

We take a look at the ACM 440 Professional bandsaw – an Italian thoroughbred for the small professional workshop

# ACM 440 Professional bandsaw

£2,034



The ACM 440 is as handsome inside as it is out

the guide height above the work. Indeed, the spring is so heavy that it wouldn't look out of place on a car, and is paired with a heavy-duty Acme-threaded adjuster wheel to set the tension.

A simple finger indicator is linked to show the tension in relationship to the blade being fitted, and a viewing window in the top door allows this to be checked prior to setting the saw in motion.

The tracking is set from the back of the saw with a decent-sized knob to gain good purchase, and has a large locking lever to retain the setting. Alongside this is the locking knob for the guide post while positioned on the side is the rack & pinion knob to set the guide height.

The upper and lower guide assemblies are identical: two side-adjusted discs and a similar rear disc for the thrust control. Each has a tool-free adjustment to fine-tune the settings when a blade is swapped to a different width, with the exception of the lower thrust disc, which needs a spanner as space is restricted to fit a thumb turn or knob. Setting the side discs is a breeze; back off the locking rings, screw the disc holders in or out until they snug the blade, back off a fraction and retighten the locking ring.

### Cast-iron table

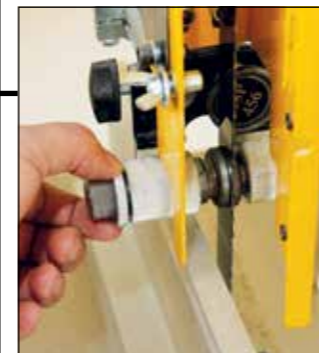
The table is cast-iron and finely finished. The front facing slot is unrestricted by the fence bar as it is fitted entirely to the left of the slot for easy blade swapping. Therefore with a wider blade there is no need to twist it onto the wheel.

The table is fitted to a heavy double trunnion with a large box-spanner adjuster. The table is pretty heavy and I found the long welded handle allowed me to control the angle before locking it off with the Bristol lever. One slight niggle: the blade got pinched on the table insert. This is because it is so thick and the saw, being brand-new, hadn't been cut to accommodate the tilting table so it needs a first cut to trim it for this. Jacking screws on this block ensure it sits dead flush to the table to prevent snagging on finer cutting jobs.

Of course the features often found on the lighter trade and hobby

Made in Italy, the ACM 440 Professional is driven by a 1.5hp 100% duty cycle rated motor for durability under load and is matched by a German-made Klinger & Born braking system to ensure the heavy cast-iron band wheels are under full control when stopping the machine. The band wheel tyres are bonded rather than simply stretched to eliminate slippage and with the weight of the balanced wheels, the bandsaw has a very stable run both at start up and under load.

Equally as robust are the tensioning spring and post for setting



All the guides have tool-free adjustment and can be finely set



Each door is microswitched but still has a lock to secure it

machines are dispensed with in favour of a more Spartan tank-like construction to deal with the day in, day out heavy work it's capable of, and the 440 Professional is no different. So there's no quick tension-release lever, two-speed option or suchlike, but everything on the saw is heavily constructed from quality materials, with a continuous welded fabricated framework to maintain the tension under the load imparted to drive the blade up to 35mm wide.

### On test

I tested the saw on a variety of rip cuts in oak, and first off was a piece around 150mm deep, unseasoned, wet and heavy. It put the saw under good load as despite being fitted with a decent-quality skip-tooth blade, the sawdust built up and compacted around the blade and in the gullets as the dust was so wet. The saw slowed considerably, requiring a slower cutting speed, but it still made cut after cut. A similar but deeper piece, slightly drier, cut with ease, so I gave it a final workout cutting some thin slices from a 250mm-deep seasoned board of ash. I could feed at a constant speed, with excellent results, and with no vibration through the saw, leaving a very clean finish on the stock.

### In summary

The ACM 440 Professional punches very well for its size; it's not the biggest out there in physical size, which will fit in well with anyone looking to get a premium saw that puts out decent performance and power without taking up premium space. **AK**

### FURTHER ADDITIONS

ACM have now introduced a heavy-duty combined circle cutter and sanding attachment for the saw

### SPECIFICATION

MOTOR	1.5hp
THROAT DEPTH	410mm
MAX CUTTING HEIGHT	280mm
TABLE SIZE	420 x 580mm
BLADE LENGTH	4,400mm
BLADE SPEED	1,500 m/min
WEIGHT	170kg

### VERDICT

A great bandsaw if you're looking for something with a heavy build but an attractive price tag, which will fit into a smaller space

- PROS**
- Heavy build
  - Excellent quality
  - Easy blade swaps

- CONS**
- No resaw post
  - 16amp power supply needed
  - Blade pinched on table insert

### VALUE FOR MONEY

PERFORMANCE

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- ACM UK
- 01634 572 625
- [www.acmukbandsaws.co.uk](http://www.acmukbandsaws.co.uk)



The lower guides are easily accessible



The heavy tension spring is just visible behind the cast band wheel



A basic needle indicates the tension setting. The top door has a viewing window to check this



I found the tensioning wheel to be large and easy to operate



The deep fence is easily set for square by minor adjustments to the running bar



This adjuster sets the table square to the blade



Cutting this wet oak caused the saw to slow as it clogged in the cut