

KIT & TOOLS

Spiral tool test



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Robert Sorby Modular Micro Spiralling Tool

Mark Baker finds the scaled-down approach a particularly amiable one when it comes to this new tool

Robert Sorby has done it again. By that I mean that they have taken something that is an established winner and made it even more enticing, namely in the form of a Modular Micro Spiral tool.

What it is

One in a series of micro tools recently released by Robert Sorby, this miniature-sized version of an already established tool will doubtless catch the eye of many a turner. If you saw the bigger version and were put off by the price, this scaled down little gem comes in at £48.95 and is capable of doing all the patterns and spirals

that the big one is able to do, but on a smaller scale and cheaper. Now how's that for beating the credit crunch? Sporting a new anodised aluminium handle, which looks very stylish, the head section is inserted into the handle and held in place via a grub screw. There are two cutter heads supplied as standard – a 2mm one and another a little bigger in tooth form. These can be used to create spirals or texturing patterns, and there's an optional extra in the form of a dedicated texturing wheel.

In use

Textured effects are created by

offering the tool to the rotating work – changing the angle of presentation changes the slant and type of texture created. For spiralling it is necessary to use the cradle and offset/tilt cutter to the left or the right in order to create the respective left- or right-handed spirals. The integral rest on the tool is designed to use when spiralling, and Sorby have created notches on the top part of the rest in order to replicate the angle of tilt over and over again.

I must admit that I like this tool better than the big version. It fits in the hand well, despite it being a smaller model, and is capable of tackling project sizes of up to 300mm (11²⁵/₃₂in) or more. The aluminium handle will accept other tools from the modular range and will no doubt prove to be very popular.

Verdict

This tool is a little gem. The modular system is a cute idea, well-realised and very user friendly. The patterns possible with this spiralling tool are myriad, and a little experimentation on your part will soon have you creating something unique. Definitely one for the Christmas list. However, it might be that you'll prefer the bigger version of this tool, extra expense or not, so if you're unsure which will suit you best, try out the two of them and see which feels more comfortable for your needs.



DETAILS

Prices: Modular handled Micro Spiral tool inclusive of 2 cutters £48.95

Texturing cutter optional extra £8.95

For further information & stockist details

contact: Robert Sorby

Tel: 0114 225 0700

Fax: 0114 225 0710

E-mail: sales@robert-sorby.co.uk

Website: www.robert-sorby.co.uk