

# No call for Mr Muscle

At under 2kg this combi could be wielded all day and still leave you with strength enough in your arm to lift a pint or two in the bar afterwards

**A**fter recently commenting on the sheer physical size and weightiness of an 18V Li-Ion drill from DeWalt, this particular model from Bosch is certainly not as robust to look at from the outside, and undoubtedly far lighter at only 1.9kg with a 3amp battery fitted – ideal if you require a tool capable of good stamina throughout the day without draining your own in the process of holding it.

A stubby plastic-sleeved 13mm chuck keeps things on a lightweight theme, but it's still good quality, and there is a spindle lock for single-handed operation.

Stubby is certainly the operative word with this drill; if you want lightness along with the ability to get into tight spots, at a mere 195mm from tip of chuck to back of casing, it will certainly serve well in that area.



▲ The single-sleeve chuck will take up to 13mm-diameter bits



▲ This large slider controls the gearbox for speed changes

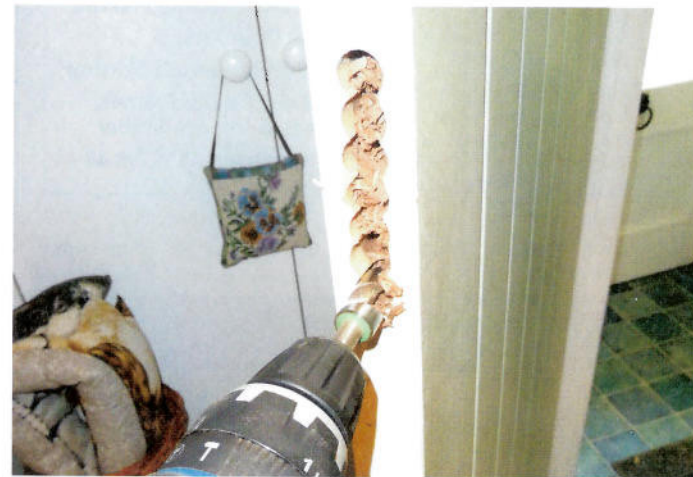
## Bosch GSB 18 V-Li combi drill



▲ A single LED fires a beam just in front of the chuck



▲ The torque collar also controls the drill function; the rear collar is for hammer work



▲ Out and about, the drill is ideal for general chippy tasks like lock fitting...



▲ ...while in the workshop the compact body and light weight are ideal for assembly jobs

Kitchen fitting springs to mind as an application where that is certainly an advantage – fixing narrow cupboards together or screwing cornices down to the top of wall cupboards for example.

Lights are commonplace on most powertools now, and there's no exception here. A bright, trigger-activated single LED provides plenty of light around the chuck area. And talking of LEDs, a bank of them is built into the battery pack to indicate remaining power by the touch of a button.

### In use

It's not just about being lightweight and compact though, and this combi packs a decent punch. Chippy-type applications are covered by the 35mm depth into timber, but being a combi it will also drill up to 13mm in masonry, with an identical diameter in steel.

The top slider-adjusted 2-speed gear box provides up to 67Nm of torque power, again, a pretty impressive stat for such a compact drill and decent enough for most users in normal working tasks.

I've put it to use doing a few jobs out and about as well as on the bench, and it's proved pretty capable.

Dropping it into its low gear for higher

torque it made short work of drilling out the waste to fit a couple of locks as well as some general assembly work in the workshop, and I found the light weight is certainly in its favour for finer control.

But the downside is the single collar to swap between drill to hammer to driver and the 18-torque setting in between.

If you use the torque settings on the drill when driving screws, something as useful as a flipbit, where you can drill and pilot a hole then flip to drive the screw to a specific torque setting, this means that you have to run the collar around and back each time you swap functions.

No big deal I suppose, but once you get used to a dual-collar drill with separate torque that is over-ridden by the second drill function collar it seems a big step backwards.

In truth, the trigger is excellent and very responsive, so the torque could be dispensed with in favour of trigger control when screwdriving, but if you desire the consistency of the torque collar you have to live with the lack of over-ride.

One area I've always rated Bosch is the slim grips of their drills, and this one doesn't disappoint either. With the compact design and slim grip it is one of those tools that feels right whenever you pick it up.

### Conclusion

Maybe not as robust in build as some models, this one has a good set of capacities for general work and could prove ideal if you do a lot of drilling, especially arms' length-type stuff throughout the day where a heavier model could soon cause fatigue.

For everyday work encompassing screwdriving and drilling this lightweight compact drill is well worth a look, and of course, the interchangeable battery format throws up cheaper prices if you are already on board with the Bosch Li-Ion system.

### Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Very compact; lightweight  
– Single collar for drilling and driving

**Rating** ★★★★★  
**Typical price:** £280 (with 2x 18V 3.0Ah batteries and L-Boxx)

**Made in Malaysia**  
**Battery:** 3.0Ah Li-Ion  
**Weight:** 1.9kg  
**Capacities:** 35mm wood, 13mm steel, 13mm masonry  
**Speeds:** 0-500, 01700rpm  
**Torque settings:** 18  
**Web:** www.bosch.co.uk