

GMC laminate flooring saw



Anthony Bailey tests the latest floor cutting saw

A lot of people lay laminate clip together flooring, so designing a saw specifically for this kind of work got my attention.

What you have is a large cast aluminium table on rubber feet. Along one side are twin bright finish rails on which the saw unit is mounted. The slides on the rails are a tough plastic with no bearings being involved. The saw unit looks like a refugee from an angle grinder unit with a right angle drive head, so the sawblade runs alongside it. There are large on/off, no-volt release switches on the unit and the blade has a tough, clear plastic sprung guard which is height limited – this means very little blade is ever unguarded.

Now, the clever trick is that this unit has two fences and not just one.



The first is a mitre fence that slots into holes in the table for a variety of angles from 45-90°.

The second fence has an additional feature of fine angle adjustment for off-perpendicular settings.

To use the saw, the head is pulled towards the operator to make the cut, while the board is held by a work clamp. You need to depress a paddle lever that allows the sprung guard to lift.

Clip together flooring doesn't just need end trimming – lengthwise cuts are needed too. The GMC laminate saw addresses this by having a removable rip fence.

For this operation a lock pin is pushed into a hole in the lower slide rail, thus fixing the saw head so the work can be fed through the saw.

Pushing in the lock pin affects how a two-position guard safety lock operates, thus allowing the board to move under the guard. Assembling



Mike says

You can't go wrong for the price

AT A GLANCE

- A one-tool solution
- Good site machine
- Mini tablesaw capability

THE NUMBERS

- Model: GMC Laminate Flooring Saw
- Power input: 860 watts
- No load speed: 11,000rpm
- Blade size: 125mm dia x 17mm bore
- Table size: 660 x 345mm
- Max crosscut: 430mm
- Max depth cut: 18mm
- Mitre cuts: 0°, 15°, 20°, 30°, 45°
- Weight: 8.4kg
- Typical price: £99.99 inc VAT

WHERE TO BUY

- Global Machinery Company
- Website: www.gmcompany.com

PROS

- Compact
- Versatile
- Good cut finish

CONS

- Limited to thinner boards
- Fence knobs can be mislaid

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
- PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
- BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

the saw isn't very difficult. A harder operation is blade-changing which requires undoing the guard centre cover and the arbor nut, then using a screwdriver blade to pop the blade off the arbor and teasing it through the underside of the table through the blade slot. Safety-wise, because the blade travels upwards into the wood, use of the work clamp is essential. Ripping posed no problem and the supplied pushstick made for safer working.

The verdict

Tests on solid timber up to 20mm thick (2mm more than the designed capacity) reveal this is in fact a very capable mini site table saw, not just a flooring saw, so you get two machines in one. Thanks GMC! ■