

Proxxon KGS80 Chop Saw

Ian Wilkie *review*

This small machine has an accurate vice and setting system and comes with a 24 tpi blade which gives a good quality cut. The blade is totally enclosed and only a sufficient amount is exposed automatically as the cut is made. The calibrated circular baseplate rotates through 45 degrees left and right and it is notched in 15 degree steps but can be locked in any position. The precision, steel vice is fixed to the rotating baseplate. At the front of the photograph you can see the length stop assembly.

When setting up the machine ready for cutting the inboard ends of the vice need to be as close to the blade as possible to increase stability and reduce any chatter. When cutting mitres it is most important to make sure that when the blade is lowered it does not come into contact with the end of the vice. The whole head can be moved from left to right and vice versa so that this danger can be avoided. It is always wise to do a dry run first with the machine unplugged to check clearance.

The length stop is particularly useful for repetitive work but is limited to cutting pieces of wood which are at least 150mm long up to a maximum of 250mm. The wood to be cut is placed in the vice and moved over to the right until it comes into contact with the stop. The vice is tightened to secure the wood and the end of the length stop is swung down out of the way before cutting takes place. If it is not moved the piece of wood being cut can jam between the blade and the face of the length stop when the cut is completed and the result is an unpleasant 'clunk' which can be alarming.

I have made one modification to the stop so that I can cut shorter, repetitive lengths of wood; Proxxon Germany may be interested to consider adding this to future production runs as it would cost very little to do. I machined a simple stop to slide along the bar and drilled and tapped a hole to take a locking screw M5 thread. I also replaced the hex screw on the block for the bar with a small bristol-style lever with an M6 thread. This means I do not have to use a hex key and makes life easier!

Chop-saws are rather intimidating machines and are not popular with all woodworkers; for instance I am much happier using the Proxxon FET table saw, but this product may be of interest to those woodworkers who wish to cut accurate mitres using this method or to cut lengths of wood all exactly the same length. This model is well made and simple to set up and the calibrated scale allows accurate settings to be made with confidence. It does the job it has been designed for very well.



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.



The totally enclosed blade



The calibrated rotating baseplate



One-handed operation – keep other hand well away!



A Bristol-type lever replacing the hex screw



My modification for the length stop mechanism



This enables me to cut much smaller sections of wood