

Setting the rules

This little tool replicates and checks angles for setting up tools and setting out projects

With a metric and imperial scale this device doubles up as a ruler, opening out to 400mm in length once extended.

Turning the centre boss locks the position, whether for measuring or to hold an angle, although I did find it a little stiff locking a setting and it doesn't hold overly rigidly.

It shouldn't be too problematic if it is used as a setting tool, for its primary purpose of checking an existing angle or to set to a desired angle, but for sliding bevel-type work where you need a solidly locked blade it may be too slack to do repeat marks without constantly checking to ensure that it remains at the chosen angle.

Despite this, however, the rule is very useful; anyone with a mitre saw would find it handy for checking an angle such as a stair pitch for spindles and then simply set up the saw from the angle indicated by the rule.

Compound bevel cuts can be worked in the same way if you need to replicate an existing piece, taking the two angles with the rule and

setting the saw to the angles indicated.

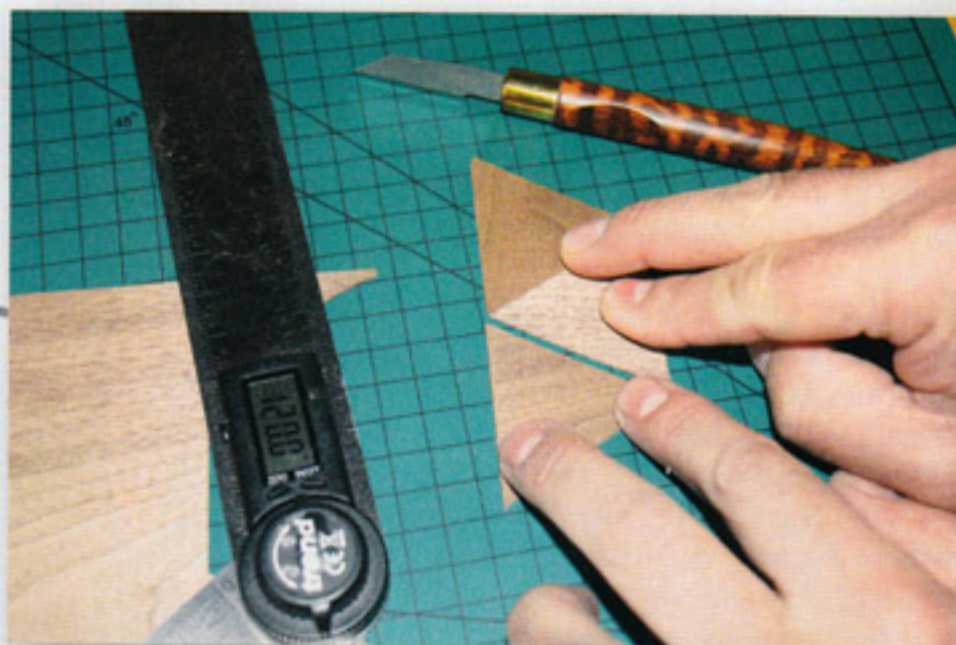
Likewise, the rule can be used on the table saw to set the blade or mitre fence to a desired angle by pre-setting the rule and adjusting to the setting.

The rule operates to 0.1 of a degree with an accuracy of 0.3° across its 360° range so it should be good enough for most things.

As a further string to its bow, as there's no stock but only the thickness of the rule's blade to register against, it could prove useful for anyone working inlays, the veneer butting to the blade and the opposing blade used as the cutting face at the angle required.

Conclusion

It's certainly a well-made tool that has plenty of applications where it will prove useful and, at the price, would be an investment that won't break the bank.



▲ Altering the angle to complement the previous setting results in crisp uniform pieces ready for gluing

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Great for checking and replicating angles, setting up tools, measuring and cutting work – Doesn't lock too securely

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £19.20

Angle range: 0-360°

Measuring scales: metric in 1mm increments; imperial in 1/32nd increments

Blade length: 200mm

Web: www.trend-uk.com



▲ The battery is easily replaceable when required



▲ The lock could do with being slightly tighter



▲ You can zero the setting at any angle if needed



▲ The stainless-steel blades have clear metric and imperial etchings



▲ Compound angles can be checked and replicated by taking one angle...



▲ ...and then the other to set the saw accordingly



▲ Inlay and suchlike work well with the ruler