

Excused by the need for projects

Whenever I have a new project I take it as an excuse to buy some tools. Usually these DIY projects save enough money to justify the purchase of some tools.

My boating projects are no exception to this rule and over the past 2 years my collection was modernized, adapted to the low US voltage (120V) instead of the 240V tools I had brought over from Europe. I still use them but it is a pain to always have an extension cord to one of the two 240V outlets I have in my house and naturally none in the workshop. But they are just a lot more powerful.....

A small but powerfull **palm router**. Good to make a lot of things:

Bosch PR20EVSK variable speed



This router was used to build some additional accessories. A router table, a table for the drill press and one for the heavy duty British made vice (they are the best) (see below). They all fit on the two DeWalt folding legs miter saw stands, **DWX725**, which are not only good for miter saws. I added some template guides and the Bosch base plate to hold them.



DIY router table.



The top is made from 1/2" MDF. The fence allows milling in a fixed distance. It can be inserted in two position to have a wider range. The second fence (shown rear) actually isn't a fence. It has a bolt in the center and allows me to route circles of variable radius. This table was made with the palm router (and my Bosch Miter and Skil table saw).

New drill press. A **Skil 3320 10" drill press** with laser guide to replace a worn out el-cheapo machine which suffered a lot from moving long distance twice.. Great to have for drilling straight holes. It is sitting on a DIY table where even the mounting clamps are home made (saves \$35 for the DeWalt ones). The palm router and templates were used to machine them. Bosch owns Skil 100% as well as Vermont American.....



A miter saw. **Bosch 5312 12" Dual-Bevel Slide Miter Saw** with Upfront Controls. Even as a Bosch machine it perfectly fits the DeWalt stand. Only 2 holes have to be drilled a tad larger and the rubber feet have to be removed. This saw and a **Bosch 1640VS Finecut Power Handsaw** were mainly justified by a bamboo flooring project in the house and the use for boating stuff was secondary excuse.



Mrs Santa was generous for Christmas 2012 and donated a **Black & Decker 20V Lilon drill LDX120C** to my hobby projects. Came together with a MinnKota trolling motor. Great idea as we don't have power where we store the boat.



Table for the sturdy and heavy British Vice. The British vices are my favorite. Simple, rugged and the cast iron is perfectly made. On the rear of this table a bench-top grinder (Ryobi) can be attached. As the vice is already extremely heavy it isn't a good idea to have it permanently there.

Besides these new devices I still have my older collection of power drills (240V: Bosch and AEG. 120V: Black & Decker), a 240V Bosch jig saw, a Skil 10" table saw and a lot of hand tools. The only thing I don't own and most likely never will are imperial size wrenches and nuts. My experience is that the closest fitting metric ones are usually a better fit than the supposedly fitting imperial ones and my Swiss Made metric wrenches beat the Chinese "rubber steel" ones hands down.

My Bosch 240V jig saw is a prime example of the 240V advantage. Both, the European and US version have a 5A rating which means the US one has 600W and the European one 1200W. Simply twice as powerful.

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