

READER GROUP TEST

Welcome to our Reader Group Test by members of our very own Woodworker's Institute Forum

CMT hole saws

These hole saws are steel bodied with TCT teeth and designed to cope with anything from brick, ceramic tile, MDF, plasterboard to plastics. They come in a wide range, from 19-270mm diameter and with four pilot drills for low abrasion materials such as MDF or plastic, and a TCT masonry tipped versions, plus one that can take two hole saws for rapid hole enlargement. They are deep enough to perform angled cutouts. A sprung button on each hole saw makes changing sizes instantaneous, and there is one deep gullet to make plug removal easy.

DETAILS

Price: from £21.82-£468.24
Contact: Tomaco
Web: www.tomaco.co.uk

Testers

Joanna Sutton
Russell Groves
James Gillies
Sam Musker

Joanna Sutton: I currently own some hole saws for domestic use, but these premium hole saws are infinitely better than my existing ones. There was some slight binding in MDF using the larger cutter, but this was solved by slowing the drill down a little. I would definitely recommend them to other people. My father even wants to add some to his own tool kit.

Russell Groves: The instructions were easy to follow. I don't currently own any hole saws, however the CMT hole saws were easy to use. I would definitely recommend them to other people.

James Gillies: I found the instructions were not really required as the tools were simple to operate straight from the box. At present I use unbranded hole saws at an amateur hobbyist/cottage industry on a minor scale. Without a doubt, the CMT orange



TCT tips made hole boring very easy



In coarse ply, there was some ragging



Russell Groves showing how easy plug could be reworked



PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

PHOTOGRAPH BY RUSSELL GROVES

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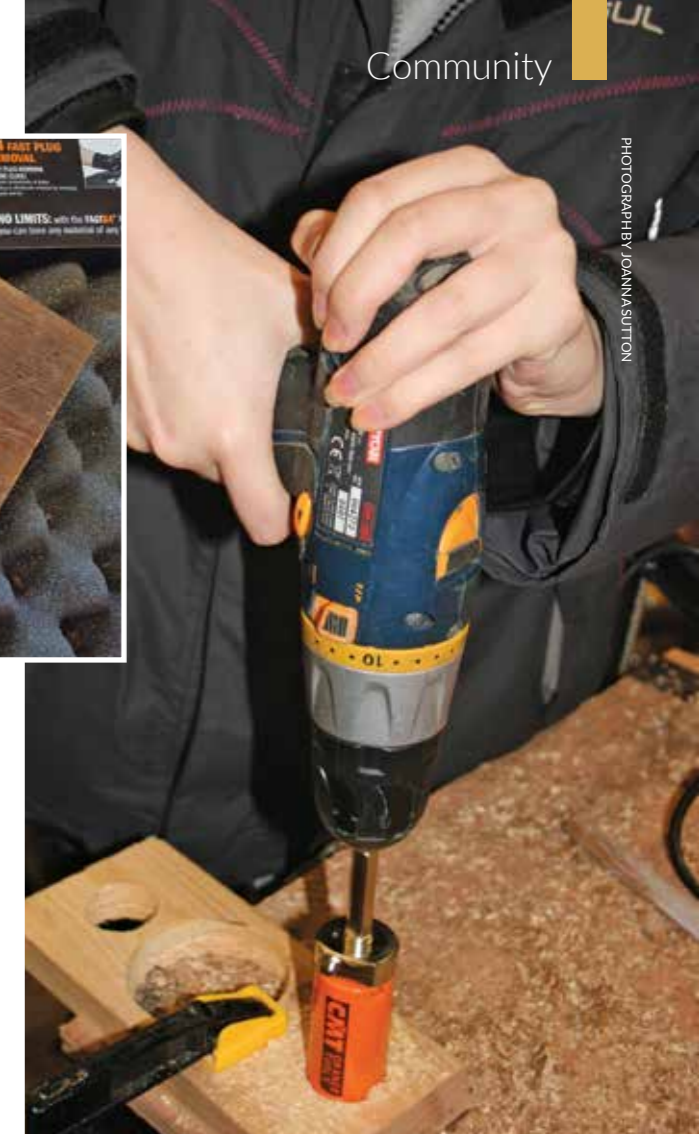


PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES GILLIES



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES GILLIES

James Gillies tried out 'hole in hole' boring



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOANNA SUTTON

Joanna Sutton slowed the drill speed for reduced 'binding'

tools hole saws are a faster, easier and premium product to use compared to my existing ones; they are straight from the box, fast action in assembly and modular in use.

When I was trying to drill out a piece of notoriously hard Australian jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) wood the plug got stuck and the reversed bit couldn't get it out however. I would have no hesitation in recommending these hole saws. For the everyday woodworker these should last a lifetime and provide a quick way of completing tasks without going back and forth to change tools, size or fitting.

Sam Musker: It's so simple, which makes it very good and an improvement on the old screw-on arbor system. I must admit, I bought a cheap hole saw set many years ago and have put up with it. It's not the best set, but they have done the job. I am a set builder so I regularly have to use hole saws.

The two main differences compared to my existing hole saws are the depth of them and the easy plug removal system, which makes the whole process much faster and less fiddly, and saving time is always good. The increased depth allows angled cuts, something not possible before. However the end results are very similar, they cut holes. I reckon this is the future for hole saw systems.

It's not often a basic tool like this gets improved in such a simple way. ■

How our testers rated the product

How would you rate the product performance? **9.25/10**

How would you rate the product ease of use? **9.5/10**

How would you rate the product overall? **9.5/10**

Editor's comment:

While not cheap, these top grade professional hole saws will cut quickly and smoothly without scorching in wood, etc. The logical thing is to decide exactly which sizes you actually need and build a set based on that. So for plumbing you would need one set of sizes, but for say, set building as in Sam Musker's case, a different series of sizes would be needed. These hole saws are too good to lend out, you may not get them back! If YOU want to be a tester and stand a chance of receiving something really useful for the workshop just email me at: anthonyb@thegmcgroup.com.



If you would like to be part of our panel of product testers, please go to our website www.woodworkersinstitute.com – and SIGN UP NOW!