

Makita climbs to new heights



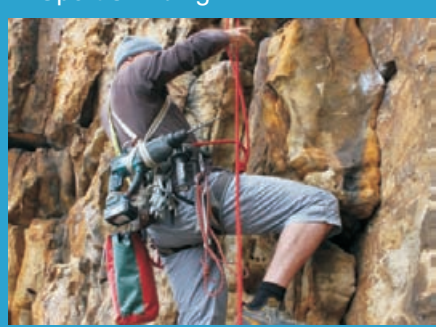
The sport of climbing and mountaineering has many facets. One of them is called "Sport Climbing".



Sport Climbing typically takes place on rock walls between 10 and 30 metres in height and because of its convenience and 'safety' is very popular among climbers all over the world and South Africa is no stranger to the sport. Every weekend thousands of people, young and old enjoy sport climbing.

To give you a rough idea, there are probably about 5000 sport routes in South Africa, each one with say an average of 10 bolts plus two for the top anchors. This gives a rough total of 60 000 holes drilled into the rock walls of SA... and counting.

For a sport route to be established however it takes a certain amount of dedication and hard work: The line of the rock climb has to be identified, then using a rope from above, the climber typically abseils down and places the bolts at regular intervals.



This is where climbers scale a rock wall protected by pre placed bolted protection.



Given the fact that the protection is fixed in place, this branch of the sport is somewhat 'less dangerous' than scaling big mountains where one has to rely heavily on experience and the placing of removable protection.

This may sound reasonably trivial, but it is hard and dirty work: The bolts used are stainless steel expanding quick anchors, 10mm x 70mm, or stainless glue ins. Either way a hole has to be drilled into the rock, cleaned out, and then the bolt can be hammered in, then tightened, or inserted with glue. This process has to be repeated maybe 10 or 15 times on any given route, and sometimes the wall is very steep, making it extremely awkward to keep contact with the rock.

Again typically, when bolting a route you would have to carry a fair amount of equipment, like special clamps for ascending the rope, some climbing gear, stainless steel bolts and 'hangers' (which are stainless plates that fit on the bolt and has a hole through the opposite end through which you use to clip the rope through while climbing the route once it has been established),

drill bits and of course the drill itself. All this paraphernalia can weigh quite a lot and has to hang off you for sometimes a few hours while in the process of bolting a route. So anything that reduces the weight of all that equipment is very welcome. This is where the **Makita BHR202ZK Cordless Rotary Hammer** is fantastic to work with. It is a relatively light (and slim) machine, making it easier to lug up steep rock walls and also much less strenuous holding out away from your body when drilling in awkward positions. Of course the 18V power also gives much quicker drilling times, making the whole process quicker and less painful. On top of its great efficiency, the drill has not got an exorbitant price tag, so is well in reach of many climbers' pockets.



Article by Tony Lourens, editor of SA Mountain Sport magazine (www.samountainsport.co.za)



Extra features

Makita have been able to address some of the issues that most band saw users have with this type of entry-to-intermediate-level machine. One of the most welcome features is the amount of adjustment available on just about everything. Like all machines, a band saw really benefits from a careful set-up.

The LED work light is a welcome inclusion. This one is a cluster design, and really makes a difference for all of those intricate cuts and close-up work. The cast-iron table is very solid, and benefits from a sensible and safe twist action adjustment. There's no danger of a sudden unexpected drop with the LB1200F; merely the opportunity to set up a cut which is perfectly square to the blade.

Another interesting feature of the saw table is the slide-away fence rail at the front edge. Together with a quick release blade tensioner, this makes for an easy blade change - just another simple idea which saves a bit more time and effort in the busy workshop.

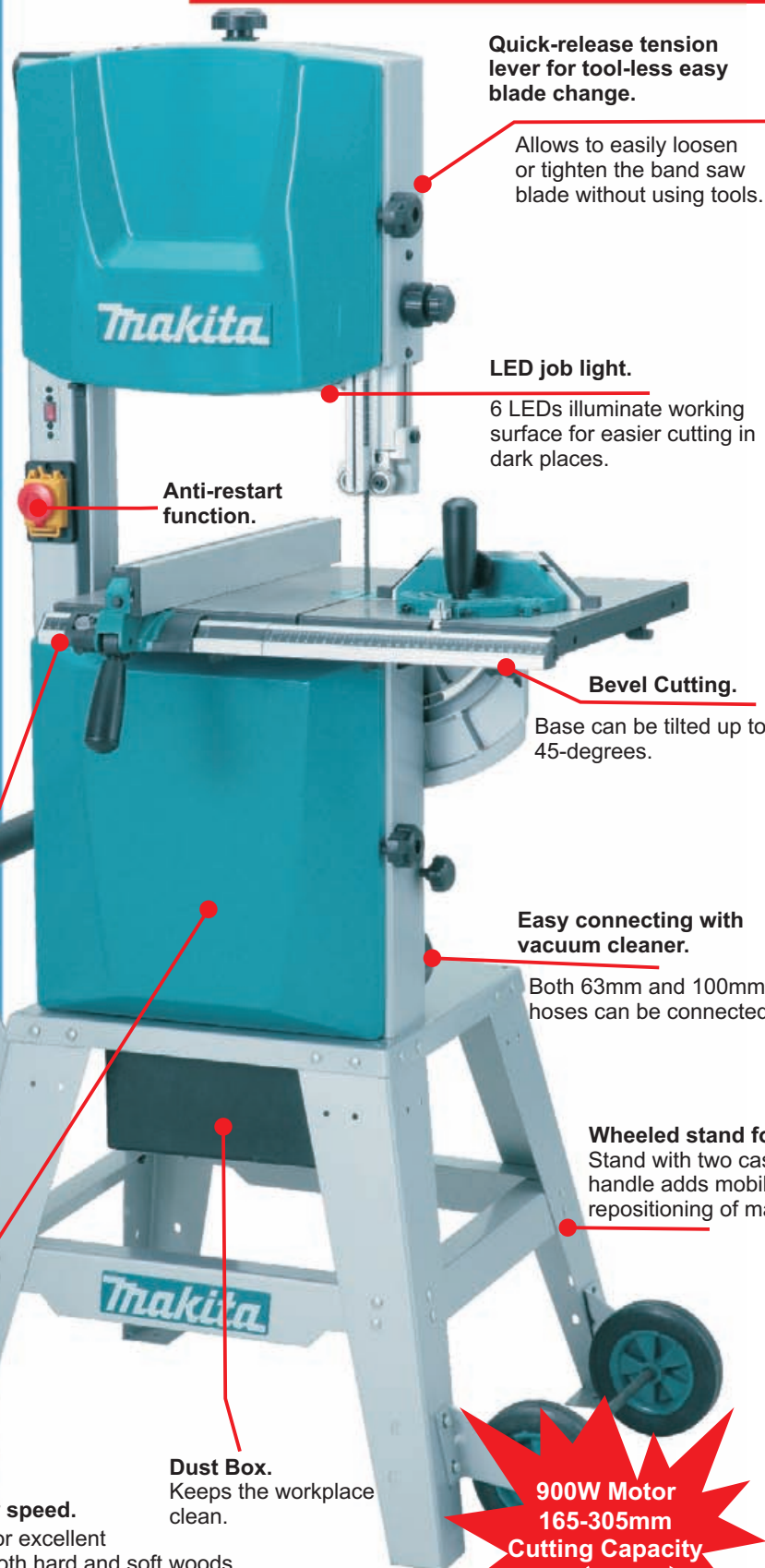
Rather than meeting the usual dust drifts inside, you'll be pleased to see that most of the debris has fallen through a grating into the easy-access dust box below. This is a super bit of low-tech common sense and a feature much coveted by the user.

Both fences are excellent and the main one can be readily adjusted to match the blade bias. Table grooves are to be found at both sides of the blade for the supplementary sliding fence.

This one is particularly useful for making repeat cuts and together with the tilt of the table, is a good way to achieve good results on compound angle work.

New Product

LB1200F Band Saw



Quick-release tension lever for tool-less easy blade change.

Allows to easily loosen or tighten the band saw blade without using tools.



LED job light.

6 LEDs illuminate working surface for easier cutting in dark places.



Anti-restart function.

Bevel Cutting.

Base can be tilted up to 45-degrees.



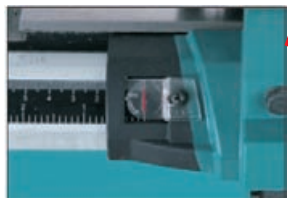
Easy connecting with vacuum cleaner.

Both 63mm and 100mm hoses can be connected.



Wheeled stand for easier mobility.

Stand with two caster wheels and a lifting handle adds mobility for convenient repositioning of machine.



Easy-to-read scale.

With large graduations and magnifying lens.



High / Low speed.

Selection for excellent results in both hard and soft woods.

Dust Box.

Keeps the workplace clean.

**900W Motor
165-305mm
Cutting Capacity**

Editor's Notes

Makita would firstly like to proudly mention winning the DIY Trade News Magazine Award for Power Tool of the Year 2011 given to Makita for its Cordless 18V 3.0Ah Li-Ion Chain Saw, model BUC122ZK. This is the second year in a row that Makita has picked up an award from the DIY Trade News and hopes to continue with this trend.

Secondly, Makita would like to congratulate the MAKITA sponsored, 2.5 litre Mercury powered boat for winning the prestigious Ice Block 2011 Challenge held recently. It is held on the Vaal River, hosted by Emerald Casino and covers a distance of 144km. Well done to Ernest Tope and his co-pilot Lappies Labuschagne for the overall win.



Makita SA would like to thank all our partners for their valued support during 2011. We wish all readers a happy festive season and prosperous 2012.



Legend Competition

Home Handyman

Makita would like to congratulate Mike Hogan for winning one of the Limited Edition BHP453RHEXW 13mm Cordless Impact Drill / Drivers. This is a true collectors item (1 of 300) as this white model is never again to be repeated in South Africa. The competition was held in the August 2011 edition of the Home Handyman Magazine and Mr Hogan would like to record his sincere thanks to Makita for, as he put it, "a beautiful piece of equipment."



Bicycle Competition

Popular Mechanics

Popular Mechanics ran a competition in their September 2011 issue offering three Makita BBY180Z Li-Ion Pedal Assisted Bicycles.

Two of the three lucky winners, from Durban, were handed their prizes on the renovated Durban beachfront by Steve Healey, the KZN Makita 'Buddy' Technical Representative (below).



The third winner (above), was awarded their bicycle in Springs, Guateng at C.D.M. Industrial Supplies. An envious crowd of interested spectators surrounded the parties at both locations to hear how to get the best out of the batteries and basic maintenance on the Makita bicycles. The prize consisted of the motor assisted bicycle, two 18V 3.0Ah Li-Ion batteries and a rapid 22 minute charger.

Miss Makita and Señorita Makita 2012



Miss Makita 2012
Ashley Michaelsen

Señorita Makita 2012
Marie Elena Anaya