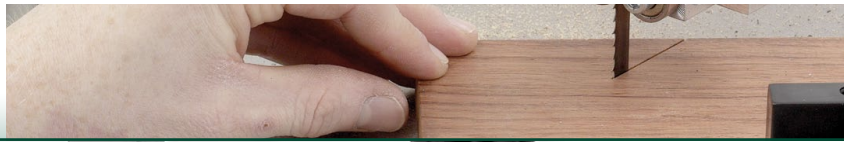


Bandsaw Buyer's Guide



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.

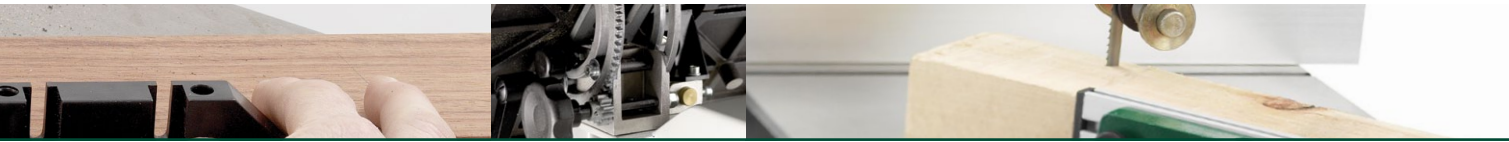


WHAT IS YOUR BUDGET?

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.

