

# PRODUCT TESTING...

WITH ROGER BISBY

AND STEVE FARROW

## PLANE AND SIMPLE

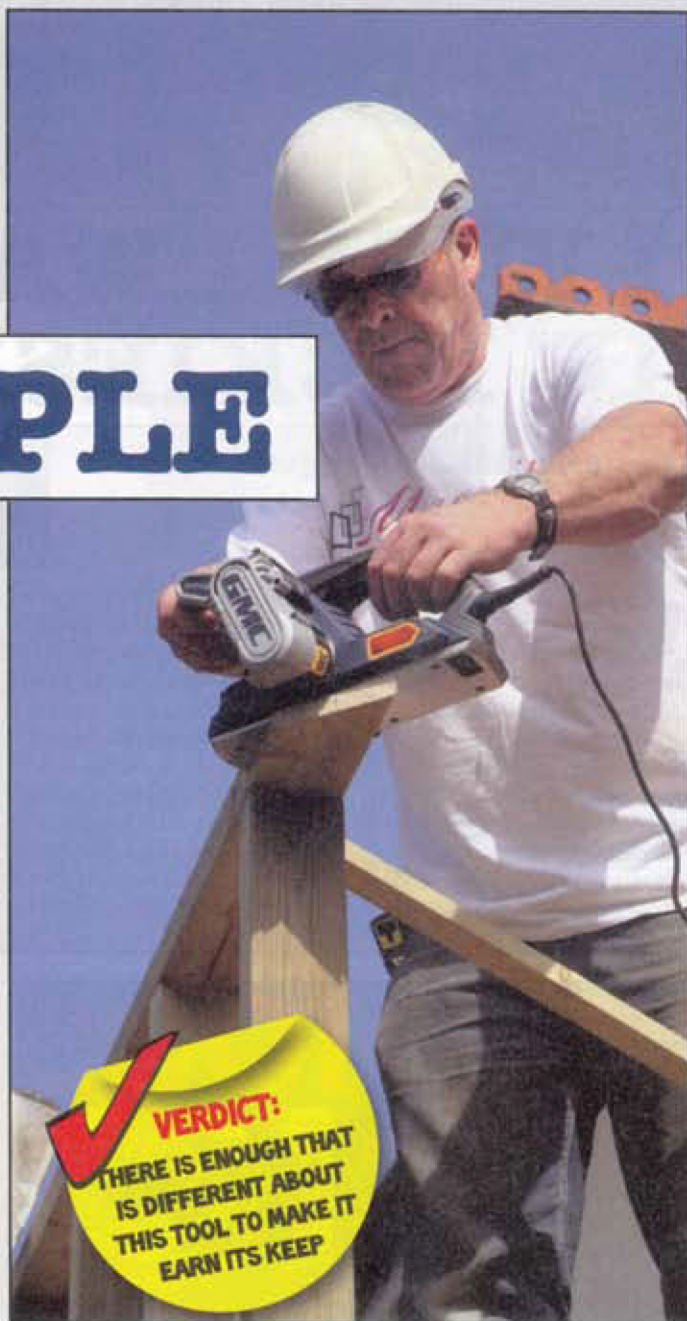
Roger Bisby and Steve Farrow try out the GMC unlimited rebate planer

**T**he Global Machine Company is an Australian based outfit making a big name for itself with innovation in the powertool market at a price which is very competitive.

The UK distribution through Toolstream means that the products are now going to start cropping up over here in large numbers. Over the next few months we hope to bring you news of some of the company's more interesting tools. We start with the GMC Unlimited Rebate Planer, with the intriguing carbon fibre name tag. We never did establish quite where that expensive material came into play but we are working on it.

Normally the rebate depth

of a planer is limited to roughly the middle of the spindle, because that is when the bearing housing strikes the timber. GMC has thought outside the box with this planer by mounting the spindle on one end bearing, rather like a cement mixer or washing machine. The spindle is belt driven on the other side of the bearing, which obviously helps balance it up. The fact that it has three blades also means that it should produce less shock on the bearing and belt, unless you start hitting knots and nails with the cutting depth set to 4mm. Quite how it performs if you sharpen the blades we don't yet know because the blades need to be set up evenly.



### Smooth operator

An unlimited rebate is a good idea but it could be argued that you hardly ever need to rebate to more than the radius of the spindle. Whilst this is true I found that we had immediate use for this planer in smoothing off some half lap joint mitre joints on a bay window frame. These had been trenched out on a chop saw, and would normally have been smoothed off with a chisel. The planer did the job in a couple of passes and it would have been impossible to achieve this with a standard planer.

Another innovation is the diverter switch for directing

the shavings right or left at the flick of a thumb. The other features, such as depth adjustment knob on the front, are pretty much standard on any planers, but there is enough that is different about this tool to make it earn its keep. It is also very good looking.

**For further information on the Global Machine Company's products use the reader enquiry 248**

