

CUTTING CREW



You've been putting off those DIY jobs all year, but there's no excuse if you've got one of these...

1. Ryobi 18V LRS 180

£60, screwfix.com

Power 800w

Speed 0-3,000 strokes/min

The LRS 180 is comfortable to hold and lightweight (2kg) thanks to a new, long-life lithium battery pack. The downside is that it lacks a bit of guts. ★★☆☆☆

2. Hitachi CR13V

£190, amazon.co.uk

Power 1,010w

Speed 0-2,800 strokes/min

The high-powered Hitachi makes good use of its larger-than-average stroke length. At 3.5kg, it is bulky - but this is a serious piece of kit. ★★★★★

3. Erbauer ERB800RL

£70, screwfix.com

Power 800w

Speed 0-2,600 strokes/min

A handy LED work light helps you cut in exactly the right spot, and changing blades is fast and straightforward. ★★★★★

4. Skil 4900

£76, amazon.co.uk

Power 1,050w

Speed 800-2,700 strokes/min

One of the most powerful reciprocating saws available. Variable speed gives precise control when cutting through tough materials. ★★★★★

5. Black & Decker Scorpion

£25, argos.co.uk

Power 400w

Speed 0-5,500 strokes/min

The B&D, which doubles as a jigsaw, has one of the largest blades (24cm) around, but power is seriously limited. ★★☆☆☆

6. Bosch PFZ 500 E

£70, diy.com

Power 500w

Speed 0-2,700 strokes/min

Versatile, light and easy to use. At 2kg, it's also not too bulky. A good first saw for simple DIY. ★★★★★