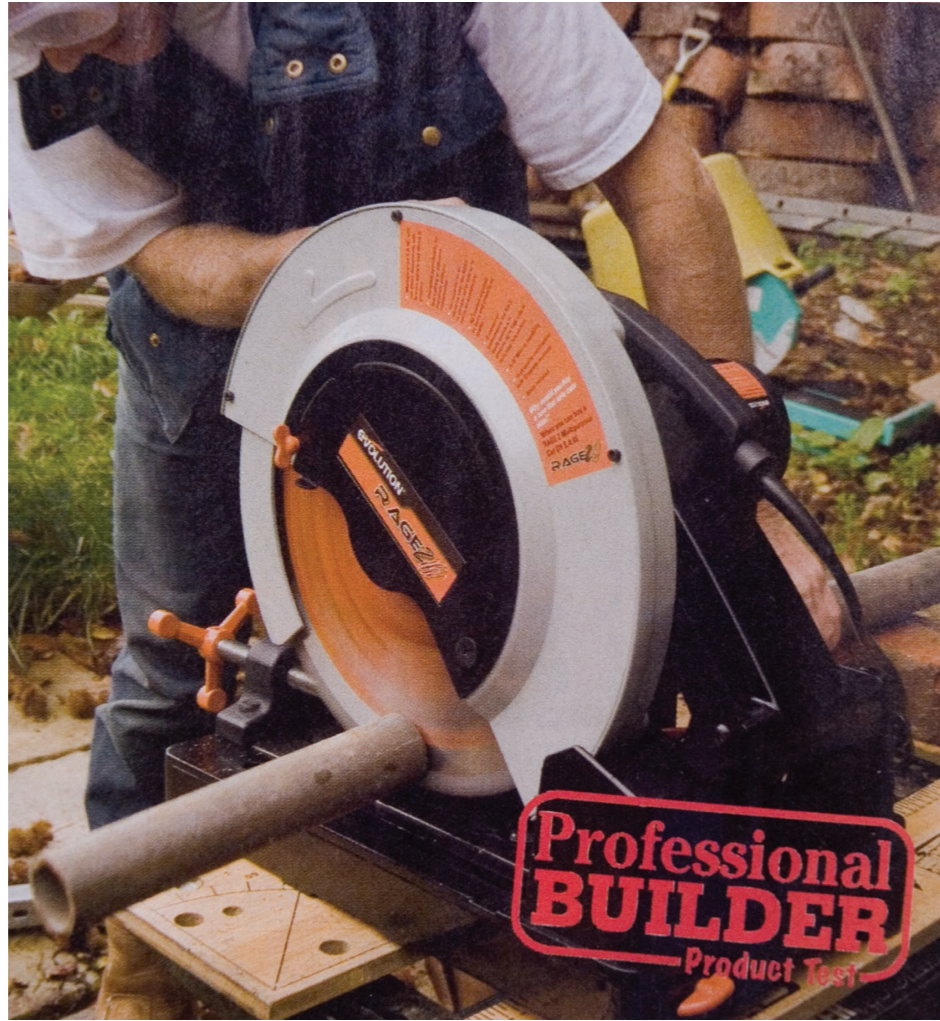


Roger Bisby puts the new RAGE2 Chop Saw to the test

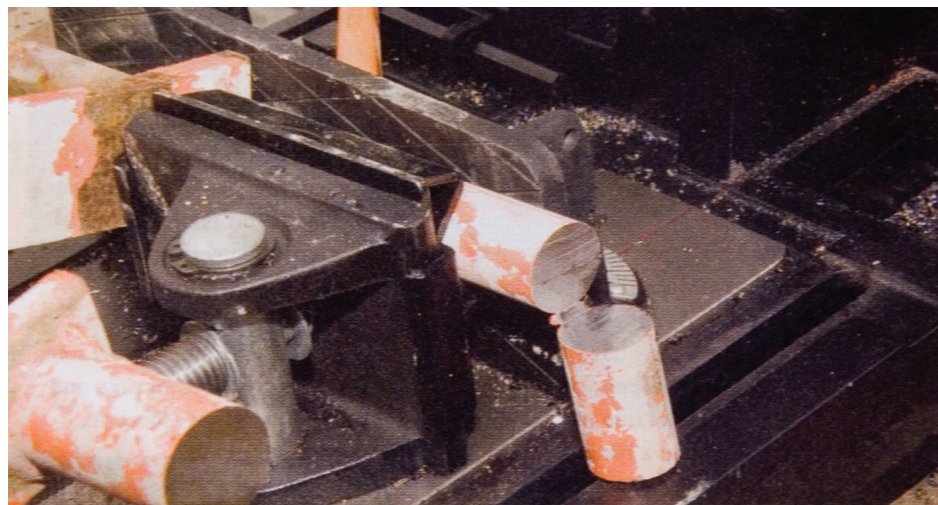
The new RAGE 14in. chop saw continues the development of heavy-duty all-purpose saws, which was started with the RAGE circular saw. The ability to cut plastic, metal and timber with a single blade made the portable circular saw a best seller. Many builders bought it simply to do the rough work such as cutting access traps and floorboards simply because it doesn't matter if you hit a nail or even a row of them.

The 14in. Tungsten Carbide Tipped blade in the chop saw will cut pipe up to 130mm diameter and square sectioned steel up to 120mm. I first tried it out on some scaffold tube. Having used the portable saw I was ready to be impressed but this saw performed way beyond my expectations. It is formidable. The slow

"It is formidable. The slow revving motor turned the blade quietly and it went through the steel in seconds. I put hardly any pressure on the handle so it is certainly the blade that is doing the work."



Rage with the machine



revving motor turned the blade quietly and it went through the steel in seconds. I put hardly any pressure on the handle so it is certainly the blade that is doing the work. The cut was very clean and square so it is an ideal machine for cutting steel plumbing pipe, which needs a thread cutting, and it will also work very well on a threaded bar or studding as we call it in my part of the world. In all the metal cutting exercises the tiny chips of steel were collected in the removable tray.

If you want to cut mitres and angles then you need to adjust the work holder.

"This was a job that I used to do with a chainsaw, but hitting even a single nail with a chain is enough to do damage. The RAGE2 saw loves it. The more lumps it hits the more it likes it."

The blade stays at 90 degrees to the user. The work clamp has a removable pipe clamp insert which converts the jaws to two flat sections. There isn't a quick release on the thread so you have to wind it in and out to cut different sizes. This is tedious and some might not bother, preferring to hold the work piece manually when required.

Wood Care

When it comes to cutting wood on site this is not the saw to do this job on a regular basis. It coped well enough with dry 4 by 2 inch but on wet 4 inch fence post the blade clogs and overheats. There just isn't enough set on it to clear sawdust.

This lack of set is an asset in steel but a drawback in timber. The way round this problem is to lift the blade out of the cut and let it spin rather than simply forcing the blade through the wood. Even Better is to cut through a piece of steel because this cleans the teeth in seconds, so if the wood has a few nails and screws in it so much the better. I made very good

use of this saw cutting up salvaged rafters and joist, which I use for firewood on my wood-burning stove. This was a job that I used to do with a chainsaw but hitting even a single nail is enough to do damage. The RAGE2 saw loves it. The more lumps it hits the more it likes it.

This is a very robust saw with a heavy-duty gearbox and a slow motor. To my ear it sounds a little course on the bearing compared to the high-pitched whine of most circular saws, but we are talking tractor rather than sports car here. The blade is from a direct drive motor rather than a belt and pulley and there is a spare set of brushes in the box so when it starts sparking you can simply pop in new brushes and be back in business.

■ For more information on the RAGE2 Chop Saw, use the enquiry number below.

Readerlink enquiry 216

