

Proxxon DH40 Thicknesser

Ian Wilkie review

This small thicknesser gives excellent results when used within its design limitations. The boards can be up to 40mm thick and 80mm wide and they should be at least 300mm long. The wood can be thickened down to 3 or 4mm by setting the calibrated height adjusting knob. One turn of the knob corresponds to 1mm and the operator can adjust the cut to very fine limits. I made an 80mm x 300mm x 10mm thick false table from a laminate-faced offcut with a small stop under the front end to prevent it sliding through. This enabled me to pass very thin sections through the thicknesser without fear of them being gobbled up; using this jig I managed to get down to 2mm thick

If you wish to thickness shorter lengths of wood or get down to a thickness of 1mm it will be necessary to attach the board to a larger piece of plywood or MDF. This can be done temporarily using double-sided carpet tape or a light-tack glue.

To get the best results I recommend that you plane one surface of the wood and place that surface down on the table. Set the thickening knob so that only a little wood is removed with each pass. Remember this is only a 200w motor and it is much better for the wood to go through several times until the desired thickness is obtained. You can speed up the process by putting several identical narrow strips through at a time.

Do not be tempted to put recycled wood through the machine which may have hidden nails and screws embedded which will damage the blades. I have found the blades to be long-lasting but once the edge has gone it is time to reverse or replace them. Putting new blades in is a simple matter and clear instructions are given on how to do this. I do recommend that you use Kevlar gloves when handling the blades. From time to time it is wise to remove the covers and to check that there is no build-up of shavings inside the machine.

This is a precision machine which is the smallest, most compact, thicknesser I have experienced. I have used it for several years now when producing wood for boxes, inlays and models for example. If you are looking for a small thicknesser which at 8 kilos will not be too heavy to lift up and put away, and you only need to thickness relatively narrow strips of wood, then you can be confident that this machine will give excellent results. It makes a very good companion to the new Proxxon Surface Planer AH80.



Ian has been independently reviewing woodworking products for 20 years and tests machines and equipment manufactured for the amateur woodworker. He does this in his own small workshop where he can assess each product thoroughly.



Height adjusting knob is firm and positive



Automatic feed with an efficient kick-back fitting
The in-feed roller is metal and the out-feed roller is coated in rubber so that no marks are left on the wood.



The balanced cutter shaft takes 2 x HSS blades which can be reversed or replaced with ease



Automatic feed with an efficient kick-back fitting



The other side cover gives access to the motor, height adjustment system and the second toothed-belt



Several identical strips can be put through the machine at a time



Some finished examples of walnut and sycamore stripwood ready for use