

The GMC Electric Line Trimmer

Cutting Edge(s)

Independent Review by Peter Brett

With absolute perfect timing the Global Machinery Company line trimmer arrived to be reviewed – just as the grass, on what I laughingly call my lawns, was about to get beyond control.

The box is surprisingly compact and at first I wondered if there was indeed a line trimmer in it. But open it up and all the parts are in there ready to be assembled into the whole.

Assembly looks complicated, and the instructions have only quite small diagrams, but in fact, once you have looked at all the bits and read the instructions it becomes clear. The middle shaft, made of alloy, is fitted to the handle and locked with a rotatable collar. This allows a certain degree of adjustment in the length of the tool to suit the user.

To fit the adjustable handle is also quite simple. Simply remove the bolt, fit the handle onto the click-stopped connection point and retighten the bolt. Again, this allows the user to adjust the looped handle for an easy grip for the leading hand.

I really liked the way in which the line trimmer guard is fitted. Simply line up the arrow and twist it until it locks into place. No need for any fiddly screws and stuff.

The alloy middle shaft connects to the trimmer housing with a snap fit too, and then you are almost in business. Well so far, so ordinary. But I am pleased to report that the GMC line trimmer has a bit more sophistication than that. The trimmer angle can be easily adjusted by pushing in a button on the trimmer housing and adjusting the angle of the head by hand. In this way the optimum angle for any user can be obtained.

Another handy extra is a 50mm diameter or so wheel that can be attached to the front of the machine with three screws. This wheel contacts edges like brick walls and fences at just the right diameter (300mm) for the line so that it is not simply ruined or broken by contact with them. There is also a wire loop on the front of the motor housing that will maintain a correct distance from the edge being cut.

The cutting line is really tough stuff, and it seems as though it is slightly braided or is tougher than the usual monofilament line. The small spool feeds the line automatically or if you push down gently onto the ground while working. I was very impressed with the toughness of the standard line supplied as it certainly cut some rough old grass and small twigs with no visible ill effects.

Another really practical feature is the ten metre long cord. I always have to use an extension when I cut my



grass, but the goodly length of cord will mean that many users will just need what is supplied.

I have used a number of line trimmers, from petrol powered to cordless and many of them are very good, but a significant number lack any real "oomph" and are certainly not suitable for cutting my tough old Sussex grass. But from the moment I started using this GMC trimmer I knew I had discovered a really useful tool. The 600w motor has an urgent deep-throated buzz, and when it comes to grassy verges it takes no prisoners. I had allowed my grass to grow to about 150mm long in places – certainly beyond the point where my hovermower would normally cut. I found that with the GMC machine I could cut the grass down to "normal" levels quite quickly, leaving it ready for a final finish with the hovermower.

Edges too were very quickly taken care of, using the wheel and the wire guard system. I was simply amazed at how efficient this machine is compared to my old line trimmer. Its days are numbered as I suspect the GMC line trimmer will become the weapon of choice on my grass.

I think some users could find that the weight of the trimmer at 3.08 Kgs is a little too much. (I am thinking of the elderly here) But it is possible to shorten the handle and adjust the centre of gravity so that the trimmer is very manageable. I prefer having a shoulder strap on any trimmer so that I can suspend it from my shoulder and simply swing the trimmer from side to side as I cut. I think I am going to cannibalize a strap from somewhere else and feed it through the front loop handle to achieve a supportive effect for when I next use the trimmer.

This trimmer is really easy to use. The main handle is comfortable and the large trigger to start and stop the machine is well placed. There is a small hook on the handle so that the user can take a "loop" out of the main cable so that you don't pull on the main cable joint on the top of the handle. I found that it was possible to loop the cable neatly and push it through the handle for storage. In this



way it avoids kinks or loops of cable all over the shed floor.

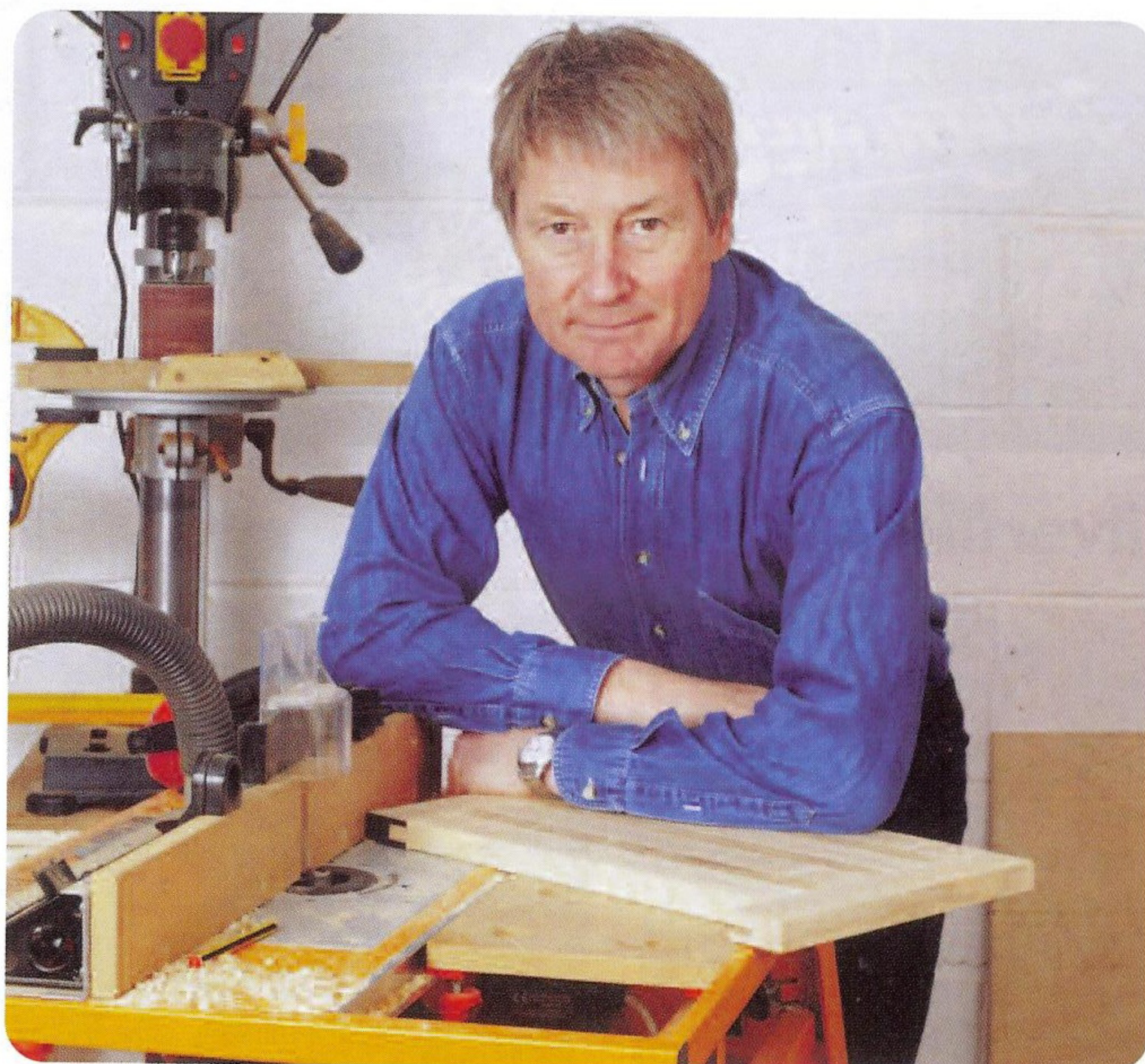
In use, the cutting line advances automatically and the adjustments are pretty easy to do so that cutting grass and trimming edges is straightforward. As I have mentioned before, the "braided" line is very strong, stronger than some of the thick monofilaments around, and seems to cut even small twigs with some ease.

As we have come to expect from Global Machinery Company, the tools they sell provide good value and good performance at very competitive prices. This line trimmer comes with a 24 month guarantee if you register it online before thirty days have elapsed after purchase. I think that the GMV LT600 made a pretty impressive showing on my grass and I am sure that it would be tough enough for other demanding gardeners who perhaps are a bit more regular in maintaining their grass areas than I am.

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