

Makita LS1019L Miter Saw

BY CHRIS ERMIDES

Makita has a new 10-inch miter saw on the market, with some features that displace the earlier LS1016L from the “premium” spot in the company’s lineup. Like its predecessor, the new LS1019L is able to cut 6 5/8-inch crown molding nested, 5 1/4-inch speed base vertically, and a 4x4 in one pass. The LS1019L has a soft-start 15-amp direct-drive motor, which provides direct power transfer with no belt to slip, wear, or replace, and the saw’s electronic speed control is designed to maintain a constant speed under load, which reportedly makes for smoother cutting.

The two-rail sliding system is of particular note. It allows the new saw to sit tight to the wall—the rails are fixed and run to the front of the saw. The motor housing and blade ride back and forth on these fixed rails, instead of the rails sliding back and forth. This setup also includes a front-mount bevel adjustment; the only time you need to reach to the back of the saw is to unlock the stop to tilt the blade to the right.

At 58 pounds, the LS1019L isn’t light—it weighs about the same as Makita’s larger, 12-inch dual slide compound miter saw. The extra weight is likely due to the housing for the two-rail system that mounts on the back. The table is large, as well.

An integrated upper and lower fence combine to provide a total of 4 3/4 inches of vertical support for material. The upper fence needs to be removed completely for bevel cuts to either side; the fences are designed to clip on the metal side arms so they store out of the way. The saw miteres 0 to 60 degrees to the left and right, and bevels 0 to 48 degrees in either direction (there are positive stops at 45 degrees, left and right, with a detent override should you need to bevel past 45 degrees to 48 degrees). A built-in laser can be turned on and off (via a dedicated switch) or micro-adjusted to read on either side of the blade.

Makita has provided a larger dust-collection mouth at the back of the blade. A dust-collection bag is included with saw, as well as a separate elbow that mounts on the side of the slide mechanism. This elbow connects a short hose to the saw’s vacuum port, so when the saw is in slide mode you’re not pulling on the vacuum’s hose. A 36V (dual 18V) cordless version of this saw will be available in the fall. Cost: \$550. makitatools.com

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Fixed rails make a flush fit. The newly designed two-rail system comprises a fixed arm that mounts to the back of the saw and rails that run to the saw’s front. A locking knob in front of the rails controls the bevel. Because the rails are fixed, the saw can be pushed up tight against a wall—a useful feature for the jobsite or a small shop where space is limited.

Makita LS1019L Specs

Blade diameter: 10 inches | **Arbor:** 5/8 inch

No-load speed: 3,200 rpm

Amps: 15.0 | **Weight:** 57.9 lb.

Max. crosscut at 90 degrees: 2 13/16 inches by 12 inches

Max. crosscut at 45-degree miter and bevel:

2 13/16 inches by 8 1/2 inches

Max. baseboard cut on the vertical: 5 1/4 inches

Max. crown vertically nested: 6 5/8 inches

Miter: 0 to 60 degrees, left and right

Positive miter stops at: 0, 15, 22.5, 31.6, 45, and 60 degrees, left and right

Bevel: 0 to 48 degrees, left and right

Country of origin: China

Includes: Tool, 10-inch 60-tooth

micro-polished blade, vertical vise, triangular ruler, dust bag, wrench

Weigh In!

Want to test a new tool or share a tool-related testimonial, gripe, or technique? Contact us at JLCtools@hanleywood.com

Two Affordable Workboots

BY TIM UHLER

When I bought my first work boot as a teenager, all the guys on the framing crew swore by a wedge-sole moc-toe boot. It's a staple among iron workers, and over the last couple of years, among hipsters too. It seems that hipsters have an affinity for Red Wing, and I know commercial guys who swear by them. I have purchased both expensive and mid-range boots for work, but I don't buy expensive, more-than-\$200 boots anymore. Work boots can get trashed so quickly, I can't justify spending more than that.

It has been a few years since I wore a wedge-sole moc-toe boot, but I decided it was time again, and reached out to Golden Fox shoes. I had seen them on social media and saw they were selling at a good price. The company sent me a 6-inch non-safety-toe boot. At the same time, my co-worker decided to try wedge soles. He bought Thorogood 8-inch safety toes because they were available locally where he could try them on.

Golden Fox 6-inch Moc Toe Wedge Pro Work Boot. This boot features "oil

full-grain leather," a pigskin collar, and a polyurethane wedge sole that is oil and slip resistant. It has a PVC welt (the piece that forms a sort of gasket between the upper boot and the sole) and uses Goodyear welted construction (a technique for stitching the upper leather, lining, and welt to the sole-insole assembly). According to Golden Fox, a PVC welt holds up better to liquid elements like water, but doesn't do as well in snow and freezing temperatures.

The features of this boot are straightforward. What I noticed after taking the



Golden Fox 6-inch Moc Toe Wedge Pro Work Boot features full-grain leather uppers, a pigskin collar, and a polyurethane wedge sole. The author instantly found the boots comfortable, and they have held up well to four months of abuse on the job.



Thorogood 8-inch Moc Toe Safety features Goodyear Storm Welt construction. This type of boot provides a good water seal where the sole is stitched to the boot's upper. The author's co-worker has found these boots to be comfortable, as well.

Photos: Tim Uhler

boots out of the box and wearing them around the house is how instantly comfortable they were. I've been abusing these boots for four months and wore them in pouring rain and my feet stayed dry—though they are not technically waterproof. What I really like about wedge-sole boots is there is no heel shock, as there is with a boot with heels. I also find that when walking walls or girders, I have better balance with the wedge sole.

The Golden Fox runs about \$135 and is made in China. The size fits true (I wear a 10 1/2 and they were right on the money). I doubt I'll get more than a year out of them, but that's OK with me. Boots become less supportive as they age, and because I'm on my feet all day every day, I need the support. So I'm fine with getting a new pair every year.

Thorogood 8-inch Moc Toe Safety. My co-worker, Kyle Davis, bought these boots after trying them on locally. They're similar to the Golden Fox in that they feature a Goodyear Storm Welt (which uses a wider welt that allows for a better water seal between the sole and the upper boot), a removable footbed, and a polyurethane wedge sole. Davis went with a safety toe, which can feel narrow and uncomfortable to some users, but he hasn't had that experience with these. After wearing them the last four months, he's sold on the comfort and quality of these boots. He will easily get a year out of them. His aren't waterproof; if you frequently work in wet weather, we recommend going with the waterproof version.

The Thorogood runs about \$190 and is made in the U.S.A. These boots, too, fit true to size. He went with a slightly smaller size because the store carried only whole sizes, but they've stretched nicely and he's very happy with the fit.

Both of us noticed—and I suspect this is true of other wedge-sole boots—that they don't stick well to roof sheathing. Walking a 6:12 roof with OSB, both of us felt less sure, and I slipped a few times. Other than that, neither of us has any trouble recommending these boots.

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Ultra convenience. The Graco Ultra Cordless runs off of DeWalt's 20V Max battery platform. The kit comes with two 2.0-Ah batteries; each will deliver about a gallon of paint on a single charge. Both corded and cordless models will work at any angle, including upside down.

GRACO ULTRA HANDHELDS

Prep-to-Finish pro painter

Scott Burt recently reviewed Graco's new Ultra handheld sprayer line, which comes in a couple of reasonably-priced options particularly suited to remodeling contractors. Burt likes the convenience of handheld sprayers for small jobs like built-ins, doors, and spindles, or anything else that would otherwise take a longer time with a brush but doesn't necessarily justify pulling out a large sprayer setup.

Available in either a cordless or corded version (and a cordless Ultra Max, for hot solvents), the Ultra handhelds deliver 2,000 psi without the hoses. Burt likes the two-component cup assembly of this series—an open housing that holds a disposable, clear flexible liner makes priming a simple as

squeezing the air out through a small valve on top of the cup. Because of this setup, the sprayers can be used at any angle, including upside down. The FFLP tip—a new tip series from Graco particularly useful to pro painters because of its compatibility with other airless sprayers—allows users to work at a lower pressure, producing less overspray and a better-defined fan pattern. Pressure can be dialed in between 500 to 2,000 psi, offering extra control.

The Ultra Corded model (17M359) comes with a case, an RAC X FFLP 514 tip, and four liners. Cost: \$400. The Ultra Cordless model (17M363) comes with a case, an RAC X FFLP 514 Tip, four liners, two DeWalt 20V Max batteries, and a charger. Cost: \$500. Burt says you can expect to deliver about four cups (approximately one gallon) worth of paint on a single charge. —C.E.