

My first GSR 10.8V from Bosch was merely a cordless screwdriver with a hex chuck, which was superseded by the newer GSR drill/driver a couple of years ago. The Mark 1 model was very capable, but Bosch have now refined it with the Mark 2 version. The big question is: how does it shape up compared to the earlier model?

Bosch GSR 10.8V-2-Li Professional cordless drill driver



from
£115

I've always had a Bosch power tool of one type or another in my workshop, and purchased my first GSR 10.8V about five years ago. This was the early cordless driver, with a hex chuck designed purely for screwdriver bits.

A couple of years ago Bosch saw the demand for a small lightweight drill/driver, so they upgraded the GSR 10.8V to incorporate twin speeds and a keyless Jacobs chuck. I bought one of these when they first came out and have been using it daily ever since. I absolutely love it; it's very light and well-balanced in the hand, and is perfect for use on a cabinetmaker's bench. However, although this is a handy little tool, it in no way replaces the heavier duty cordless drills with impact action for site use.

At about the time I heard that Bosch had updated the GSR 10.8V once again, I was looking to get another tool for the second bench in my workshop which my wife mainly uses when she's helping me, so I thought it was the ideal opportunity to get the newer model and see what improvements Bosch had made to it.

Standard features

First impressions are that the new Mark 2 model is very similar to the Mark 1, taking exactly the same batteries as well as being supplied with the same fast charger. The drill driver itself is actually quite a bit smaller than the earlier model, weighing in at just 950g against the 1.1kg of the earlier model.

The new model has a balanced feel and the ergonomic design fits the hand well, with the rubber inserts making it very comfortable to hold. The trigger is well located and the speed selection switch has a positive feel.

It offers two speed ranges selected via the switch located on the top of the casing. Its drilling capacities of 10mm in steel and 19mm in wood will cover most bench drilling applications, but there's no impact feature for masonry drilling.

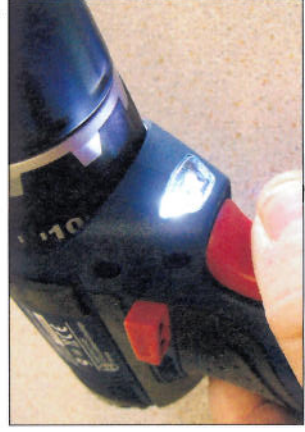
The chuck also deserves a mention. It's smaller than the one on the earlier model but still has the same capacities, and it will close down to zero so 1mm diameter drill bits can be held securely. Drill chucks often don't close fully, and the smaller drill bits need an additional small chuck to be fitted.



The speed selecting switch is conveniently located on top of the body casing



The forward and reverse switch is comfortably positioned on the side of the drill



The powerful LED worklight comes on as soon as the trigger is depressed



Compare the old Mark 1 model (left) with the new, smaller Mark 2 version

Light and power

The new drill driver still has a bright LED worklight mounted on the front, but also now sports a charge status LED on the side of the casing. This illuminates as you depress the trigger and switches off after a couple of seconds of use. I've been watching it during use and it appears to give quite an accurate indication of the remaining charge level. However, I always keep my second battery fully charged on standby, and allow the battery I'm using to die completely before replacing it. One good feature of Li-ion batteries is that they have no fade in power during use. They will insert the last screw with the same power as the first.

Using the drill

Having used the tool for a few weeks alongside the Mark 1 model, I have to say that I prefer the older model. Not only does the weight appear to make drilling easier, I also find the handle fits my hand better... but admittedly this is the drill I'm used to using. I'm sure that the more compact design of the newer model will come into its own when I have a tight space into which I need to fit the drill!

All in all this is a very competent, well-made drill driver. It's a lightweight unit with power levels to match some of its bigger rivals, and I'm sure this new model will rapidly become as popular as the older ones.

TESTED BY ROGER BERWICK



SPECIFICATION

BATTERY	10.8V 1.3Ah Li-ion
NO-LOAD SPEEDS	0-350 and 0-1300rpm
CHUCK	10mm keyless
MAX DRILLING CAPACITY	wood 19mm metal 10mm
MAX SCREWDRIVING TORQUE	soft 1.3Nm hard 30Nm
MAX SCREW DIAMETER	7mm
WEIGHT	with battery 950g

VERDICT

Despite being very compact, this drill driver will handle quite large capacities and will drive screws into hardwood with ease.

- PROS**
- Very light and compact
 - Good drilling capacities
 - Three-year guarantee when registered online

- CONS**
- Light weight requires more drilling effort

VALUE FOR MONEY PERFORMANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Bosch
- 01895 838743
- www.bosch-pt.com



The drill driver can be bought bare, or with two batteries and a quick charger



The 20-position torque collar allows you to select the right setting for the job



The LED indicator on the side gives an accurate indication of the charge level



The keyless chuck closes down to zero, so it will hold small drill bits securely