

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON MOUNT BAILEY



THE NUMBERS

Digital Depth Gauge D60

Price: £23.38 (Inc VAT)

Hand Mitre Shear

Price: £52.96 (Inc VAT)

WHERE TO BUY

www.trend-uk.com

The Editor tries out two new additions to Trend's arsenal

Digital Depth Gauge

This is a big update on Trend's old analogue model. The legs look similar but house tiny magnets for holding it on iron or steel machine tables. On one leg is clipped a depth pin, which can be fitted to the rule that slides up and down for measuring. This rule has choice of imperial or metric on it, although the device's own electronic readout is more accurate. Once the



The Digital Depth Gauge allows you to work in either imperial or metric units

battery is installed in the tray in the top of the case, pressing the red on/off button zeroes the readout, so you need to set the rule down on a surface first so it is in the 'start' position. By pressing the topmost green button you can choose between millimetres, inches or fractions of inches. The right-hand white button lets you select between ABS – absolute – or INC – relative – measuring settings. A small lock knob on the case side allows you to lock the height of the rule. Typical uses, according to Trend, are checking cutter-to-table height and width-to-fence settings. However, it occurs to me that it would be excellent for checking precise cutter projection on a surface planer and trial bore that out – it beats the batten with two 'pull-over' marks on it!

Hand Mitre Shear

Cutting mitres on small moulding sections is always a pain when you want to get really accurate tight fitting joints. You can spend a lot of money on a mitre guillotine, but

for occasional use or working on site these shears work incredibly well. Looking like secateurs on steroids, the cast aluminium bed has fences for 45° and markings for a variety of other angles – just line up the component to the correct one. The blade is sharp but not viciously so: just squeeze down on the wood and hey presto! A very precise cut is made and the resulting joint closes perfectly. Why haven't I had a pair of these before? There is a safety catch to keep the tool closed for safety. Replacement parts can be bought if the originals get worn or damaged. ■

