

Hot flush

This pull saw features a folding blade for protection of its teeth



A flush saw can prove useful in the workshop as well as out on site for any work involving plugged holes. The old favourite of a sharp chisel, even when used with the bevel down to try and prevent any plugs from breaking off below the surface, isn't a 100%

guarantee of success, whereas a flush saw will always cut, as the name suggests, flush.

Trend's nifty version utilises a folding blade so that the teeth are fully protected when it's in storage – unlike traditional blades that are fixed into a wooden handle, and such delicate

blades are prone to damage without a guard on the teeth.

Following a Japanese style of tooth pattern, this saw cuts on the pull stroke, and with a very fine 22tpi needle point profile, it's not a blade that you'd want to re-sharpen; even though the teeth don't appear to be hardened – the packaging states it's a high-carbon steel – a look on the website indicates that they are impulse hardened so will retain the sharpness around five times longer than a conventional saw will.

Even with its specialist use there will of course become a time when the teeth will lose their bite, but Trend has covered that particular base with a simple-to-replace blade; with two locking positions once opened, it will get into tighter spots easily.

Some other flush saws have set on one side to allow them to cut without binding, but that limits them to cutting into the work from one side and invariably that means a right-handed approach; Trend's version, however, has a non-set blade for use in any direction so is ideal for left- or right-handers, and of course with no set to damage the surface it runs against, it does a fine job, cutting very sweetly.

I did try it on a bigger plug of 35mm diameter and it did bind slightly; but any saw will bind in a cut without set, so it's better for smaller plugs to cover screws and such like of around 13mm rather than the bigger diameters, although if you have the option, attacking bigger stuff from all sides will alleviate the binding to a decent extent.

Conclusion

Although a pricier option than a fixed-blade type, with the replaceable blade as well as the folding design it is one that does a great job as well as outlasting the fixed-blade versions.



▲ The saw strips down for blade replacement as needed



▲ The blade folds in much the same as a pocket knife



▲ You can use the blade in the straight position...



▲ ...or cranked back, ideal for working into a tighter area



▲ The blade is very flexible to allow it to cut flush

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Replaceable blade, left- or right-hand use; folding design
- Can bind slightly in deeper cuts

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £23.88 (spare blade £8.34)

Blade length: 120mm

Teeth per inch: 22

Web: www.trend-uk.com