



# The Protractor boys

**N**ot being a carpenter, it took me a few minutes of head scratching to get the hang of this new Pro Site Protractor from Starrett. With a normal carpenter's bevel you have to set the angle and then work out what a half is in order to give you the mitre cut. This is not always easy because you have to lay it on the saw, set it to the single cut, then read off and halve it. The Starrett Protractor, or bevel if you prefer, does the halving for you and this is all very straight forward. The bit that confused me is that the black scale isn't reading angles as a protractor does with 360° to the circle.

The tool shows zero on the outer scale when you set it in a 90° corner. The reason for this is simply that the outer scale shows you what to set the mitre saw at. If you want to cut a 90° angle on a mitre saw then the saw has to be set to zero. So the outer scale, in black, shows the mitre saw setting to make a single cut and the inner scale, in red, shows the 45°. Now if you set the saw at 45° this gives a reading of 22° on the inner scale. No confusion there, but what happens if the

Roger Bisby cuts through the confusion and learns to trust in the new Starrett 505 Pro Site Mitre Saw Protractor.

angle is 30° as with skirting or window board into a bay?

The single cut for a floorboard to fit would be 30° and the mitre cut also reads 30°. This is why I made so much firewood when I tried to renew my timber cills and window boards. The mistake I made was to think about it. You can drive yourself nuts or just trust the technology.

The protractor comes in two sizes and there is an optional sheath to keep it in. It is American, which means it is very well engineered and has a tension adjustment



so you can set it tighter as it wears.

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