



Proxxon polishing machine PM100 test

The **Editor** is used to big power tools and machines. Would a baby polisher go down well?

Proxxon is a German-built make, designed mainly for smaller-scale work – craft, model-making, detailing, etc. Although you can buy bigger polishing machines, this one doesn't look too weeny and suggests it should be good for action. It can be either screwed to a bench or board or the sturdy clamp will fix it firmly to the edge of a work surface – handy if you are at a table, jeweller's bench or doing demonstrations. It has two mop mandrels, both threaded for forward running. The right-hand one can be removed to fit other accessories. It has a variable-speed knob and on-off switch in the non-logical but most practical siting on the back slope of the machine. The shield around the mops can easily be adjusted using a supplied Allen key and needs to be removed if you do a mandrel change in order to access the spanner flats at both ends. Again there are two spanners supplied.

In use

Setting up is easy but you need to familiarise yourself with the shield adjustment and, of course, you need to fit the mops. The yellow muslin one is coarser so I put it on the left-hand

mandrel and the softer one on the right. The instructions don't mention mounting fully, for safety reasons I imagine. I switched the unit on at slow speed and, avoiding touching either of the blunt mandrel points, simply pressed the mops on one at a time so the thread carried them on. I let go and, instantly, voila – done.

Modern drawn brass hinges are dull but with some polishing they have a real chance to shine. So I added some compound on the left-hand wheel and proceeded to buff up, holding the hinge downwards for safety, working with the rotation. A couple of minutes' work did the trick but there was dirty compound evident and unevenness of finish. The soft fabric right-hand wheel dealt with it instantly and you can see the contrast between raw, drawn brass and the polished result.

Verdict

Several observations. This machine has plenty of power and you can max this out by turning up the speed although be wary with small fragile objects where slow running and a light touch are best. Keep spare mops handy, a cleanish soft one is needed

for removing traces of compound and, of course, you can buy different brand compounds if you so choose. Create an enclosed setting to catch all the polishing spatter and wear old clothes. The siting of the controls at the rear is apparently a consequence of a redesign that allows long, awkward workpieces to lie close to the axis of the shaft. Overall though, I was very impressed although price-wise it isn't cheap. The only letdown was the instructions, which aren't easy to understand. ■

Tech spec

Proxxon PM100 polishing machine

DC motor with electronic speed control 1,000-3,100 rpm
Twin mandrels for 100mm dia. polishing wheels
Optional accessories – additional muslin wheels, microfibre wheel, felt cloth wheel, universal paste polishing stick suitable for all materials

Price: £233.38 inc VAT
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