

Starrett ProSite Protractor

While most woodworkers will go out of their way to avoid having to do accurate miter work, we all have to do it at some time. Whether it's adding a bonnet to a highboy or simply fitting an entertainment unit into a corner, accurate miters are a fact of woodworking life.

And when it comes to accurate dimensions, Starrett is always a name we trust. So we were happy to take a look at the Starrett ProSite Protractor.

This is a very simple tool that will take some of the difficulty out of miters. Two 12" x 1/4"-thick aluminum plates are hinged at an easy-to-read, flush-set dial. "Easy to read" is the critical phrase here.

To use the tool you simply spread the two legs and place them flat against the two adjoining surfaces. If working on crown moulding in a corner, read the red arrow and red dial to find the required miter saw setting for each piece. If you're working with only one piece to fit in the angle, use the black arrow and black dial – it's quite simple.

The hinge on the ProSite Protractor is factory-set to a certain tension. It's tight enough to hold a dimension (even if bumped), but still

move with reasonable pressure.

If you're not excited about cutting miters, this tool will also function as a layout tool, transferring angles from one piece to another. You can also use it for setting up machinery – well, some machinery.

And that leads to a couple of things we weren't totally pleased with. The size of the protractor is a little large for machinery set-up (especially on a table saw), and it's actually a little small for gauging larger corners.

Another thing we questioned is a lack of 1/2° markings on the scale, especially for the more often used 22 1/2°.

Then there's the price of the tool. Expect to pay around \$40 for this accuracy assistant. If miters are an important part of your work, then it's a valuable tool. But you'll have to make that call. **PW**

–DT

For more information, circle #176 on Free Information Card.



SPECIFICATIONS

Starrett ProSite Protractor

Street price: \$40

Material: Aluminum

Legs: 1/4" x 12"

Performance: ●●●●○

Price range: \$\$\$\$

Starrett: 978-249-3551 or
starrett.com