

Craftsman Oscillating-spindle Sander

If you have sculpted cuts to smooth, cabriole legs to shape or if you need to thickness-sand small pieces, you need an oscillating-spindle sander – and Craftsman's #21500 oscillating-spindle sander has a few features that place it near the front of the class.

First, this machine is quiet. It's so quiet that you can't hear the 1/4-horsepower motor over the sound of your shop vacuum and it's noticeably quieter than your battery-powered drill.

At 1/4 hp, this sander ranks near the bottom for power when compared to other benchtop models. However, when put through everyday shop operations, the outcome equals that of the other sanders.

The direct-drive motor spins one of six 4 1/2"-tall sanding sleeves. Five rubber drums with corresponding diameters are included. Sleeve diameters range from the 1/2"-spindle diameter up to 3".

The 1" spindle stroke on the Craftsman is a category leader. And the Craftsman sander has 30 oscillating strokes per minute – half the number of most other benchtop sanders. That slower stroke makes it easier to handle

stock while sanding and provides a smoother cut, but that cut is not as aggressive as you sand to your layout lines.

Another nice feature on this sander is its 18"-round cast iron tabletop. There is plenty of surface area to accurately balance a workpiece during sanding and I found, because there are no 90° corners to contend with, you will not catch your workpiece on any corners as you work. That reduces the chance for sanding divots into your project.

Additionally, dust collection is through a 2" port and the on/off switch is lockable. At 58 pounds, the machine is easy to lift onto your bench. Extra sleeves are sold in packs of three with three different grits.

With a median price point, I think the Craftsman #21500 would be a great shop addition to handle any usual sanding tasks thrown at it.

—GH



Oscillating-spindle Sander

Craftsman ■ 800-549-4505 or craftsman.com
 Replacement sleeves ■ \$5 to \$13
 Street price ■ \$249
 For more information, go to pwfreeinfo.com.

Dust Deputy a Pet-peeve Exterminator

Central dust collection is nice for big machines but there are some operations where a shop vacuum connected to a sander, router or miter saw makes more sense. We have both in our shop, but our small vacuums have always been a mixed blessing.

Yes, we collect the dust and debris directly at the source, but we never know that the collection bag on the vacuum is full until it is too full. When it stops working we know it's time to change the bag. In a busy shop the bags fill quickly, and it takes some diligence and expense to keep spare bags on hand.

Enter the Dust Deputy from Oneida, riding in to rescue us from the desperados of debris. This small cyclone, molded from an anti-static plastic, sits atop a five-gallon bucket and catches most of the junk before it can get to the vacuum. The end result is that the filters on the vacuum stay clean, the bags take forever to fill, and we can easily see when the bucket is getting full.

Oneida offers just the cyclone, or a complete kit that includes buckets, hardware and hose. We tested the complete kit with

a plastic cyclone, and assembly took only a few minutes. There is also an industrial version available with a welded steel cyclone and 10-gallon collection barrel.

We hooked it up to our miter saw and are quite pleased with it. Almost everything that gets sucked out of the saw swirls around the cyclone and falls into the bucket. Emptying the bucket is faster and easier than taking apart the vacuum to change the bag. We haven't seen any loss of suction, and the addition of the cyclone is a huge improvement.

At first glance, this seemed like a pricey solution, but doing the math showed us that the money we were spending on replacement bags and filters for the vacuum would make up for the cost of the cyclone in a short period of time.

Perhaps most important, we aren't ignoring a full shop vacuum anymore. We can easily see when it's time to empty the container, and as a result we aren't blowing dust and debris around the shop. The investment in the Dust Deputy is paying off in money, time, less frustration and cleaner air. **PW**

—Robert W. Lang



Oneida Dust Deputy

Oneida Air Systems ■ 800-732-4065 or oneida-air.com
 Street price ■ \$59 to \$199
 For more information, go to pwfreeinfo.com.