

Trend Hand Mitre Shears



When you receive something as potentially labour-saving as Trend's new Veneer Shears, which can cut inlay strips at any angle, you can't help but think there must be a catch. On an Andrew Crawford boxmaking course you are shown how to cut 45° mitres using the back of a chisel as a mirror to line up the cut line. It is simple and effective, but shears might be even quicker, and this pair have markings for 60°, 75° and 90°, as well as 45°.

The catch that anyone who has been trained to Andrew's exacting standards will notice is that the Stanley blade has a bevel on each side, which will surely put a very slight angle on the mitre. So we tested them by cutting mitres with the top side facing up and facing down, then glued them in place and sanded back. The joint cut facing downwards was perhaps a fraction tighter to start with, and we expected it to open up as we scraped and sanded it back. What one doesn't realise, until you take a closer look, is that the removeable platten (which has a very slight groove along the cut line) is 'domed' by a few degrees to account for the bevel angle.

The 45° is the simplest because you align the veneer against the 'fence' on the shears. For other angles you follow scored



lines on the platten. To see how well these work we attempted a hexagon, using the 60° mark, and holding the six pieces of inlay in a block because Trend say that you can cut 7.5mm thick pieces. Somewhat miraculously the result was near perfect, glued onto a wobbly bit of ply with medium Chestnut Finishes Cyanoacrylate. Learning from Andrew's advice, one side was glued down, then two others taped down once the whole thing had been assembled. It worked really well.

Made in Germany by Lowe, the shears cost more than £50, so you'll need to be doing a fair bit of veneer work, but they are very impressive.

Details Trend Hand Mitre Shear: max. thickness 7.5mm; max. width of cut 50mm; £52.95inc.VAT; trend-uk.com.



Angles There is a paradox to these shears: if you are doing enough veneering to justify the cost you may be too skilled to need them, but they are really impressive, and we'd be fascinated to know how they'd fit into the work of a dedicated boxmaker