



**USEFUL KIT/PRODUCT:
TREND DLB
DIGITAL LEVEL BOX**



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Long gone are the days when you needed a school protractor to measure the angle on a piece of joinery or similar around the house. A sliding bevel and spirit level are still often the most reliable tools in some situations, especially when it comes to carpentry work such as roofing timbers. But checking these angles can be quite awkward. Digital levels are nothing new, but one as compact as Trend's DLB box is handy for a wide variety of work. Setting machine tables, mitre or table saw blades precisely can be tricky if you're relying on a sliding bevel alone, but a digital level will give the required angle instantly.

Digital accuracy

Measuring less than 60mm square, the DLB box is small enough to keep in your pocket and dead easy to use. Its tough alloy rim has a magnetic base so will attach itself happily to steeply tilted, vertical steel or cast-iron surfaces. Front and rear panels are tough ABS plastic, with a clear window for the backlit LCD display.

Powered by a single AAA battery (included), this is inserted in the rear compartment. Two buttons are provided: on/off and zero. Initially the LCD displays ERROR when you switch on, but quickly resets to read the angle of the surface. Pressing the zero button enables you to take both relative and absolute measurements, whether a surface is dead level or not. Accuracy is plus or minus 0.2° for any angle.

The green backlight shuts down after 30 seconds, though the readout is still displayed. Pick the box up and the backlight activates again without having to resort to the power button. The unit switches itself off after five minutes of inactivity to save battery life.

Should you need to check the underside of a sloping surface that's awkward to reach, the DLB automatically inverts the reading

when turned upside down. Particularly handy if you're relying on the strong magnet to secure it to a metal surface.

Conclusion

If you've never used a digital level before you'll probably find yourself checking all sorts, from slightly crooked pictures to more important constructional work. The digital display is easy to read and arguably better than your eyesight! Supplied with a fabric protective pouch, this has a belt loop on the back so there's little chance of losing the box. A clever little device from Trend, then, which will save time when needing to tilt blades or tables on machinery in particular.



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THE GW VERDICT

- ▶ **PROS:**
Guaranteed accuracy for machine tables and blades; fast to use; compact; handy pouch to protect the tool
- ▶ **CONS:**
None
- ▶ **RATING:** 4.5 out of 5

SPECIFICATION:

- ▶ Accuracy to +/- 0.2° for all angles
- ▶ Auto shutdown in 5 minutes
- ▶ Angle sensor technology
- ▶ Zero button to determine the angle changes from initial measurement
- ▶ Absolute level sensor
- ▶ Large backlight for easy reading of angle
- ▶ Automatic digital inversion
- ▶ Battery included
- ▶ **Typical price:** £23.94
- ▶ **Web:** www.trend-uk.com