

A version of these shears with a solid, thick blade is normally used to cut neoprene glazing gasket to length and mitre its corners. Now here's a version designed to cut mitres on thin timber battens and mouldings

Trend hand mitre shears

This tool aims to offer a means of cutting accurate mitres in thin stock by using a shearing cut rather than the more usual sawn one. It features a supporting wing angled at 45° to the cutting line on each side of the tool, and uses a standard replaceable Stanley knife blade to slice through the workpiece as it's held in the tool's jaws.

Using the shears

We tried the shears out on some thin softwood mouldings, and found that the work is forced back slightly in the jaws as pressure is applied. The top surface of the work is cut cleanly and at the correct angle, but the face of the cut slopes slightly. This means that the two components of a mitred joint cut with these shears will show a gap where they meet.

Thicker pieces such as small picture frame mouldings all get forced back in this same way as the cut progresses. Thinner inlay type work is cut cleanly enough, but it's still hard to get a tight fit.

Design defect

The design of the shears should help prevent this slippage. The base of the shears where the workpiece rests is angled back slightly, so that if the work stayed put it would be undercut. If it slides back, it goes back too far and the resulting overcut means that the top face of the joint is open.

Even on a 45° cut where the work can be held firmly to the fence, there's still a tendency for it to slide back however tightly it's held.

Summing up

These shears do a reasonable job of cutting thin, narrow moulding and beading cleanly, and swapping the blades is simple with just a single screw holding the retaining plate. However, unless you have a vice-like grip to hold the workpiece securely to the bed, the results in thicker material are disappointing for a show joint that relies on its fit to serve its purpose. **AK**



£47.50

SPECIFICATION

LENGTH	210mm
MAX STOCK THICKNESS	7.5mm
MAX STOCK WIDTH AT 45°	35mm
WEIGHT	380g

VERDICT

Getting a decent finish to the face of the cut is tricky to achieve consistently.

PROS

- Replaceable blades
- 45° stop faces
- Clear intermediate angle markings

CONS

- Work tends to slip as it's cut
- Expensive for what it does

VALUE FOR MONEY

PERFORMANCE

FURTHER INFORMATION

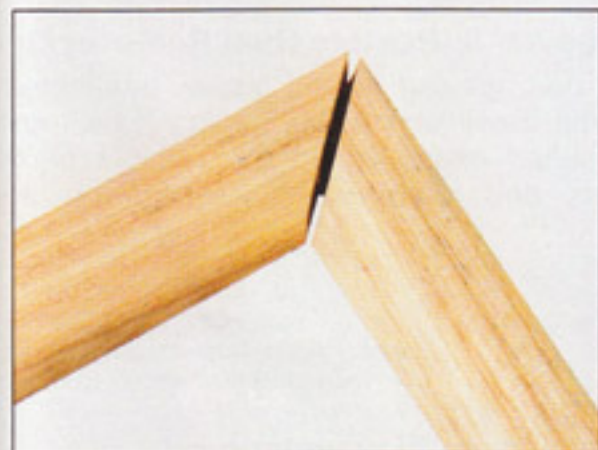
- Trend
- 01923 249911
- www.trend-uk.com



You need a very firm grip on the handles to hold the workpiece securely while you make a cut



You can see here how the tilt of the beds tries to stop the work sliding back



Two cuts should form a perfect mitre; these are actually 'grinning' badly



A single screw holds the replaceable Stanley knife blade in its holder