



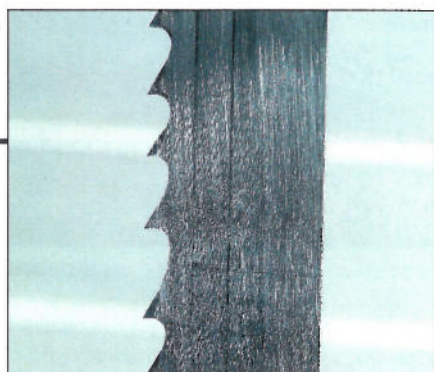
TESTED BY
ANDY STANDING



£99.95

Bosch GML 10.8V-Li Professional radio

Site radios are usually hulking great things bristling with protective bars and chunky knobs. The emphasis is often more on the looks than the performance... but not with the Bosch GML, which is aimed at the more discerning listener



The weld on the blade is perfect, so it runs without surging or bumping



The blade can cope with wood of almost any thickness, as shown here

Reduced resonance

The Vari-tooth blades are designed for deep cutting such as resawing or veneer cutting. Their big advantage is that the variable-tooth pattern significantly reduces blade resonance, which is what always causes a poor-quality finish. The sawn finish off these blades is superb for a bandsaw, with fine closely-spaced saw marks on the surface, and it just slices through the timber like a knife through butter.

This ease of cutting is no doubt helped by the fine kerf compared to a standard blade; all are 0.022in (0.55mm). Also, as you would expect with a Tuff Saws blade, the weld is perfect; in fact you'll often struggle to find it. This ensures that it runs perfectly true, with no surging or bumping.

Through thick and thin

This Vari-tooth pattern makes the blade a lot more versatile, as it can cope with a wider range of thicknesses. Where a 3tpi blade should only cut wood thicker than 30mm, the Vari-tooth can cut stock from 20mm thick, but still also happily deal with really thick pieces too. I've now left it permanently on my machine and have used it for cutting thin material down to 10mm as well!

The smooth cutting and clearly apparent longer life of this blade make it a joy to use, and it's not significantly dearer than the other Tuff Saws blades.

A radio is always a welcome companion when you're working, and this Bosch radio is the perfect addition to any toolkit. It can be run on a 10.8V battery or off the mains via the supplied adapter, and it has an Aux input so you can play music from your smartphone or MP3 player. Battery life is impressive, and the sound quality and reception are excellent.

Tough design

The Bosch is a sturdy little unit. Apparently it can fall up to a metre onto a hard surface and still survive. It has an LED display on the top that illuminates whenever a button is pressed. This incorporates a digital clock and also displays the frequency and tone settings. Rubber buttons control the radio operation, and an unbreakable folding rubber aerial is mounted on the top. The speakers are mounted on either side, angled slightly outwards.

At the rear is a hinged compartment in which the mains adapter is stored, along with the aux connecting lead. The aux input and power input sockets on the rear are both protected with rubber covers. The 10.8V battery, which is not supplied, plugs securely into the base of the radio, and the display shows the state of charge.

Using the radio

I'm listening to the Bosch as I write this. It's playing music from my iPhone and it sounds great. The power output is more than enough to cope with a noisy environment, and the tone controls allow you to tailor the sound to your taste. There's also a useful mute button.

Battery life is impressive. I've been using the set for two days and it doesn't seem to have run down at all. The radio performance is good too, with an efficient self-seeking tuning system that can lock onto even weak

stations. Although it's small, the speaker quality is good and it produces quite a reasonable stereo image.

Pros and cons

To make the most of this radio you need to have some Bosch 10.8V tools so you can use their batteries. If you don't, you could buy one battery and a charger, but this is an expensive option. It is a pity that there isn't an integral battery charger, but I suppose that would increase the size too much.

Some of you may be wondering why this is not a DAB (digital) radio. Digital coverage can be patchy, particularly in rural areas, and I wouldn't risk using a purely digital radio as a site radio. With this radio you can be assured of reception wherever you are.

SPECIFICATION

BATTERY	10.8V Li-ion
MAINS	via supplied 12V adapter
OUTPUT	5 watts per channel
PRE-SETS	10 (5 FM, 5 AM)
WEIGHT	1.4 kg

ACCESSORIES mains adapter, aux connecting cable, 2 AAA batteries for clock back-up

VERDICT

This is an excellent high-quality radio with good reception, tough construction and simple controls.

- PROS**
- Battery or mains power
 - Aux input for MP3 player
 - Fits in half an L-BOXX
 - Still works after 1m drop!

- CONS**
- Battery not included
 - No integral charger

VALUE FOR MONEY

PERFORMANCE

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Bosch
- 01895 838743
- www.boschpowertools.co.uk



The 10.8V battery slots into the base of the radio



The radio is a perfect fit in one half of an L-BOXX container