

**Silverline Silverstorm £19.92** Item: 123339

Contact: [www.silverlinetools.com](http://www.silverlinetools.com)

**We like...**

Superb value for money. For less than £20, you get an 800-watt grinder with many of the features of a unit costing three times as much. It might be a lot longer than the other grinders here but it's light and comfy to hold for most jobs. Three positions for the screw-in side handle. Performed well whether grinding or cutting, and there are plenty of extras available, from cutting discs to wire-brush attachments. Switch is very easy to operate and cuts out as soon as you let go of it, which boosts safety.

**We don't like...**

That switch might have been easy to use, but if there was a lock on it, we couldn't find it. That means you have to keep it depressed for the grinder to work, which soon makes your hand ache on longer jobs.

“It performed well whether grinding or cutting”



**Switch**

①②③④⑤

**Comfort**

①②③④⑤

**Performance**

①②③④⑤

**Ease of use**

①②③④⑤

**Value for money**

①②③④⑤

**22/25**



Switch was by far the easiest to use.



Plenty of features for not much money.



Build quality seems good.

**CM SAYS...**

The Silverline grinder caught us all by surprise. At less than £20, we weren't expecting it be able to compete against more expensive units from Draper and Sealey. But not only could it compete, it came out on top. It was safe and easy to use, and performed well whatever the task.

You can't ask for much more than that, and it was an impressive result.

The two Draper grinders felt very well put together, but the 41453 is a big unit. The 89763 was much more versatile in that respect, but both did the job – as did the Makita. It has to be said that the only real

disappointment was the Sealey. There was no doubting its performance, but operating the switch really did seem to be more down to luck than judgement. You'd have to hope you got used to it or it got better with time, but the other grinders didn't come with that as a caveat.



**TESTED NEXT MONTH – Ratchet spanners**

### How we tested

**D**on't just assume that any old angle grinder will do. They might look superficially similar, but in reality there are certain features you need to look out for. We tested five models in our workshop taking the following areas into account.

#### 1) Switch

Working safely is key to using an angle grinder, and that's a theme you'll see running through many of these criteria. In terms of the switch, you want something's that easy and intuitive to use. Fumbling around trying to get the grinder to turn on or off is frustrating and potentially dangerous.

#### 2) Comfort

Some jobs using an angle grinder are quick and easy; others – such as stripping panels – require you to operate the unit for a reasonable length of time. If that's going to be the case, it's essential that the grinder you settle on is comfortable to hold and not too heavy.

#### 3) Ease of use

This category encompasses the previous two, but also takes into consideration factors such as how easy it is to adjust the guard. It's also important that you've got as much versatility as possible in terms of how you can position the side handle in order to work effectively.

#### 4) Performance

It's all very well having a nice, comfortable, lightweight angle grinder with a simple-to-use switch, but if it's a real effort to cut or grind anything then you've defeated the purpose somewhat. All the grinders here operate at somewhere in the region of 11,000rpm, but the power outputs cover a wide range of wattage.

#### 5) Value for money

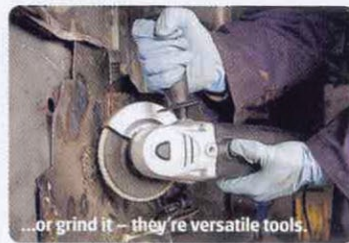
Angle grinders aren't expensive, and they're a vital tool if you're planning to work on your car yourself. Even the ones costing the most are still under £70, but if you can find a comparable one for less you're on to a winner.



Switch must be safe and easy to use.



Grinders can cut metal...



...or grind it – they're versatile tools.



Quality of fittings is important.

### What to look for

#### Switch

Should be easy to operate. Many offer a 'dead man's switch', which means the grinder cuts out as soon as you let go of it – a useful safety feature.

#### Fittings

Changing between discs and adjusting the guard should be straightforward. If anything needs to be unscrewed, check the quality of the screws. A spanner for changing the disc should be provided.

#### Handle

In order to work comfortably, it's useful for a grinder to offer as much flexibility as possible in terms of how you hold it. This grinder, for example, has three positions for the handle.

