

BEAST MODE

This month Rob Cooper at Commercial Motors has had the chance to get to grips with the Beast – a ½" impact wrench from Rodcraft.

The first thing that I can say about this tool is that its name is certainly a talking point! As soon I took it out of the case and showed the other lads in the workshop what it was capable of, I can safely say that it lived up to the name too!

When I first held the Beast, I actually thought it was quite small in comparison to some of the other ½" wrenches we have used in the past; and yet in spite of this, it was rather weighty. I'm not saying this as a bad thing by any means however, as I often prefer the tools to have a little extra weight as it allows you to maintain a level of control over the tool, despite having all the extra power to play with!

Having said this, on some of the more powerful impact wrenches we have used, the power can often be such that bolts may snap off, as something eventually has to give, but this hasn't been a problem with this tool.

Compact and robust

As with almost all technology these days, all of these types of tools seem to be getting smaller and smaller, but fortunately they are retaining their power – this shrink in size has enabled us to use the Beast on several tasks that normally we wouldn't be able to reach with a battery powered wrench, so that has definitely been a

positive – battery will always lose out to airline powered tools for me because of having to carry the extra ungainly weight of the battery on the bottom of the tool. The Beast on the other hand is very compact, making those jobs in tighter spaces far easier to manage.

Considering the use that we have given this tool in the last month (especially on removing gearboxes!), it has proved to be incredibly reliable and robust – as I'm sure we all know, some tools take an absolute pounding in the workshop, but the Beast has managed to withstand all of the knocks and bumps quite impressively.

There is one aspect of this tool that I would like to sing the praises of in particular, and that is having the control settings on the back of the tool's chassis, as opposed to the sides.

I don't know if it is just me that finds this, but often I accidentally switch the direction of the wrench without even noticing when the controls are on the side of the handle, which is obviously pretty dangerous if you are not expecting the loss of force and potential for the tool to push back from the vehicle. Having the controls on the back of the tool render this hazard completely non-existent and eliminates the risk of going the wrong way. The handle and one hand-operation of the settings provide greater comfort too.

VERDICT

A handy tool that lives up to its name with its power. Proved to be extremely robust and its compact size was also useful.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further details on Rodcraft's RC2277 Beast ½" Impact Wrench circle xxx on the readerlink card