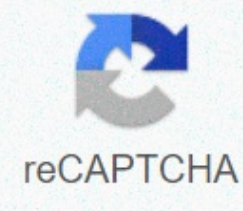




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## Ridgid table saw ts3650

Ridgid TS3650 Tablesaw Description Ridgid TS3650 Tablesaw is a left-inclination contractor saw made in Taiwan and powered by a 1.5 horsepower induction motor. In short, it is similar to many brands of contractor saws. It is the price of the spot their low-end contractor saw in the category; However, I believe they feature a place in their high end category, which makes the TS3650 very good value. TS3650 it is about the average size; as with all the contractor's saws, the engine hangs off of its back. Because of this, contractor saws tend to require more footprints than all other saw types for equivalent rip fence power. The TS3650 fills in a footprint of 15.3 square feet. The table height is 36.5 inches, which is only then high. The saw is also equipped with a decent 40-tooth thin kerf carbide blade. Assembly The entire saw (except the rip fence rails) is packed in one large cardboard box. At 287 pounds, the box is quite heavy and heavy, it would be a good idea to have some help loading and unloading saws. The hacksaw took about 4 hours to assemble, but because it was matched so well out of the box, it didn't take much time to reconcile, mostly just checking to see that it was. Quite a lot of time was spent on the assembly stand and the Herc-U-Lift mobile base section. The instructions are quite clear about the assembly of the saw and all parts are well packed. It would also be a good idea to have some help handy by adding cast iron wings to the saw. I did deviate a bit from the assembly instructions, but saw it went along well. I think the fasteners provided a little softer than the standard and strangely they turned out to be a mixture of metric heads and inch threads, which was unusual. Under the table (click to enlarge) Contractor saws are trunion mounted directly at the bottom of the iron table (unlike the cabinet like cabinet saws). Arunion design ridgid is not typical however. A typical contractor saw a trunion consisting of four main parts, such as and aft trunion brackets and two large diameter rods connecting trunion brackets. The (not too unusual) problem with this type of design is that the rods can become twisted towards each other and throw the alignment out. The TS3650 uses a cradle made of single piece iron casting, which seems to be very stout. It is attached to the table with two trunion brackets. They are made of aluminum alloy strength (resist cracking). Out of the box, I found the left T-slot aligned with the blade with a 0.001 over the distance blade meaning there was no need to perform trunion alignment in this regard. Trunion leveling contractor saws tend to be a little tiring than other saws; Ridgid has done something about it. On the back of the trunion they are included in the alignment device ( lever) which will facilitate the smoothing process if necessary. The table turned out to be quite flat, the slots of the gauge are T-shaped; slot width measures a few thousand characters over 3/4, so all standard after-sales saw accessories work well. Both track gauge slots are also measured in parallel. The Miter gauge itself is quite standard, but there is no adjustment to fit the slot like many after-sales gauges do, the TS3650 engine is a TEFC (completely closed fan cooled) type with an overload breaker. The saw uses what is known as a poly-vee belt, rather than a joint vee belt power transmission. This also means that the saw uses machines for vertebrae instead of cheap stamped steel units. Machined vertebrae and link belts are common upgrade devices many contractor saw owners feel compelled to buy to get most of their machines. Ridgid saw has them as standard equipment. The saw also includes an easy to remove and replace splitter/guard device. One screw is all it takes to install the system on a saw. Otherwise, the splitter is quite standard design. Mobility Herc-U-Lift mobile base is one of the most obvious features of the saw. The system has a kind of scissor socket on wheels and is very easy to operate. The system is completely within the footprint base so it doesn't stick to get snagged for nothing. To function, one simply steps on to a large paddle to increase everything saw up. 3 diameter wheels make the whole machine very easy to roll and maneuver. To set the site, the orange pedal is depressed and everything lowers (gently) to the ground. It is certainly encouraging to see a mobile base included as standard equipment on the machine. In use I found all operator controls on the TS3650 are easy to use and smooth running. The power switch is a simple on/off (non-magnetic) type and can be installed in more than one location. I found that the machine could be turned off by tapping the switch with my knee, not all saws have switches that will work this way, and I think this is an important safety feature worth noting. The blade raise/tilt function has a fairly high resolution 10 turns per inch raise and 29.5 turns at 45 degrees of inclination. The blade angle has adjustable stoppers that can be easily accessed from the top of the table. Both raising and tilt functions are accurate and easy to use. The 1.5hp induction motor draws 13 amperes according to the name plate or 6.5 amperes if the wire 220 volts of operation. If you have a habit of ripping 10 feet long 2-inch thick Hard Maple slabs, you'll find you saw the underpowered. However, the engine size is typical of this class of saw and has a lot of power for most operations. The saw has a stable platform when excellent sheets of plywood, I'm sure these heavy cast iron wings a little with it. I found that most of the time saw one would pass a nickel test with a full power cycle. There is a small amount of vibration on the machine though. Rip Fence When assembled in a standard configuration, the rip fence has a power of 36 to the right of the blade and 12 to the left. The rip fence is designed so that the rail could be easily assembled to either move right or left several inches from this standard configuration. Since the saw is a left slope machine, many owners would choose to shift the rails right 10 to 14 inches, this would give rip power 46 to 50 inches to the right if one chose to do so. Rip fence is a fairly small head section with two cursors and a thumb wheel to move the fence position in small steps. This thumb wheel is not a true micro positioner, and I did not find that it is very useful. Rip fence locks on both the infeed and outfeed side, it makes for a very tight fence when locked down. I've heard several uncomplimentary comments about the Ridgid rip fence, but try as I can, I could never find any significant fault with this system. A joint upgrade to a low-end contractor saw it be better to rip a fence like Vega or Biesemeyer. When I evaluate the fencing system in my reviews, I try to do so with actual measurements to eliminate any unjustifiable bias espies. Basically, the Ridgid rip fence is as good as any of the upgrade fences I have measured. Measurements: The rip fence was as straight as my machinists straight. Rip the fence could lock down repeatedly 0.004 parallel (measured by more than 22), it repeats position 0.005 (it's operator dependent). With a £10 side load applied at the end of the rip fence it will shift about 0.002 at this point. They are all very honored numbers and compare favorably to premium replacement fences. The rip fence is one of the main components of the hacksaw and often a single item that translates into a \$500 low-end saw \$900 high-end single contractor saw category. With the rip rails waxed, the fence was very easy to slide in the desired position and easy to operate. Cursors are types of magnifiers and work without distorting reading (not all cursors work so well). The cursor lines are a little fat, which forms part of the repeatability measurement above. The locking handle is plastic and appears strong enough. The tapes are already installed on the rails, so if the rails are not installed in the recommended position, new tapes should be applied. Gazebo Gazebo is a standard 5/8acme bolt shaft. When measured, I found no flange runout (meaning it was well below 0.001), the measured arbor shaft runout was 0.001. A full dado stack (about 3/4 wide) can be installed in the arbor, but (as explained not with a gazebo washer. The Trunion has an open blade access side, while a removable plastic plate covers the side. It effectively creates a shell and has another plastic part at the bottom of the trunion with a 2 diameter port that will connect to a standard shop-vac hose. Dc port does a pretty good job at collecting dust under the table. I have seen reports on the web that some owners claim the reduced diameter area of the gazebo at the flap allows the cutter to be stacked dado, which is not in line with the rest of the cutters. When I measured the gazebo on this machine I did not find that there is any problem. However, at the time of this writing (Dec 2004), Ridgid solves the problem and providing backup arbors for those who need them. Summary man Ridgid TS3650 has quite a few high-end features that belie its low-end price tag. The saw comes with two cast iron wings, a mobile base, an excellent rip fence, an ejected trunion design, a trunion matching support, a dust collection shell, and a poly-vee belt drive. Without these items, Ridgid would only have been still well saw with them, I believe it has extraordinary value and competes easily with saws costing a lot more. For the sake of full disclosure, Ridgid provided this product in order to facilitate this review. Report.