

Bandsaw Buyer's Guide



For many serious woodworkers the bandsaw is probably the most useful and versatile addition they will make to their workshop. The combination of deep cutting, the ability to cut both curved and straight lines, tilting tables and a wide choice of blade widths and tooth combinations opens up a huge range of applications to the bandsaw user, whilst taking up minimal floor space. You can rip, re-saw, cut wafer thin veneers, tenon cheeks, bevels, curves and even circles.

CHOOSING A SUITABLE BANDSAW

With such a wide variety of bandsaws on the market, how do you choose the best machine for your needs? A bandsaw is a versatile machine but each user has their own set of requirements that will make one machine more suitable than another. For example a furniture maker requiring a machine to cut accurate veneers, tenons or to resaw will be better served by a machine that can take a wide blade, has a deep solid fence and a powerful motor. However for the woodturner wishing mainly to cut bowl blanks, of greater importance will be the ability to fit and track narrow blades for radius work. Also, a good sized table with enough support for the bowl blank to the right of the blade and good blade guides to counter side pressure when cutting is more important. Make sure the strengths of the bandsaw model match your main application requirements.

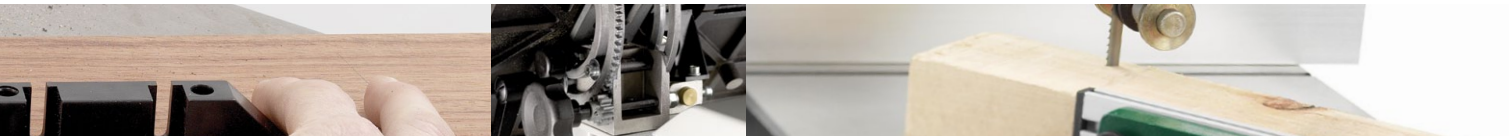
When you buy one of our machines you can be confident of long term performance and support.

WHAT IS YOUR BUDGET?

Nobody wants to spend more than they need to, but the budget must be realistic for the applications and usage required. Bandsaws vary in price, specification and construction from hundreds of pounds to thousands of pounds. Our only note of caution is that many users who hesitate in buying a bandsaw and try to play safe by opting for the minimum specification machine, often come back soon after they have fully appreciated just how versatile and useful a bandsaw is. As it becomes an invaluable tool, they often wish they had bought a bigger or more powerful machine and end up frustrated or facing the expense of an upgrade. If budget is a problem, it is much more cost effective to wait and purchase the right machine first time round.

KEY ASPECTS OF BANDSAW CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the machine has a major bearing on its longevity, accuracy and reliability. Listed below are the key aspects to consider in purchasing any bandsaw and how Record Power compares with the competition at similar price points.



BANDWHEELS

Bandwheels are the drive mechanism for the blade. For a quiet and smooth cutting performance it is important that wheels are well balanced and for accurate tracking and effective design a good quality tyre needs to be fitted.

Record Power Bandsaws

On all our premium bandsaws (BS300E, BS350S and BS400) our bandwheels are made from cast iron which is strong and helps to increase the flywheel effect. The wheels are dynamically balanced and have thick rubber tyres, are ground for accuracy, are easy to track and will give years of service. This solution is essential on the larger capacity machines to ensure they can withstand the tensioning forces of larger blades and the rigours of heavier use.

Other Bandsaws

Many of our competitors use the more lightweight alloy wheels. This is a suitable solution for smaller bandsaws, but it is not uncommon to see alloy bandwheels on much larger machines that really need a more heavyweight design, so compromising the life of the bandsaw.



MACHINE FRAMES

A bandsaw cannot cut accurately unless the blade is properly tensioned and the frame needs to be strong enough and rigid enough to withstand the stresses created. If the frame is not strong enough the frame can distort and the top and bottom bandwheel boxes pull together as tension is applied which prevents full tension being applied and can damage the machine.

Record Power Bandsaws

On our premium machines the frames are folded and welded from industrial grade sheet steel and designed with a wide ridged spine for extra rigidity. The bandwheel boxes are also fabricated with additional webbing to increase rigidity and strength.

Other Bandsaws

Even on large capacity machines, many of our competitors weld bandwheel boxes to a piece of standard rolled hollow box section for the spine. This option is suitable only for machines with relatively small capacities, up to 6" depth of cut for example, and simply does not have the adequate strength or rigidity for use on medium sized and larger machines. When considering a bandsaw, always check this aspect of construction as it is critical on the more heavy duty machines.



FENCE

A rigid fence is essential for accurate straight cutting – ripping, veneer cutting or cutting tenons for example. It is also important that the fence or fence mount can be adjusted to ensure squareness to the table and blade.

Record Power Bandsaws

The fences on our premium range were designed by our colleagues at Startrite Machines (specialists in industrial bandsaws). They feature deep extrusions mounted on solid steel bars with steel and cast fence clamps. The mounting bar is clamped to the table with sturdy bolts and allows adjustment to ensure squareness and will be rock solid once set. The fence rail does not need to be removed or reset when changing blades. The aluminium extrusions and mounting rails found on the smaller BS250, BS10 and BS12 machines are an excellent and cost effective solution for machines of these capacities, providing plenty of support.

Other Bandsaws

Most of our competitors use the aluminium extrusions for the fence and rail mount throughout their ranges, even on very large capacity machines. Whilst this does keep costs down a little, it also reduces the life and performance of the machines and is inadequate for their size.





Roller Guides Easy adjust roller guides, an effective design similar to guides found on our premium range of bandsaws.



Mitre Fence A good quality steel mitre fence is included with the BS12.



Easy Access to the lower guides through the table makes fine adjustment of the blade simple.

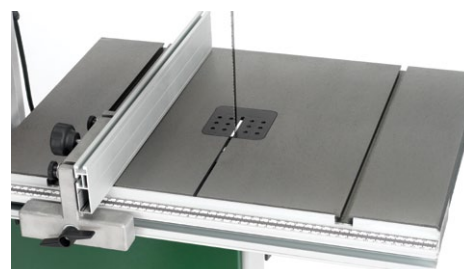


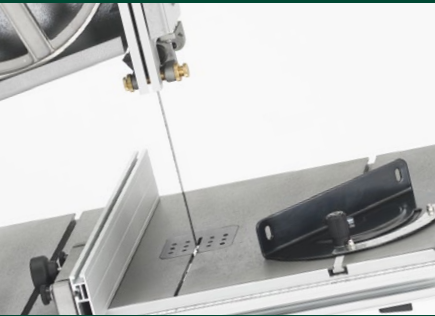
Table A generous cast iron table gives plenty of support to the workpiece.



Rack and Pinion Table Tilt Offering one handed operation and much more accurate than the simple sliding cast alloy trunnions usually found at this level.

Stand & Basic Wheelkit Are included with the BS12.

BS12 Standard 12" Bandsaw



The BS12 is built to offer exceptional performance and value for money if usage or budget cannot justify one of our premium machines. Our brief was to create a machine that could compete in the entry level market whilst offering better features and performance than most of the competition and apply our 5 year guarantee with absolute confidence.

This machine offers all the features you may expect on a machine at this price, such as aluminium extrusions for fence, rail and mount, extruded alloy guide post, aluminium band wheels and an effective tensioning system. In addition, it also boasts a number of features that we believe lift it above most of the direct competition and which are a real bonus on a machine at such a modest cost.

Positive Microswitches For added safety, cuts power to machine when door guard is opened.

Sprung Tension System A simple but effective system applies plenty of tension for the capacities of this machine.

Switch If power supply is cut this machine will not restart on its own when the power is restored.

Two Speeds Easily adjustable on the lower wheel pulley.



Easy Tension Adjustment By simply turning the easy access tension knob.

Dynamically Balanced Bandwheels With good quality tyres to provide smooth operation.

Blade Guide Rise & Fall On a rack and pinion system with an easy lock.

Easy Adjust Blade Guides

Sealed for Life Bearings Require no maintenance during the life of your machine.

Drive Belt Easily tensioned by moving and locking motor position on rear of machine.

RRP £399.99



CONSUMABLES



BB88-3PACK 3 Pack Blades
Pack of three bandsaw blades, specifically made for this machine. A great general purpose pack suitable for most cutting applications. 1/4" x 6 TPI, 3/8" x 6 TPI and 1/2 x 4 TPI.
RRP £36.99

OPTIONAL ACCESSORY



CWA195 Silicone Spray 500ml
Anti static properties make it ideal for treating machinery, designed to stop the adhering of many messy substances to most surfaces.
RRP £7.99



Included



Mitre Fence For further support if required, the mitre fence accepts the rip fence extrusion.

SPECIFICATIONS

MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT: 175 mm	MOTOR POWER: 1 hp	EXTRACTION PORT DIAMETER: 100 mm
THROAT DEPTH: 305 mm	BLADE LENGTH: 88"	WEIGHT: 75 kg
TABLE SIZE: 480 x 400 mm	BLADE WIDTH CAPACITY: 6 - 15 mm	SIZE: H1680 x W791 x D874 mm
TABLE HEIGHT FROM FLOOR: 1086 mm	BLADE SPEED: 380 & 820 M / minute	



Blade Guides Are simple to set and easily adjustable.



Capacity Large 120 mm depth of cut and 240 mm throat depth make this a compact machine capable of serious work.



Strong Fence With cam action lock for ease of use and simple tension adjustment for clamping strength. (clamps at rear of table).



Table A solid, finely ground cast iron table provides an ideal and low friction work support.



Trunnion Table tilts from 0 - 45° on a solid trunnion with easy to read scale.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORY



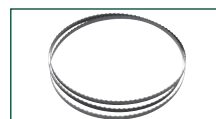
CWA195 Silicone Spray 500ml
Anti static properties make it ideal for treating machinery, designed to stop the adhering of many messy substances to most surfaces.
RRP £7.99

OPTIONAL FITMENT



BS250-AW Stand & Wheelkit
This stand and wheelkit provides great flexibility for those with a small workshop or for people who may need to move the machine on a regular basis.
RRP £89.99

CONSUMABLES



BB70-3PACK Blades
Pack of three bandsaw blades, specifically made for this machine. A great general purpose pack suitable for most cutting applications. (1/4", 3/8" & 1/2" blades supplied).
RRP £34.99

BS250 shown on optional
BS250-AW stand and wheelkit.

BS250 Premium 10" Bandsaw



With a cast iron table at the heart of this compact machine it is designed to offer those with limited space or budgets a real bandsaw with sensible capacity and performance, as an alternative to lightweight hobby machines.

This is the smallest machine in our range, but should not be confused with the lightweight hobby machines available in the market at a similar price. It shares the same essential build qualities as its larger cousins – strong steel frames, dynamically balanced bandwheels, cast iron tables and an induction motor. It has been designed to offer the user with space restrictions a serious machine in compact form. The machine can be bench mounted or fitted to the optional stand and wheel kit, providing great flexibility in a tight space.

Microswitch For added safety, cuts power to machine when door guard is opened.

Strong Tension System To provide more than adequate tension for blade capacities of this model.

Switch If power supply is cut this machine will not restart on its own when the power is restored.

Easy Tension Adjustment By simply turning the easy access tension knob.

Dynamically Balanced Bandwheels With good quality tyres to provide smooth operation.

Blade Guide Rise & Fall On a rack and pinion system with an easy lock.

Sealed for Life Bearings Require no maintenance during the life of your machine.

Drive Belt Easily tensioned by moving and locking motor position on rear of machine.



Optional BS250-AW Stand provides stable support and good working height.

Pedal Operated Wheelkit Simply press down on metal pedal to engage castors for easy manoeuvrability and press again when in position to return to rubber feet. (Part of optional BS250-AW).



Standard Machine Supplied as bench mounted option.

What They Say...

"The machine is hard to fault, provided you work within its obvious limits...this isn't a model maker's toy, but a serious piece of wood machining kit... a lovely machine, both to look at and to use. It has none of the problems normally associated with small bandsaws and performs virtually to full capacity. In terms of value for money this must be one of the best around at the moment."



Practical Woodworking

"I have owned the BS250 for approximately 5 weeks and have to say it has surpassed all my expectations...With a cast iron table, accurate fence and quiet induction motor this bandsaw is excellent value for money. Thank you Record Power."



Website Review



Included

SPECIFICATIONS

MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT:
120 mm

THROAT DEPTH: 240 mm

TABLE SIZE: 315 x 350 mm

TABLE HEIGHT FROM FLOOR:
370 mm

MOTOR POWER: 1/2 hp

BLADE LENGTH: 70 1/4"

BLADE WIDTH CAPACITY:

1/4 - 1/2"

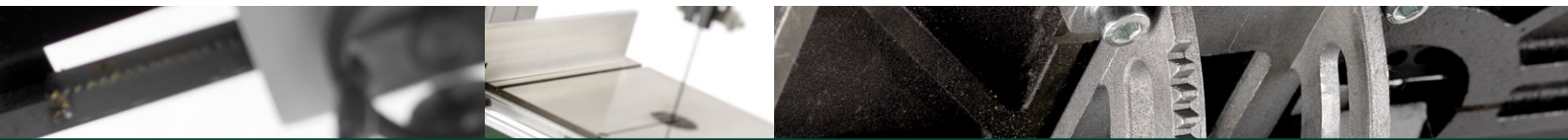
BLADE SPEED: 740 M / minute

EXTRACTION PORT

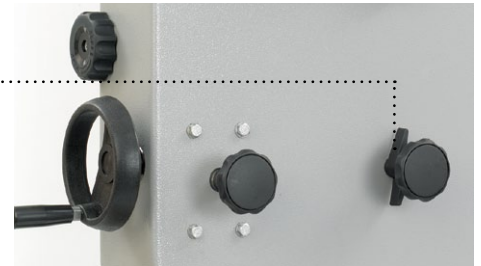
DIAMETER: 58 mm (100 mm with supplied adaptor)

WEIGHT: 30 kg

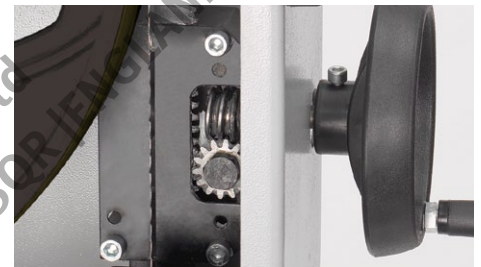
SIZE: H860 x W550 x D480 mm



Microswitches Are fitted top and bottom for added safety. Cuts power to machine when doors are opened.

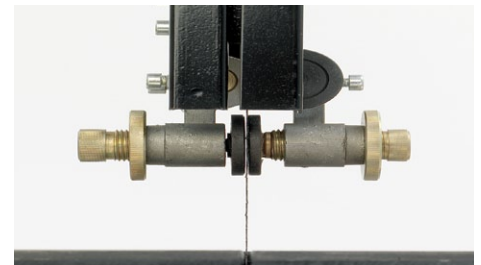


Tracking System Easy blade tracking to give accurate positioning of blade.



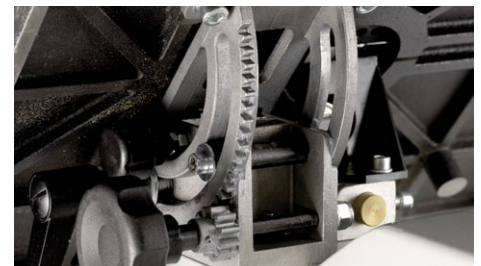
Toolpost Support Features jacking screws for easy adjustment.

Toolpost Rack and pinion rise and fall on toolpost and blade guides for easy adjustment.



Accurate and Easy to Use Blade Guides

Blade guides need accurately setting if they are to be of any use – so easy access and adjustment are a must. Our guides, similar to those found on industrial machines, give good quality adjustment with minimal need for tools.



Trunnion Solid double trunnion table mount for rigid table support featuring one handed rack and pinion table tilt for ease of use and accuracy. Mounted on top of bandwheel box with jacking screws for easy adjustment.

Steel Stand With splayed legs to provide better stability than some cabinet stands.



BS300E Premium 12" Bandsaw

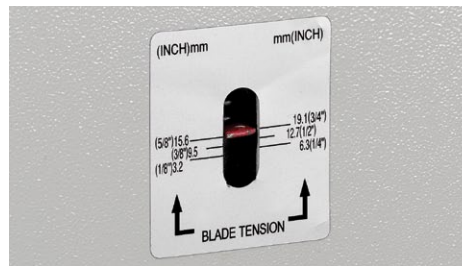


The BS300E is a great all rounder perfectly specified for the medium sized workshop where a range of duties will be required.

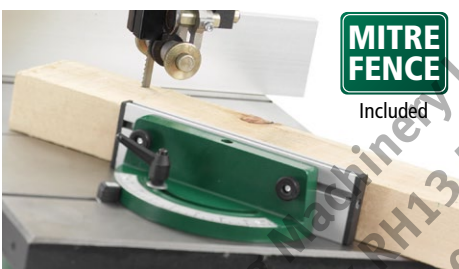
Featuring a solid fence, vital for accurate ripping, which has a heavy extrusion mounted on a cast iron base and fixed to a solid steel bar for maximum rigidity and support. This is based on an industrial Startrite design and much more solid than other fences at this level. The machine also features a solid double trunnion fence mount to provide rigid table support and one-handed table tilt on a smooth rack and pinion. Adding to the structural integrity of the BS300E are the cast iron bandwheels which are fitted with precision ground rubber tyres to provide a flywheel effect for smooth cutting. A solid blade tension indicator is fitted to the rear of the machine to allow for easy setup. The BS300E is also supplied with a basic wheelkit as standard.



Industrial Startrite Style Fence This high quality fence features a heavy extrusion mounted on a cast iron base, which moves along a solid steel bar. This provides exceptional strength and accuracy and is easily locked with the brass screw and handle.



Blade Tension Indicator Is situated on the rear of the machine.



Mitre Fence A solid and easy to use mitre fence is included with this machine.



Large Cast Iron Table Provides a strong and steady work area to support large workpieces. Finely ground finish enables effortless movement of the timber.

What They Say...

"The BS300E is a very good saw for the money, with heavy components that promise durability and performance... with a five year warranty and Record's after sales service, this machine is a good mid-sized choice for discerning amateurs or hobby users who want good build quality."



Good Woodworking

"This is an excellent machine and certainly one of the best small bandsaws that I have used. It is well built and offers good cutting capacities. It's also available at a highly attractive price for a machine of these capacities."

Value for money: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★

The Woodworker

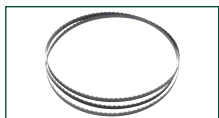
OPTIONAL FITMENT



BS300-A Wheelkit

This wheelkit provides great flexibility for those with a small workshop or for people who may need to move the machine on a regular basis.
RRP £69.99

CONSUMABLES



BB93-3PACK Blades

Pack of three bandsaw blades, specifically made for this machine. A great general purpose pack suitable for most cutting applications.
RRP £39.99

OPTIONAL ACCESSORY



CWA195

Silicone Spray 500ml

Anti static properties make it ideal for treating machinery, designed to stop the adhering of many messy substances to most surfaces.
RRP £7.99

SPECIFICATIONS

MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT:
190 mm

THROAT DEPTH: 305 mm

TABLE SIZE: 480 x 400 mm

TABLE HEIGHT FROM FLOOR:
990 mm

MOTOR POWER: 1 hp
BLADE LENGTH: 93 1/4"
BLADE WIDTH CAPACITY:
1/4 - 3/4"

BLADE SPEED:
820 & 380 M / minute

EXTRACTION PORT
DIAMETER: 100 mm
WEIGHT: 80 kg
SIZE: H1690 x W880 x D680 mm



Included



Cast Iron Band Wheels Are dynamically balanced and provide a flywheel effect for improved cutting performance. Rubber tyres are precision ground for easy blade fitting and smooth drive.

Wheelkit A basic wheelkit is provided as standard which is suitable for occasional use. For those wishing to move the machine on a regular basis we recommend the BS300A Pedal Wheelkit.



Microswitches Are fitted top and bottom for added safety, cutting power to the machine when the doors are opened.

Cam Action Tensioner With the flick of a handle the tension is released on the blade enabling quick easy changing, but more importantly, when reset, the previous tension is automatically applied to the new blade. This makes blade changing a much simpler task and allows tension to be taken off the blade when not in use.

Capacity
Generous 230 mm

Toolpost Support Features jacking screws for easy adjustment.

Toolpost Rack and pinion rise and fall on toolpost and blade guides for easy adjustment.

Accurate and Easy to Use Blade Guides

Blade guides need accurately setting if they are to be of any use – so easy access and adjustment are a must. Our guides, similar to those found on industrial machines give good quality adjustment with minimal need for tools.

Trunnion Solid double trunnion table mount for rigid table support featuring one handed rack and pinion table tilt for ease of use and accuracy.

Easy Open Door Handles Make access inside the cabinet much easier. Micro-switch protected but always disconnect power supply before making any adjustments.

Steel Stand With splayed legs to provide better stability than some cabinet stands.

BS350S Premium 14" Bandsaw



An ideal workhorse for the busy workshop where power and generous capacity are required but budget and space do not allow a bigger machine.

This features an open legstand, often requested by our users as it provides greater stability and can be used with an optional pedal style wheelkit. A basic wheelkit is provided as standard. The bandwheels are cast iron and dynamically balanced with precision ground, crowned rubber tyres usually only found on much more expensive industrial machines – the flywheel effect of the cast iron wheels improves cutting performance and speeds.

Our tables are some of the largest in their category and a one piece cast double trunnion has been designed to provide even greater support and rigidity.

The rip fence is the strongest and most industrial in its category with a chromed fence and the mount machined from a single piece of cast iron. The extrusion itself is a heavy section to provide rigidity and accuracy.

RRP £699.99

What They Say...

"This company lives up to its name by enjoying an enviable record for making dependable, solidly made machines. The BS350S bandsaw is an upgrade with some minor but significant advantages that make it a better-rounded product...Once the guides are set you will know this machine will cut exactly as one would wish. The casing doesn't flex and the table is very solid, flat and finely ground. Excellent build quality, good capacity and plenty of power."

Furniture & Cabinet Making

"With a 235 mm depth of cut this machine is designed for the more serious user. The massive cast iron table is well finished...The table tilts to 45° on geared trunnions... that simplifies accurate setting for angled cuts. You no longer have to wrestle with a recalcitrant table which resists all efforts to move... just turn the wheel and the table tilts...This machine has been a faultless performer. The extra depth of cut and throat distance over the standard 300 mm models, coupled to the quick blade change system, makes it a serious contender for the semi-pro user."



Practical Woodworking



Included



Cast Iron Band Wheels Are fitted with precision ground rubber tyres to provide a flywheel effect for smooth cutting. Simple tension indicator also shown.



Industrial Style Fence This high quality fence features a heavy extrusion mounted on a cast iron base, which moves along a solid steel bar. This provides exceptional strength and accuracy and is easily locked with the brass screw and handle.



Large Cast Iron Table Provides a strong and steady work area to support large workpieces. Finely ground finish enables effortless movement of the timber.

Motor Quiet and powerful 1 1/2 hp output induction motor will handle a wide variety of projects with ease.

OPTIONAL FITMENT



BS350S-W Wheelkit
This wheelkit provides great flexibility for those with a small workshop or for people who may need to move the machine on a regular basis.
RRP £59.99

CONSUMABLES



BB103-3PACK Blades
Pack of three bandsaw blades, specifically made for this machine. A great general purpose pack suitable for most cutting applications.
RRP £44.99

OPTIONAL ACCESSORY



CWA195 Silicone Spray 500ml
Anti static properties make it ideal for treating machinery, designed to stop the adhering of many messy substances to most surfaces.
RRP £7.99

SPECIFICATIONS

MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT:
230 mm
THROAT DEPTH: 340 mm
TABLE SIZE: 548 x 500 mm
TABLE HEIGHT FROM FLOOR:
998 mm

MOTOR POWER: 1 1/2 hp
BLADE LENGTH: 103 1/2"
BLADE WIDTH CAPACITY:
1/4 - 3/4"
BLADE SPEED:
820 & 380 M / minute

EXTRACTION PORT DIAMETER:
100 mm
WEIGHT: 100 kg
SIZE: H1795 x W880 x D780 mm



Mitre Fence A solid and easy to use mitre fence is included with this machine.

Wheelkit A basic wheelkit is provided as standard which is suitable for occasional use. For those wishing to move the machine on a regular basis we recommend the BS350S-W Pedal Wheelkit.



Microswitches Are fitted top and bottom for added safety, cutting power to the machine when the doors are open.

Capacity
Generous 305 mm

MITRE FENCE
Included

Cam Action Tensioner With the flick of a handle the tension is released on the blade enabling quick easy changing, but more importantly, when reset, the previous tension is automatically applied to the new blade. This makes blade changing a much simpler task and allowing tension to be taken off the blade when not in use.

Toolpost Support Features jacking screws for easy adjustment.

Toolpost Rack and pinion rise and fall on toolpost and blade guides for easy adjustment.

Accurate and Easy to Use Blade Guides
Blade guides need accurately setting if they are to be of any use – so easy access and adjustment are a must. We believe our guides, similar to those found on industrial machines costing many times more, give even greater support and easier adjustment than ever. When these guides are compared to ball race guides it is clear that they provide far more support. They cover around 3/4" of the blade side rather than the pinpoint contact that ball race guides provide.

Trunnion Solid double trunnion table mount for rigid table support featuring one handed rack and pinion table tilt for ease of use and accuracy.

BS400 Premium 16" Bandsaw



The BS400 bandsaw offers high quality, industrial features and large capacities to the mid range bandsaw market. This machine brings affordable solid performance and reliability within reach of the discerning woodworker.

Like all bandsaws in the range, a solid cast iron table provides unrivalled stability and solidity. An industrial style cast trunnion supports the table and allows it to be tilted one-handed on a rack and pinion. Dynamically balanced cast iron bandwheels ensure superior strength and reduced vibration - a feature not usually found on other machines at this level. The 2 hp motor and 305 mm depth of cut mean this machine can cope easily with large timbers yet is also equally capable of fine, precise cuts and veneers.

The exceptional value for money this machine offers is difficult to appreciate without seeing the machine first hand. If you are in the market for a high specification mid-range bandsaw, be sure to seek out the BS400 at your nearest dealer or at one of our many shows and compare it to other bandsaws on the market.

RRP £999.99

What They Say...

"The most noticeable feature is the size of the table. An extension to the left-hand side neatly fills the gap between the table and the frame, producing a decent sized working area and also allowing you to park the rip fence well out of the way. The table itself is heavy cast iron, polished to a fine surface finish, and contains left and right hand slots for the mitre guide. The two halves of the table either side of the blade slot are kept level with the usual strap arrangement, but on this machine you can change the blade easily without having to remove the rip fence...All this serious weight makes for a bandsaw that's a very smooth machine to use, and the flywheel effect of those massive cast iron band wheels coupled to a powerful 1500 W motor means that the machine will happily cut through material near the maximum depth of 305 mm....This is a very well specified and finished machine producing a performance that belies its relatively modest price tag."

Value For Money

Performance

The Woodworker

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★



Cast Iron Band Wheels Are dynamically balanced and provide a flywheel effect for improved cutting performance. Rubber tyres are precision ground for easy blade fitting and smooth drive.



Industrial Style Fence This high quality fence features a heavy extrusion mounted on a cast iron base, which moves along a solid steel bar. This provides exceptional strength and accuracy and is easily locked with the brass screw and handle.



Large 535 x 480 mm Cast Iron Table Provides a strong and steady work area to support large workpieces. Finely ground finish enables effortless movement of the timber.

Motor Quiet and powerful 2 hp output induction motor will handle a wide variety of projects with ease.



SPECIFICATIONS

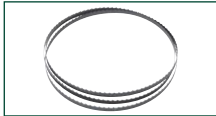
MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT: 305 mm	MOTOR POWER: 2 hp	EXTRACTION PORT DIAMETER: 100 mm
THROAT DEPTH: 416 mm	BLADE LENGTH: 133"	WEIGHT: 140 kg
TABLE SIZE: 535 x 480 mm	BLADE WIDTH CAPACITY: 1/4 - 1"	SIZE: L630 x H1800 x W850 mm
TABLE HEIGHT FROM FLOOR: 900 mm	BLADE SPEED: 820 & 420 M / Minute	

OPTIONAL FITMENT



BS400-W Wheelkit
This wheelkit provides great flexibility for those with a small workshop or for people who may need to move the machine on a regular basis.
RRP £59.99

CONSUMABLES



BB133-3PACK Blades
Pack of three bandsaw blades, specifically made for this machine. A great general purpose pack suitable for most cutting applications.
1/4" 3/8" & 3/4" supplied.
RRP £49.99

OPTIONAL ACCESSORY



CWA195 Silicone Spray 500ml
Anti static properties make it ideal for treating machinery, designed to stop the adhering of many messy substances to most surfaces.
RRP £7.99