



Professional

GEX 185-LI

Robert Bosch Power Tools GmbH
70538 Stuttgart
GERMANY

www.bosch-pt.com

1 609 92A 7BH (2025.10) 0 / 17



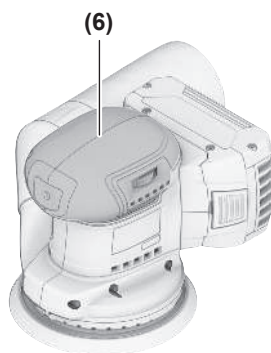
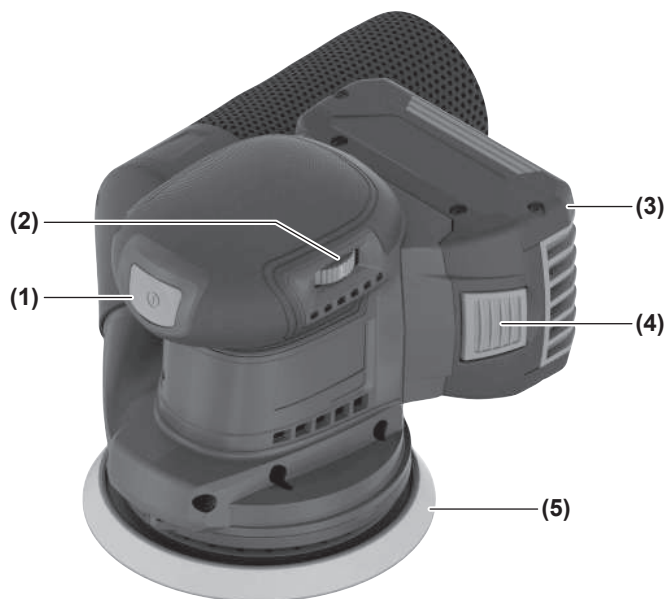
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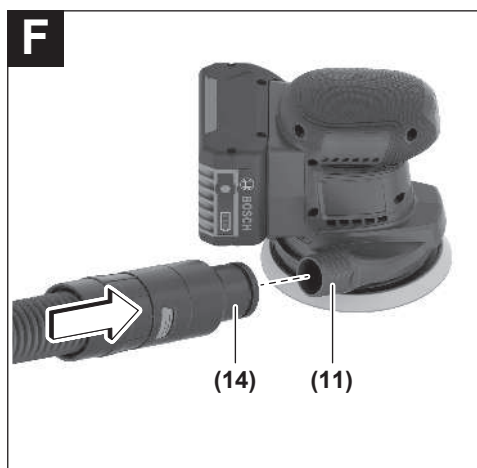
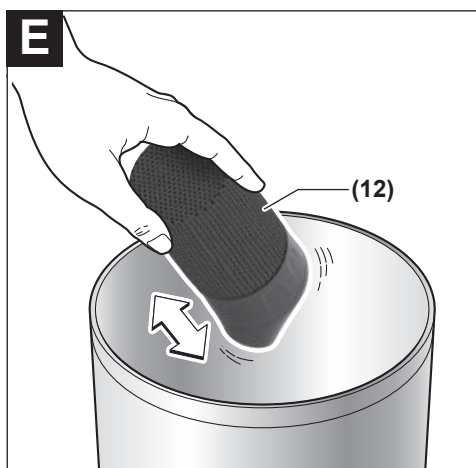
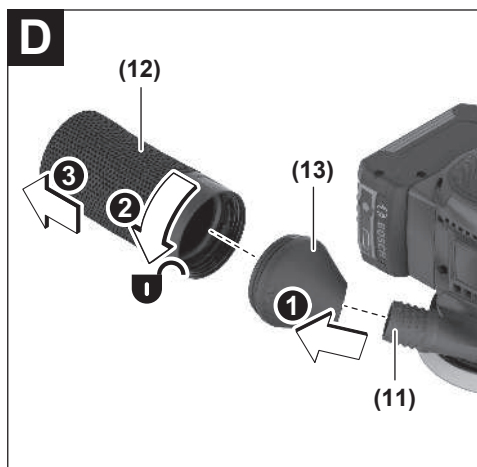
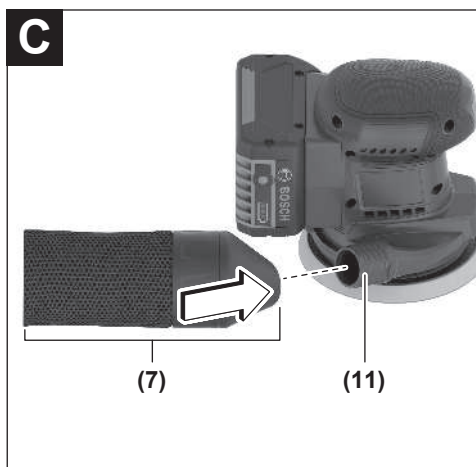
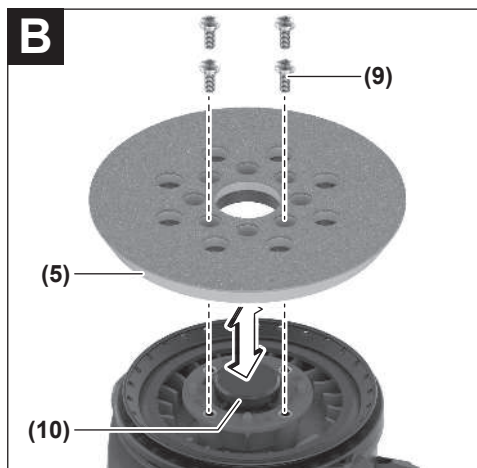
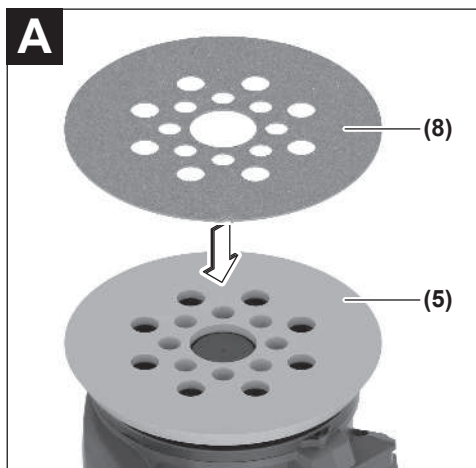


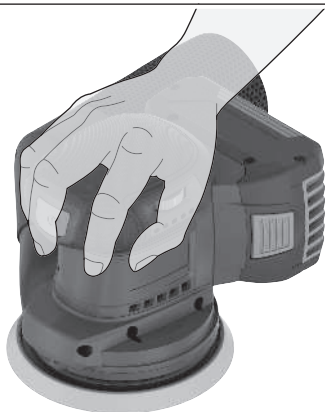
en Original instructions









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English

Safety Instructions

General Power Tool Safety Warnings

⚠ WARNING Read all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.

Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.

The term "power tool" in the warnings refers to your mains-operated (corded) power tool or battery-operated (cordless) power tool.

Work area safety

- ▶ **Keep work area clean and well lit.** Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
- ▶ **Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases or dust.** Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.
- ▶ **Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool.** Distractions can cause you to lose control.

Electrical safety

- ▶ **Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.** Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.

Personal safety

- ▶ **Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.** A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.
- ▶ **Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection.** Protective equipment such as a dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.
- ▶ **Prevent unintentional starting. Ensure the switch is in the off-position before connecting to power source and/or battery pack, picking up or carrying the tool.** Carrying power tools with your finger on the switch or energising power tools that have the switch on invites accidents.
- ▶ **Remove any adjusting key or wrench before turning the power tool on.** A wrench or a key left attached to a rotating part of the power tool may result in personal injury.
- ▶ **Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.** This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations.

- ▶ **Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts.** Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- ▶ **If devices are provided for the connection of dust extraction and collection facilities, ensure these are connected and properly used.** Use of dust collection can reduce dust-related hazards.
- ▶ **Do not let familiarity gained from frequent use of tools allow you to become complacent and ignore tool safety principles.** A careless action can cause severe injury within a fraction of a second.

Power tool use and care

- ▶ **Do not force the power tool. Use the correct power tool for your application.** The correct power tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
- ▶ **Do not use the power tool if the switch does not turn it on and off.** Any power tool that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- ▶ **Disconnect the plug from the power source and/or remove the battery pack, if detachable, from the power tool before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing power tools.** Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the power tool accidentally.
- ▶ **Store idle power tools out of the reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the power tool or these instructions to operate the power tool.** Power tools are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- ▶ **Maintain power tools and accessories. Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the power tool's operation. If damaged, have the power tool repaired before use.** Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained power tools.
- ▶ **Keep cutting tools sharp and clean.** Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
- ▶ **Use the power tool, accessories and tool bits etc. in accordance with these instructions, taking into account the working conditions and the work to be performed.** Use of the power tool for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.
- ▶ **Keep handles and grasping surfaces dry, clean and free from oil and grease.** Slippery handles and grasping surfaces do not allow for safe handling and control of the tool in unexpected situations.

Battery tool use and care

- ▶ **Recharge only with the charger specified by the manufacturer.** A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another battery pack.

- ▶ **Use power tools only with specifically designated battery packs.** Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire.
- ▶ **When battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws or other small metal objects, that can make a connection from one terminal to another.** Shorting the battery terminals together may cause burns or a fire.
- ▶ **Under abusive conditions, liquid may be ejected from the battery; avoid contact. If contact accidentally occurs, flush with water. If liquid contacts eyes, additionally seek medical help.** Liquid ejected from the battery may cause irritation or burns.
- ▶ **Do not use a battery pack or tool that is damaged or modified.** Damaged or modified batteries may exhibit unpredictable behaviour resulting in fire, explosion or risk of injury.
- ▶ **Do not expose a battery pack or tool to fire or excessive temperature.** Exposure to fire or temperature above 130 °C may cause explosion.
- ▶ **Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or tool outside the temperature range specified in the instructions.** Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

Service

- ▶ **Have your power tool serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts.** This will ensure that the safety of the power tool is maintained.
- ▶ **Never service damaged battery packs.** Service of battery packs should only be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service providers.

Safety Warnings for Sander

- ▶ **Only use the power tool for dry sanding.** Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.
- ▶ **Warning: Danger of fire! Avoid overheating the workpiece and the sander. Always empty the dust container before taking a break from work.** Sanding dust in the dust bag, microfilter, paper bag (or in the filter bag or vacuum cleaner filter) can spontaneously ignite under unfavourable conditions. This risk is increased if the sanding dust is mixed with paint or polyurethane residue or with other chemical substances and if the workpiece is hot as a result of prolonged work.
- ▶ **In case of damage and improper use of the battery, vapours may be emitted. The battery can set alight or explode.** Ensure the area is well ventilated and seek medical attention should you experience any adverse effects. The vapours may irritate the respiratory system.
- ▶ **Do not modify or open the battery.** There is a risk of short-circuiting.
- ▶ **The battery can be damaged by pointed objects such as nails or screwdrivers or by force applied externally.**

An internal short circuit may occur, causing the battery to burn, smoke, explode or overheat.

- ▶ **Only use the battery in the manufacturer's products.** This is the only way in which you can protect the battery against dangerous overload.



Protect the rechargeable battery against heat, e.g. including prolonged sun exposure, fire, water, and moisture. There is a risk of explosion and short circuit.

- ▶ **Always wait until the power tool has come to a complete stop before placing it down.**
- ▶ **Secure the workpiece.** A workpiece clamped with clamping devices or in a vice is held more secure than by hand.

Product Description and Specifications



Read all the safety and general instructions.

Failure to observe the safety and general instructions may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.

Please observe the illustrations at the beginning of this operating manual.

Intended Use

The power tool is intended for dry sanding of wood, plastic, filler and coated surfaces.

Product Features

The numbering of the product features refers to the diagram of the power tool on the graphics page.

- (1) On/off switch
- (2) Orbital stroke rate preselection thumbwheel
- (3) Rechargeable battery^{a)}
- (4) Rechargeable battery release button^{a)}
- (5) Sanding pad
- (6) Handle (insulated gripping surface)
- (7) Complete dust bag
- (8) Sanding sheet^{a)}
- (9) Screws for sanding disc
- (10) Sanding pad holder
- (11) Extraction outlet
- (12) Dust bag
- (13) Adapter for dust bag
- (14) Extraction hose^{a)}

a) **This accessory is not part of the standard scope of delivery.**

Technical Data

Random orbit sander		GEX 185-LI
Article number		3 601 CA5 0..

Random orbit sander		GEX 185-LI
Rated voltage	V	18
Orbital stroke rate preselection		●
No-load speed $n_0^{A)}$	min^{-1}	6000–10000
No-load orbital stroke rate ^{A)}	min^{-1}	12000–20000
Orbit diameter	mm	2.5
Sanding pad diameter	mm	125
Weight ^{B)}	kg	0.93
Recommended ambient temperature during charging	°C	0 to +35
Permitted ambient temperature during operation ^{C)} and during storage	°C	–15 to +50
Compatible rechargeable batteries		GBA18V... GBA 18V... ProCORE18V... EXPERT18V... EXBA18V... CORE18V...
Recommended battery chargers		GAL18... GAL 18... GAL 36... GAL12V/18... GAL 12V/18... GAX 18... EXAL18...

A) Measured at 20–25 °C with rechargeable battery **GBA 18V 4.0Ah**

B) Without rechargeable battery (you can find the battery weight at www.bosch-professional.com.)

C) Limited performance at temperatures < 0 °C

Values can vary depending on the product, scope of application and environmental conditions. To find out more, visit www.bosch-professional.com/wac.

Noise/Vibration Information

Noise emission values determined according to **EN 62841-2-4**.

Typically, the A-weighted sound pressure level of the power tool is **77 dB(A)**. Uncertainty $K = 3 \text{ dB}$. The noise level when working can exceed the volume stated. **Wear hearing protection!**

Vibration values a_h (continuous vibrations), p_f (repeated shock vibrations) and uncertainty K determined according to **EN 62841-2-4**:

$a_h = 2.4 \text{ m/s}^2$ ($K = 1.5 \text{ m/s}^2$), $p_f = 55 \text{ m/s}^2$ ($K = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$)

The vibration level and noise emission value given in these instructions have been measured in accordance with a standardised measuring procedure and may be used to compare power tools. They may also be used for a preliminary estimation of vibration and noise emissions.

The stated vibration level and noise emission value represent the main applications of the power tool. However, if the power tool is used for other applications, with different ac-

cessories or is poorly maintained, the vibration level and noise emission value may differ. This may significantly increase the vibration and noise emissions over the total working period.

To estimate vibration and noise emissions accurately, the times when the tool is switched off or when it is running but not actually being used should also be taken into account. This may significantly reduce vibration and noise emissions over the total working period.

Implement additional safety measures to protect the operator from the effects of vibration, such as servicing the power tool and accessories, keeping their hands warm, and organising workflows correctly.

Rechargeable battery

Bosch sells some cordless power tools without a rechargeable battery. You can tell whether a rechargeable battery is included with the power tool by looking at the packaging.

Charging the battery

► **Use only the chargers listed in the technical data.** Only these chargers are matched to the lithium-ion battery of your power tool.

Note: Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries are supplied partially charged according to international transport regulations. To ensure full rechargeable battery capacity, fully charge the rechargeable battery before using your tool for the first time.

Inserting the Battery

Push the charged battery into the battery holder until it clicks into place.

Removing the Battery



To remove the rechargeable battery, press the battery release button and pull the battery out. **Do not use force to do this.**

The rechargeable battery has two locking levels to prevent the battery from falling out if the battery release button is pressed unintentionally. The rechargeable battery is held in place by a spring when fitted in the power tool.

Battery charge indicator

Note: Not all battery types have a battery charge indicator.

The green LEDs on the battery charge indicator indicate the state of charge of the battery. For safety reasons, it is only possible to check the state of charge when the power tool is not in operation.

Press the button for the battery charge indicator  or  to show the state of charge. This is also possible when the battery is removed.

If no LED lights up after pressing the button for the battery charge indicator, then the battery is defective and must be replaced.

Rechargeable battery type GBA 18V... | GBA18V...



LED	Capacity
3 × continuous green light	60–100 %
2 × continuous green light	30–60 %
1 × continuous green light	5–30 %
1 × flashing green light	0–5 %

Battery model ProCORE18V... | EXPERT18V... | EXBA18V... | CORE18V...





LED	Capacity
5 × continuous green light	80–100 %
4 × continuous green light	60–80 %
3 × continuous green light	40–60 %
2 × continuous green light	20–40 %
1 × continuous green light	5–20 %
1 × flashing green light	0–5 %


Battery defect risk detection

EXPERT18V... | EXBA18V...

In addition to the state of charge of the rechargeable battery, the LEDs on the battery charge indicator can also indicate the risk of a battery defect.

To activate the function, press and hold the button for the battery charge indicator  for 3 seconds. The analysis of the battery is signalled by a moving light on the battery charge indicator. The result of is shown on the battery charge indicator.

 **1 LED:** The rechargeable battery has a high defect risk. Performance and runtime may already be reduced. Replacing the rechargeable battery is recommended.

 **5 LEDs:** The rechargeable battery is in good condition and has a low defect risk.

Please note: The rechargeable battery defect risk assessment works in a binary manner and offers a simplified status assessment, indicating either that the rechargeable battery is in good condition or that the rechargeable battery has an increased defect risk. A percentage of the battery status is not shown.

Recommendations for Optimal Handling of the Battery

Protect the battery against moisture and water.

Only store the battery within a temperature range of –20 to 50 °C. Do not leave the battery in your car in the summer, for example.

Occasionally clean the ventilation slots on the battery using a soft brush that is clean and dry.

A significantly reduced operating time after charging indicates that the battery has deteriorated and must be replaced. Follow the instructions on correct disposal.

Assembly

► **Before carrying out any work on the power tool (e.g. maintenance, tool change etc.), remove the battery from the power tool.** There is risk of injury from unintentionally pressing the on/off switch.

Changing the Sanding Sheet (see figure A)

To remove the sanding sheet **(8)**, lift it from the side and pull it from the sanding pad **(5)**.

Remove dirt and dust from the sanding pad **(5)**, e.g. with a paintbrush, before attaching a new sanding sheet.

The surface of the sanding pad **(5)** is fitted with a hook-and-loop fastening, allowing sanding sheets with a hook-and-loop backing to be secured quickly and easily.

Press the sanding sheet **(8)** firmly onto the underside of the sanding pad **(5)**.

To ensure optimum dust extraction, make sure that the punched holes in the sanding sheet **(8)** are aligned with the drilled holes in the sanding pad **(5)**.

To increase the sanding pad's service life, in particular when using net abrasives (e.g. Bosch M480), apply the Pad Saver (accessory) between the sanding pad and abrasive.

Selection of the Sanding Plate

The power tool can be fitted with sanding discs of various hardnesses, depending on the application:

- Soft sanding disc: Suitable for sensitive sanding even on curved surfaces
- Medium-hard sanding disc: Suitable for all sanding work, universal application
- Hard sanding disc: Suitable for heavy sanding on flat surfaces

Changing the Sanding Pad (see figure B)

Note: Replace damaged sanding pads **(5)** immediately.

Pull off the sanding sheet. Unscrew the 4 screws **(9)** completely (using a T20 screwdriver) and remove the sanding pad **(5)**. Attach the new sanding pad **(5)** and retighten the screws.

Note: When attaching the sanding pad, make sure that the teeth of the catch mate with the recesses in the sanding pad.

Note: Damaged sanding pad holders **(10)** must only be replaced by an after-sales service centre authorised to work with **Bosch** power tools.

Dust/Chip Extraction

Do not perform work without taking dust-reducing measures.

Using a suitable dust extraction attachment or a dust box/

dust bag will reduce exposure to harmful dust. Provide good ventilation at the workplace. Always use suitable breathing protection. If you are using a dust box, empty it in good time and clean the filter element regularly to ensure optimal dust extraction.

If you are using a dust extractor, refer to the requirements listed below. The regulations on the material being machined that apply in the country of use must be observed.

Requirements for the Dust Extractor		
Recommended hose nominal diameter	mm	35
Required vacuum pressure ^{A)}	mbar	≥ 230
	hPa	≥ 230
Required flow rate ^{A)}	l/s	≥ 36
	m³/h	≥ 129.6
Recommended filter efficiency	Dust class M ^{B)}	

A) Power value at the power tool's dust extractor connection

B) According to IEC/EN 60335-2-69

Refer to the dust extractor's instructions. If there is reduced suction power, stop working and eliminate the cause.

Self-generated dust extraction with dust bag (see figures C–E)

Place and move the complete dust bag (7) onto the extraction outlet (11) until it lines up precisely with the power tool.

To empty the dust bag (12), pull the complete dust bag (7) away from the extraction outlet (11). Unscrew the adapter (13) from the dust bag (12) and empty the dust bag.

Note: Empty the dust bag (12) in good time to ensure optimum dust extraction.

When working vertical surfaces, hold the power tool in such a manner that the dust bag (7) faces downward.

External dust extraction (see figure F)

Fit a dust extraction hose (14) onto the extraction outlet (11).

Application Overview

	Application/Material	Abrasive	Speed setting
Removing	– Removing old paint and varnish	P60–P100	4–6
	– Sanding wood		
	– Sanding thermoplastic synthetic materials	P60–P100	1–3
Preparing	– Sanding wood and veneer prior to painting	P120–P180	4–6
	– Edge chamfering on wooden materials		
	– Smoothing wooden surfaces before staining		
	– Intermediate lacquer sanding and sanding undercoats	P220–P280	1–3
Finishing	– Intermediate lacquer sanding on edges		
	– Sanding wood	P150–P180	4–6
	– Sanding solid wood edges and veneer edges		
	– Lacquer sanding on stained surfaces and edges	P240–P320	1–3

Connect the dust extraction hose (14) to an extractor. You will find an overview of connecting to various dust extractors at the end of these operating instructions.

The dust extractor must be suitable for the material being worked.

When extracting dry dust that is especially detrimental to health or carcinogenic, use a special dust extractor.

When working on vertical surfaces, hold the power tool with the dust extraction hose facing downwards.

Operation

Starting Operation

Switching On/Off

► **Make sure that you are able to press the On/Off switch without releasing the handle.**

To **switch on** the power tool, press the on/off switch (1).

To **switch off** the power tool, press the on/off switch (1) again.

Preselecting the orbital stroke rate

You can even preselect the orbital stroke rate during operation using the necessary orbital stroke rate preselection thumbwheel (2).

- 1–2 Low orbital stroke rate
- 3–4 Medium orbital stroke rate
- 5–6 High orbital stroke rate

The required orbital stroke rate is dependent on the material and the work conditions and can be determined using practical tests.

The Constant Electronic keeps the oscillation speed at no load and under load virtually consistent, guaranteeing uniform performance.

After working at a low orbital stroke rate for an extended period, you should operate the power tool at the maximum orbital stroke rate for approximately three minutes without load to cool it down.

Working Advice

- **Before carrying out any work on the power tool (e.g. maintenance, tool change etc.), remove the battery from the power tool.** There is risk of injury from unintentionally pressing the on/off switch.
- **Always wait until the power tool has come to a complete stop before placing it down.**
- **This power tool is not suitable for bench-mounted use.** It must not be clamped into a vice or fastened to a workbench, for example.

Hold the power tool from above during work (as shown in the figure **G**).

Sanding Surfaces

Switch the power tool on, place the entire sanding surface against the surface of the workpiece and apply moderate pressure as you move the sander over the workpiece.

The material removal rate and sanding finish are primarily determined by the choice of sanding sheet, the preselected orbital stroke rate level and the contact pressure.

Only immaculate sanding sheets achieve good sanding performance and make the power tool last longer.

Be sure to apply consistent contact pressure in order to increase the lifetime of the sanding sheets.

Excessively increasing the contact pressure will not lead to increased sanding performance; rather, it will cause more severe wear of the power tool and premature failure of the sanding plate.

Use only original **Bosch**-sanding accessories.

Rough Sanding

Attach a coarse grit sanding sheet.

Apply only light pressure to the power tool so that it runs at a higher orbital stroke rate and a higher material removal rate is achieved.

Fine Sanding

Attach a fine grit sanding sheet.

Move the power tool with moderate pressure flat on the workpiece in a circular motion or alternately along and across it. Do not tilt the power tool in order to avoid sanding through the workpiece, e.g. veneers.

Switch the power tool off after completing operation.

Maintenance and Service

Maintenance and Cleaning

- **Before carrying out any work on the power tool (e.g. maintenance, tool change etc.), remove the battery from the power tool.** There is risk of injury from unintentionally pressing the on/off switch.
- **To ensure safe and efficient operation, always keep the power tool and the ventilation slots clean.**

After-Sales Service and Application Service

Great Britain

Tel. Service: (0344) 7360109

GB Importer:

Robert Bosch Ltd.
Broadwater Park
North Orbital Road
Uxbridge
UB9 5HJ

Malaysia

Tel.: (03) 79663194

In all correspondence and spare parts orders, please always include the 10-digit article number given on the nameplate of the product.

Disposal

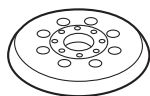
Power tools, rechargeable batteries, accessories and packaging should be sorted for environmental-friendly recycling.



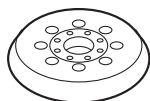
Do not dispose of power tools and batteries/rechargeable batteries into household waste!

Only for EU countries and United Kingdom:

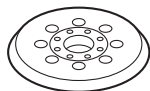
Electrical and electronic equipment or used batteries that are no longer suitable for use must be collected separately and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Use the designated collection systems. Incorrect disposal may cause harmful effects on the environment and human health, due to the potential presence of hazardous substances.



2 608 000 714 (medium)
1 619 PB8 582 (medium)



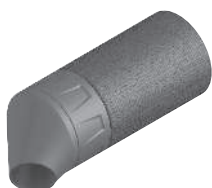
2 608 000 351 (soft)



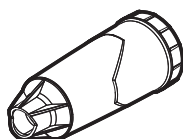
2 608 000 352 (hard)



2 608 000 689 (pad saver)



2 608 000 715



2 605 411 233

**M480 Net**best  **Wood+Paint**

Rough/Remove	80	Medium/Prepare	100	Fine/Finish	220
			120		240
			150		320
			180		400

C470best  **Wood+Paint**

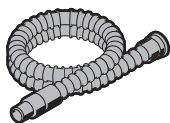
Rough/Remove	40 60 80	Medium/Prepare	100	Fine/Finish	220
			120		240
			150		320
			180		

C430expert  **Wood+Paint**

Rough/Remove	40 60 80	Medium/Prepare	120	Fine/Finish	240
			180		

F355best  **Coatings+Composites**

Rough/Remove	80	Medium/Prepare	100	Fine/Finish	240	Very fine/Finish	600 1200
			120		320		
			180		400		



Ø 28 mm:
2 608 000 772 (3.2 m)



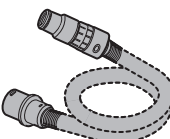
GAS 18V-12 MC



Ø 28 mm:
2 608 000 885 (4 m)



GAS 12-40 MA



Ø 22 mm:
2 608 000 567 (5 m)
Ø 35 mm:
2 608 000 565 (5 m)



GAS 35 M AFC



GAS 55 M AFC



Ø 22 mm:
2 608 000 568 (5 m)
Ø 35 mm:
2 608 000 566 (5 m)

Legal Information and Licenses

Component CMSIS

Name: CMSIS

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