

Milwaukee M18 Cordless Jig Saw

A New Cordless Saw with Power & Versatility

by Shannon Luddy, editorial assistant

Versatility, precision, power, and ease-of-use, exactly what you look for in any power tool, and words I would use to describe the new Milwaukee® M18 Cordless Jig Saw. Milwaukee's first Lithium-Ion powered jigsaw provides all these components and some timesaving features to complete a very successful tool.

At 7 3/4 lbs, although heavier than a corded saw, the M18 is comfortable to use and maneuver. It includes an over-molded grip with a variable speed trigger, providing a more controlled and comfortable tool. The tool is soundly constructed and offers stable operation with little vibration and a smooth trigger transition. Even after running it over-and-over for varying lengths of time it cut and ran smooth for the entire trial.

With no dust collection/management system, parts and pieces that collect dust in the front of the tool is a time consuming problem for many jigsaw operators. The M18 doesn't collect dust as easily as some other jigsaws around the front of the tool. This allows for more time spent cutting and less time cleaning. The shape and 10 1/2" length of the tool also provides a very clear view of the cutting edge supporting long smooth cuts.

One major question I'm sure weighing on many minds when they buy a large battery powered tool is battery life. I've had it happen myself working on a project and moving along on time and then the battery dies in your cordless and you either have to finish with hand tools or wait to charge the battery and pick it up again in an hour or so. In fact, I'd say some just buy the corded versions to stop this from happening. The M18 comes with two batteries, the charger, and features DPM(TM) (Digital Power Management) technology to provide maximum tool life and longer run times.

We were able to run down the battery but having the other one charged and ready we just switched it out and kept on working. Plus as we were using it, when the battery did start to die, it didn't bog down and start ripping the material. It was easy to see it starting to die and quick to change it out before it died.

The five-position orbital setting allows for application specific settings for cut or speed and offers a multitude of options when combined with the tool-free, 45° capacity shoe bevel. The M18s tool-free operation of the bevel mechanism includes notched common angles making it quick and easy to adjust for any task or material. The plastic shoe offers a non-marring surface, which in-and-of-itself can increase productivity by requiring less taping to prevent scratches.

We found that the M18 was able to plunge cut very effectively without a starter hole in most of the material that we tried. Of course the thicker the material the more likely to have to have a starter hole, but we didn't have that need for the purposes of our test pieces. It was also very effective in cornering, we were able to make several 90° angle cuts and everything in between.

After working with any saw for a while you will eventually have to change the blade, and in many cases this requires searching your tool box for that little odd looking tool that came with the specific saw you're using, or spending a bunch of time trying to make sure the blade is set back in correctly after replacing it. Not so with the M18, it includes the Quick-Lok(TM) Blade Clamp, which provides a fast and easy keyless blade change. We spent a lot of time using different blades and even after breaking a blade it was simple to take out and replace. So in no time at all we were back to work.

After using the Milwaukee M18 Cordless Jig Saw, I was able to experience a powerful, well-built, easy-to-use tool that I would enjoy having

in my own tool collection. Although I don't personally use a jigsaw everyday or even what would be considered very often, the Milwaukee M18 Cordless Jig Saw is a well-built and well-thought-out tool for anyone's garage or shop.

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