

Digital angle rules that can calculate internal and external angles quickly and accurately are all the rage nowadays among the gadget-loving fraternity. But are they worth the money?

## Trend DAR 200 digital angle rule

Although this won't replace a sliding bevel for general work, it works well in conjunction with any tool that cuts at angles as part of its remit. Table saws and mitre saws in particular are machines that will benefit from it.

With a metric and imperial scale it doubles up as a ruler, opening out to 400mm in length once extended in a horizontal plane. Turning the centre boss locks the angle setting, whether for measuring or holding an angle. It's rather stiff to lock a setting and doesn't hold it very rigidly. This shouldn't matter if it's used for its primary purpose of checking or setting an 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 it remains at the chosen angle.

### Handy for saws

Despite this quibble, the rule is in fact very useful. Anyone with a mitre saw would find it handy for checking an angle such as a stair pitch for spindles and then setting up the



**£19.20**

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 accordingly.

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

### Mighty accurate

The rule operates to an accuracy of 0.1°, so it should be good enough for most tasks. As a further string to its bow, it could prove useful for anyone working inlays as there's no stock, only the thickness of the blade of the rule to register against. The veneer is butted up to one blade and the opposing blade is used as the cutting face at the angle required.

It's certainly useful and, at this price, is an investment that won't break the bank. **AK**



The tiny 3V lithium battery has a 200-hour life and is easy to replace



This button allows you to zero the setting with the blades at any angle



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



...and then the other, and transferring them to the saw settings

### SPECIFICATION

BLADE LENGTH	200mm
ANGLE RANGE	0-360°
SCALE MARKINGS	1mm and 1/32in
BATTERY	3V lithium
BATTERY LIFE	200 hours

### VERDICT

This is a well-made tool that has plenty of applications, both in the workshop and out on on site.

- PROS**
- Easy to set and adjust
  - Clear readout
  - Auto shutdown after 6 minutes

- CONS**
- Locking knob not very secure

**VALUE FOR MONEY**

**PERFORMANCE**

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- Trend
- 01923 249911
- [www.trend-uk.com](http://www.trend-uk.com)