

Thickness Sanding

The Charnwood W409 test model came in useful when Steve got his back slats wrong

Charnwood's W409 combination belt and disc sander is a substantial bit of kit that you can only just lift alone. Steve's been asking if we could test something like it because he doesn't have a stationary sanding machine and he's sure one would come in useful. Little did he realise he'd be using it as a thicknesser!

The £279 W409 is the larger of two new sanders from the Leicester company, and has a 9in diameter disc and 6in wide belt, and is heavy at 35kg. The disc rotates anti-clockwise, which is why Steve is pointing towards the casting on the left-hand side to show where it protrudes in front of the disc. This may be a feature of some sanders for schools, but in the average workshop this would be counted as a disadvantage because you can't feed items to be sanded into the disc so easily. The problem isn't so obvious on the other side.

Beggars can't be choosers, and resident craftsman Steve Prescott didn't have another sander in the workshop when he realised that the curved back slats he's steam bent for a huge bench are too thick. Ever inventive, he decided to convert the W409 into a narrow thickness sander by building a frame over the open end of the belt sander. It looks really



professional but was lashed up in a few minutes. Fortunately the Charnwood is really heavy, so he could turn it 90° to have the end of the belt hanging over the bench. It was a huge success and saved him hours.

Details Charnwood W409 9in and 6in Disc and Belt Sander: 1900rpm disc; 170x250mm table; 750w motor; 6.9m/sec belt speed; 35kg; £279; charnwood.net.

Thicknessing The Charnwood W409 is heavy and fairly crude, but it did the job for Steve thicknessing back slats. The casing around the disc sander is proud of the abrasive disc

