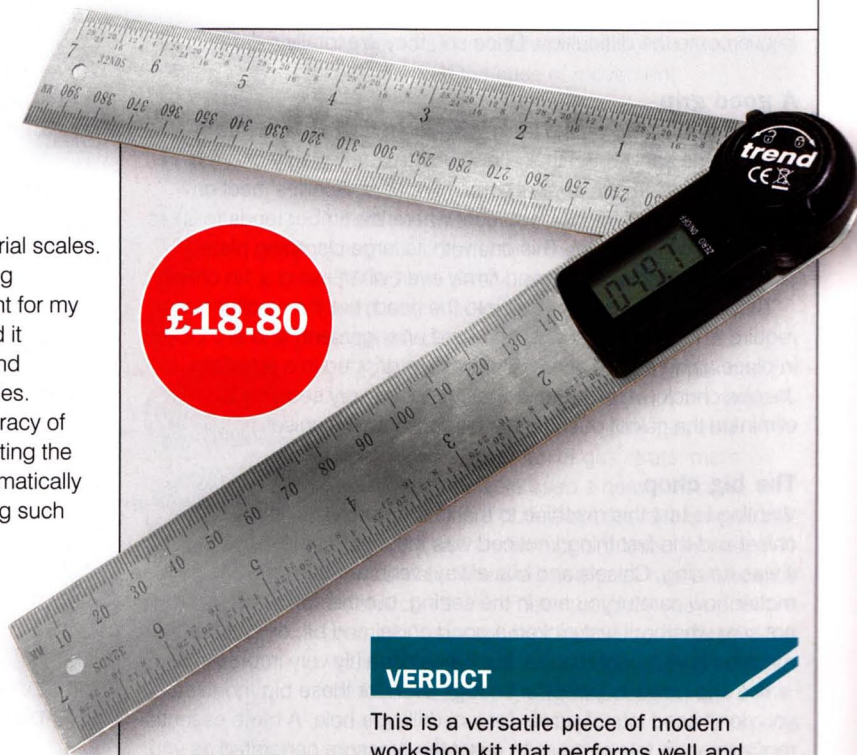
Instant zero

The readout can be zeroed at any angle, so setting up is easy. Place the rule, closed, on a known flat surface such as the bandsaw table and press the zero button. As you open the rule it will provide a continuous readout. An interesting quirk with this tool is that if you pass the 360° point, it doesn't return to zero but continues to measure the angle. So if you rotate the blade through one and a quarter turns then the display will read 450°. I haven't thought of a practical use for this yet; suggestions on a postcard, please!

Easy options

As the readout can be zeroed at any point regardless of the position of the blades, you can decide at which point you start measuring. In the case of setting a table saw blade, the digital rule can be set to measure the angle from the table or from the vertical position of the saw blade. When the rule has been zeroed it can be locked in place by turning the knob on the hinge. This can also be used to increase the hinge resistance, making it easier to set it to the required angle.

Last but not least, the rule automatically switches off after six minutes if it hasn't moved in that time.



VERDICT

This is a versatile piece of modern workshop kit that performs well and has a multitude of uses.

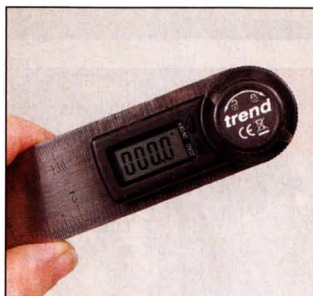
PROS ■ Accurate
■ Very smooth in operation

CONS ■ None

VALUE FOR MONEY ■■■■■■
PERFORMANCE ■■■■■■

FURTHER INFORMATION

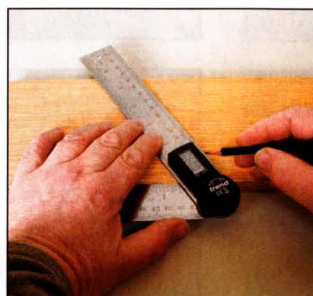
- Trend
- 01923 224657
- www.trend-uk.com



Zero can be set when the rule is closed...



...and also when the blades are at any other angle



The sliding bevel is now redundant for many jobs



Setting the tilt angle on a table saw