



give rise to the moniker by which the saw is better known, the Glide, and rightly so – it really does glide through its travel. There's no play in the movement: though you can flex the head a little when trenching if you push down hard, if you just let the saw engage the flip-stop depth gauge, it remains constant and accurate. The glide function also has a tensioning device that allows you to give it a stiffer action if you find the movement too slick, although I think the more fluid the movement the better. The design allows the saw to go up against a wall, and it will easily sit on a 600mm-wide surface to allow it to run its full mitre range of 52° to the left and 60° to the right, although it does need to be marginally away from the wall to allow it to revolve as the back of the glide mechanism is flat.

### Tilt functions

Using similar innovation from its other mitresaws, Bosch has made the tilt functions for compound work all front-operated, no scrabbling around the back to undo locking levers and such like. It makes for a very user-friendly tool indeed.

The head tilts left and right, a large lever locking the position, and a dial switching the tilt direction. You can use the dial to over-ride the 45° setting in both left and right tilts to gain an extra two degrees as required. As is the case with most tools now, the bits you need to know about for adjustments are picked out in a bright colour, Bosch using red for this purpose.

However, if I have to comment about quality, then once again there are instances of plastic components – knobs and suchlike – that look, umm, well, plasticky! It may be just me, but they have a look of cheapness about them. I can't fault their performance, but I do find that my eye gets drawn to these cheap-looking bits, and for a saw costing not far shy of £1000 (though shop around and you can find it for around £875) this isn't ideal.

### Quality blade

Back to the positives. Bosch now owns blade manufacturer Freud, so there's a decent blade fitted, in this case a 72-tooth TCT one, so there's no need to swap it for a better version, and the cut it gives is supremely

# Bosch glides in with a winner

Technical innovation and cutting quality abound in this premium-priced mitre saw, says **Andy King**; shame about the cheap knobs and adjusters, though

If space is at a premium but money isn't, then the new GCM 12 GDL Bosch saw is one that should have you reaching for the credit card pretty sharpish. It has some real innovation to set it apart from the rest of the pack. Pricewise it's going to be attacking the Festool end of the market, so it's fitting that they share similar attributes such as no rear projection for the pull-over function, and a twin laser to indicate both sides of the kerfline.

### Axial glide

However, the huge difference is immediately apparent in the way that the head moves for cross-cutting. Gone are the usual bar configurations of all the other pull-over saws on the market, including Festool; instead there's a double-hinged arm set-up that looks similar to the robotic arms you see in car manufacturing.

The multiple-pivot 'axial glide' points, all with ball bearings for a silky smooth travel,



▲ The glide action can be locked with this pivoting peg for standard chop cuts



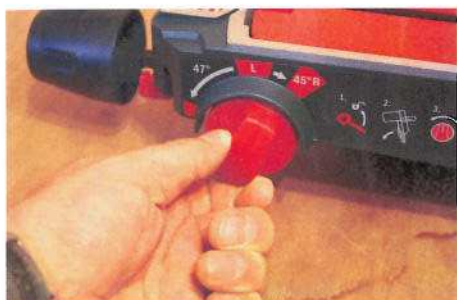
▲ You rotate the turntable by unlocking this central button



▲ The dual tilt function uses a combination of this lever...



# Bosch GCM 12 GDL professional mitre saw



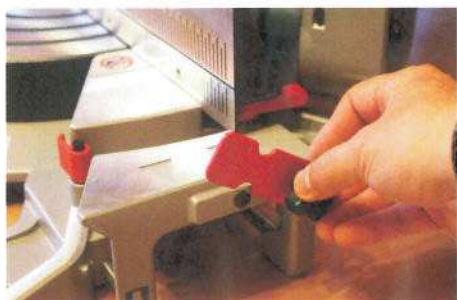
▲ ...and this dial, both of which suffer from a 'plasticky' feel



▲ There are index points for compound cuts, locked with this pin



▲ Small cam levers lock the pull-out supports



▲ A basic but useful flip-stop can be used for repeat cuts



▲ Trench cuts are set using this threaded rod and stop



▲ The twin laser can be switched off if necessary



▲ The innovative design allows the glide to sit close to a wall to save space



▲ Cutting big lumps of timber are all in a day's work for the Glide



▲ The smooth action makes trenching work an absobreeze

clean – as you would expect from a Freud!

Slide-out fences are the norm for compound cuts, and that's the case here. In addition, though, you also get slide-out extensions on the turntable. They don't extend a huge amount – you get about 1000mm overall support – but the inclusion of a basic flip-stop function is very handy for repeat cuts.

Putting the saw to work, I had plans for a log store that gave the saw a good workout. Ganging planks of decking to clad the store, the saw breezed through the equivalent of 150x125mm stock without drawing breath, and also without a jerking start-up: the slow-start, belt-driven blade eliminates the crashing with which many brush-motor saws spring into life.

The flip-stop is another of the 'basic' parts on the saw, but works well enough, and it allows you to set the saw to the correct depth and retain the setting while also allowing you to quickly make full depth cuts by moving it across to its normal position.

The cleanness of the cut is superb, and the dual laser is really useful when cutting housings as it shows both the left and right

shoulders. However, I found that, like all other lasers, it's no good in bright sunlight. I wonder if there is any scope in developing a saw with a green beam for this sort of work, which might be easier to pick up in daylight?

Using the glide function for the housings proved just how smooth an operation it is: in combination with the top quality blade, the powerful motor, and the super smooth movement, it almost felt like the saw was barely cutting at all.

Mitre work is cleverly handled using the combination of front end levers and buttons, but you need to think it through a few times before making alterations becomes second nature.

## Conclusions

While testing the saw I had to make an alteration or two to the fences and the slide-out extension amongst other things, and it annoyed the heck out of me every time. Not because they didn't do their jobs, but simply because they looked a little shabby compared to the rest of the saw and kept on staring me in the face.

The Bosch Glide, then, is revolutionary –

there's no denying that. It ticks loads of boxes and should be seen as a top-end saw in all respects, not least in terms of performance and ability. However, a saw at this price point deserves a little better on some of the adjusters, which is a sad thing to say about such an innovative saw! 🛠️

## Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Brilliant pullover function, front locking for compound tilts
- Some of the adjusters look cheap

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £875

Motor: 2000W

Speed: 3800rpm

Weight: 32.1kg

Blade diameter: 305mm/30mm bore

Capacities: 104 x 341mm @ 90 degrees

104 x 240mm @ 45 degrees

51 x 341mm @ 45 degree tilt

Mitre range: 52 degrees left/60 degrees right

Web: www.bosch.co.uk