

# Best Buy monitor

The cheapest places to shop for our Best Buy sanders

## SANDERS

All our Best Buys sand well (and are good for surface removal and finish), are easy to use and durable. Apart from the Black & Decker palm type, they all have variable speed, so you can sand different surfaces.

If you're a keen DIY-er, buy a random orbital sander and a delta: you'll get top-notch sanding on a range of surfaces.

### RANDOM ORBITAL

Random orbital, or eccentric, sanders are best and quick for removing a lot of surface.

### DELTA

Delta, or detail, sanders are ideal for fiddly jobs, corners and other awkward places but are slow on large surfaces.

### ORBITAL

This type is ideal for preparing surfaces for painting and varnishing and for smoothing large areas of woodwork.

### PALM

A cross between an orbital and a delta sander, a palm sander is good for smaller jobs and tricky corners. It's compact and light and, as the name suggests, fits in the palm of your hand.

Last test: June 2005

### RANDOM ORBITAL



#### BOSCH

PEX 400 AE  
£60 from B&Q

This Bosch scored well for surface removal, ease of use, durability and noise but less well for finishing. Like our other two Bosch Best Buys, it was below average at holding dust in the bag – you can't attach a vac to any of the three Bosch models. Not the best bet on large areas, but good value anyway.

SCORE 71%



#### BOSCH

PEX 420 AE  
around £90 online

The second of our winning hat-trick from Bosch, the 420 scored the same as the 400 in all our tests. Along with all our Best Buy random orbitals and the delta (right), it uses the less fiddly, though pricier, hook-and-loop sanding sheets rather than separate sheets which you attach with clamps.

SCORE 71%



#### DeWALT

D 26410  
£175 from Screwfix

Quick and effective on large surfaces, the DeWalt is good all round and one of the best at holding dust in the bag. It has two orbit settings (one for surface removal and one for finishing) and an automatic braking system. But it's quite heavy and its high price makes it best suited to the enthusiast.

SCORE 71%

### DELTA



#### METABO

DSE 300 Intec  
around £88 online

The Metabo is heavy, though not uncomfortable. It got top rating for sanding in corners and durability, and was better than average for surface removal, ease of use and noise. It was below average for holding dust in the bag but a vac accessory is available as an optional extra.

SCORE 71%

### RANDOM ORBITAL



#### METABO

SX E 425  
£88 from Machine Mart

The SX E outperformed all our random orbitals for surface removal. It was better than average for noise, durability and ease of use, but only average for finish. Like the DeWalt (above), it got a top rating for holding dust in the bag – with both these models, you can collect dust in a bag or attach a vac.

SCORE 69%



#### BOSCH

PEX 270 AE  
around £53 online

With a lower overall score than its sister models (see above), this Bosch nevertheless didn't disappoint. It didn't do as well as the other two Bosch Best Buys for surface removal, scoring just average. But it did well in our finishing tests, and was quiet, durable and easy to use – and, at £53, it is a bargain.

SCORE 66%

### ORBITAL



#### BLACK & DECKER

KA 197 EKA  
£25 from B&Q

Light, durable and easy to use, this model produced a good finish but wasn't so good at sanding in corners – the clamps which hold the sanding sheets got in the way – or on surface removal. You can use a bag or vac for extracting dust, and it takes both hook-and-loop and separate sanding sheets.

SCORE 68%

### PALM



#### BLACK & DECKER

KA 170 GT  
£29 from Machine Mart

You get good finish quality with this Black & Decker but surface removal was below average, as was its ability to sand in corners (the handle gets in the way). You can attach a vacuum or use a bag for extracting dust and it takes both hook-and-loop and separate sanding sheets.

SCORE 66%