

Snap to it!

These Trend kits, while not designed for impact work, offer a great range of applications



If you already own a battery driver, the SB3 kit is the more comprehensive in the fixings that can be used, with 48 25mm-long bits covering Philips, Pozi, slotted, hex, Torx and Torx security plus seven 75mm-long bits covering the three common Pozi and Philips sizes along with a single slotted bit.

Each bit has a coloured identifier ring, and all are of good quality, as is the magnetic bit holder. This has a pullback sleeve that locks each bit in place, but while the magnetism within is good on the 25mm bits to help hold a fixing, I found it has no hold when the 75mm bits are in use. Nonetheless, there's a decent set of good-quality bits within this set in a compact little case if that is all you need.

However, the SB4 is the more interesting of the two and gives more scope, especially if you want the closer control that hand driving offers. It's a 41-piece set and has a small 1/4in drive ratchet handle for the five sockets as well as a natty little ratchet handle for the screwdriving tasks which can be used in its own right for additional purchase on stubborn fixings or for an extra nip up as required.

There's an adaptor included so the sockets can be used, but the advice is to go no bigger than the 10mm socket.

With a decent set of commonly used bits in various sizes, again with coloured collars for easy identification, it's the inclusion of a further set of micro-sized bits that could prove useful for some repair work, on small electrical items especially.

A neat dual-function bit holder is included for these as they have a smaller 4mm hex shank so the bit holder has a retracting sleeve that reveals a 4mm holder in one position and a standard 6.3mm holder in the other.

Conclusion

The overall quality is again very good indeed, and used within its capabilities this is a kit that is especially useful for small assembly work where finer control is needed while still attaining decent torque on the fixings.

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Excellent range each set; SB4 ideal for controlled smaller work

- Be careful not to overload the SB4 driver on bigger fixings or bolts; magnetic holder has no power on longer bits

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: SB3 £32.28; SB4 £35.88

SB3 set: 48 bits x 25mm; 7 bits x 75mm

SB4 set: 12 x 25mm (6.3mm hex fitting);

18 x mini (4mm hex fitting); 5 x splined sockets

- 6, 7, 8, 01 & 13mm

Web: www.trend-uk.com



▲ The SB3 bit holder magnet works well enough with a short bit fitted...



▲ ...but with the longer bits there's no magnetism at all through the bit



▲ With the black sleeve forwards the standard 6.3mm hex bits are held



▲ Slide it back and it holds the micro 4mm hex bits



▲ The SB4 ratchet handle can hold the bits directly for tight areas



▲ Alternatively it will take the magnetic bit holder to extend it



▲ You can also fit the sockets using the adaptor



▲ For general nut and bolt securing the ratchet handle is good