

Compound Miter Saws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Woodworking Machines



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A compound mitre saw swings a blade down onto the work to cut accurate crosscuts, mitres and bevels. The compound head tilts and the table rotates, so it makes angled cuts in two planes for picture frames, mouldings and furniture frames.

Key Features

- Blade sizes 210-305 mm typical
- Table rotates 0-52 degrees for mitres
- Head tilts for bevels to 45 degrees
- Sliding models crosscut wider boards
- Laser or LED line guides the cut

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut picture frames and mitred mouldings
- Crosscut trim and framing to length
- Cut compound angles for boxes and frames
- Batch-cut identical parts with a stop

Safe Operation

1. Set the mitre and bevel angles on the scales
2. Hold the work flat against the fence and table
3. Start the blade and lower it through the work smoothly
4. Return the head to the up position before moving work
5. Use a stop block for repeated lengths

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep hands clear of the blade path on both sides
- Hold small pieces with a clamp, never fingers near the blade
- Allow the blade to stop before lifting the head
- Wear eye and hearing protection
- Watch for offcuts that can fly when cut free

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the table and rails clean of resin and dust
- Check the blade for burns and missing teeth
- Wax the sliding rails occasionally
- Tighten the turntable locks that feel loose
- Vacuum the motor housing regularly

Specification & Buying Notes

A sliding compound mitre saw with a laser and dust bag covers most school jobs from 200 mm. Fixed-head models suit light use. Check the fence is square and the detents click positively.