

Triton TA1200BS belt sander

A strong and versatile tool that's easy to use

Triton has won accolades in the past for its innovative routers and while there's nothing too original about this new belt sander, it's certainly a solid piece of kit. Belt sanders need to be robust, and the TA1200BS is no

exception, thanks, largely, to the area around the belt being made from magnesium. This also helps to ensure that it stays stable during use, but it doesn't mean that the tool's too heavy to use vertically or at an angle.



Smooth handling

Triton clearly hasn't scrimped on other components – everything is well constructed and solid, including the adjustment knobs, which are often inferior. There's one knob to control the belt tracking, which works by simply altering the angle of the front wheel so that the belt centralises on the platen.

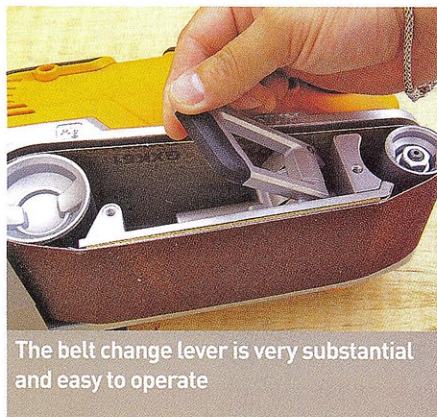
The in-line design with a back handle similar to an angle grinder, plus the adjustable front hoop handle, makes controlling the sander very straightforward – both vertically and horizontally. A small lever releases the lock on the hoop handle so you can alter the setting. Four positions from vertical to horizontal are available, each indexing into place. I found pulling the handle forwards from vertical to be pretty stiff, but returning the setting was much easier.

Within the handle are two caps for swapping the brushes when the need arises; to the side is the belt casing. A spare brush is supplied, which is a welcome inclusion as these sanders can do a lot of heavy work, exposing parts such as this to a lot of wear and tear.

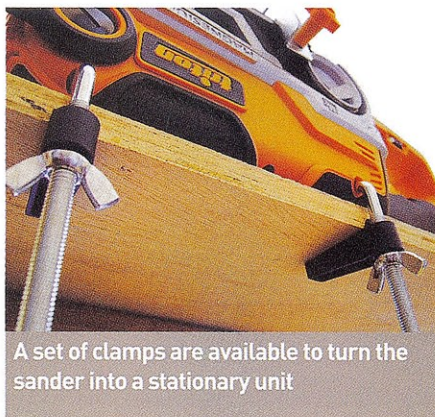
A 33mm (1 1/8in) diameter dust spigot alongside the belt casing can be used with extraction, or the supplied dust bag. This is pretty efficient, handling virtually all the visible dust kicked up during testing, but as it's only cloth, any really fine dust will sift through; having a good extraction system is therefore advisable. The belt size is standard for the majority of 76mm (3in) belts available, so there's no problem getting hold of replacements for any grit size.

Versatile tool

Various tapped holes around the sides of the sander should allow the fitting of a sanding frame for accurate sanding of large flat areas, although there is no sign of one being currently available on the website. Clamps are available to invert the sander as a stationary unit for shaping and cleaning up smaller items, and the rubber grips on the body help to keep it steady as well. This, along with the variable speed control tucked away in the handle, make this a versatile sander that will enable you to sand and shape a wide variety of materials.



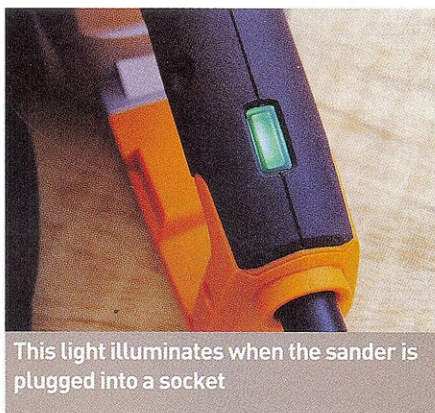
The belt change lever is very substantial and easy to operate



A set of clamps are available to turn the sander into a stationary unit



The front handle can be adjusted from vertical to horizontal



This light illuminates when the sander is plugged into a socket

Verdict

+ Solid construction, variable speed

- Manual tracking

Typical price: £170

Speeds: 200 to 450m per minute

Belt size: 76 x 533mm

Motor: 1200W

Weight: 4.8kg

Tel: 0844 576 0266

Web: www.tritontools.com

Rating ★★★★★