

Review of the Mirka Ceros 650CV Random Orbital Sander

Until recently the Festool ETS 150/5 random orbital sander (ROS) was considered the bench mark against which other sanders were measured. In my previous workshop I used the Festool. However I had been hearing good reports about the Ceros from Mirka, so when I moved workshops in August I decided to invest in a Ceros 650CV (a 550CV is also available with a smaller 125mm disc) and I must say I am much impressed.

Mirka have a good reputation for their air powered sanding tools and have copied a lot of the features of the air powered range for the electric powered Ceros. The machine comes with a transformer providing 22volts DC to the brushless motor on the sander. This means it is very light, 920gms compared to approx 1.8 kg for other ROS, and very quiet. The sander is connected to the transformer by a generous 4.2 metre cable.

The sander is designed to work with Mirka's Abranet 150mm diameter abrasive discs. Abranet is an abrasive mesh which allows extraction of dust through the mesh. This gives better extraction and sanding speed and longer life for the pad. The Ceros can also be used with conventional discs.



Abranet disc



Close up showing abrasive net.

The Ceros is very comfortable in use. It has a separate power on/off button and separate buttons for increasing and decreasing speed (4,000 – 10,000 rpm). Starting and stopping is controlled by a lever on the top of the machine, the palm of the hand would normally rest on this in operation. The low profile of the Ceros means it is very stable in use, giving a firm contact with the sanded surface.



The full kit, transformer, sander and generous Cable.



Power on/off and speed adjuster buttons.



Start stop lever sits under the palm.

In action, note low centre of gravity.

With the sander connected to a vacuum sanding is virtually dust free and very quick. A recent beginners group made short work of sanding their table tops through 180 and 240 grit to give an excellent surface for oiling. Random orbital sanders have two rotational movements the whole disc rotates around it's centre, but the centre also rotates on a small radius. This smaller orbit varies between different ROS on the Ceros I have the orbit is 5mm. ROS with orbits of 2.5mm are available although I have not noticed any serious problems with the larger orbit.

I have been using the Ceros with additional disc pad savers. These help to prolong the life of the sanding pad and also give more grip to the abranel disc. Mirka also provide foam backed interface pads which facilitate sanding of contoured surfaces. I have not used this pad.



The pad saver.



Pad saver peeled back.

There aren't many negatives, the main one would be the totally inadequate storage system, a flimsy cardboard box with an egg box style moulding inside to hold the parts. I suppose we have been spoiled by the OTT Sustainer System from Festool! Also I initially found the connection of the sander cable into the transformer difficult to use.



Inadequate storage box .



At first I found the transformer connection tricky.

If you are looking for a really good sander that will give a perfect finish and minimal dust I would heartily recommend the Ceros, it's not cheap, but then the best is never cheap!

Mirka Ceros 650CV the Numbers

Disc diameter	150mm
Sanding speed	4,000rpm – 10.000rpm sanding speed
Power	400watts 22volts brushless motor
Orbit diameter	5mm (others available)
Weight	920 grams
Price at Axminster	£319.50 inc vat