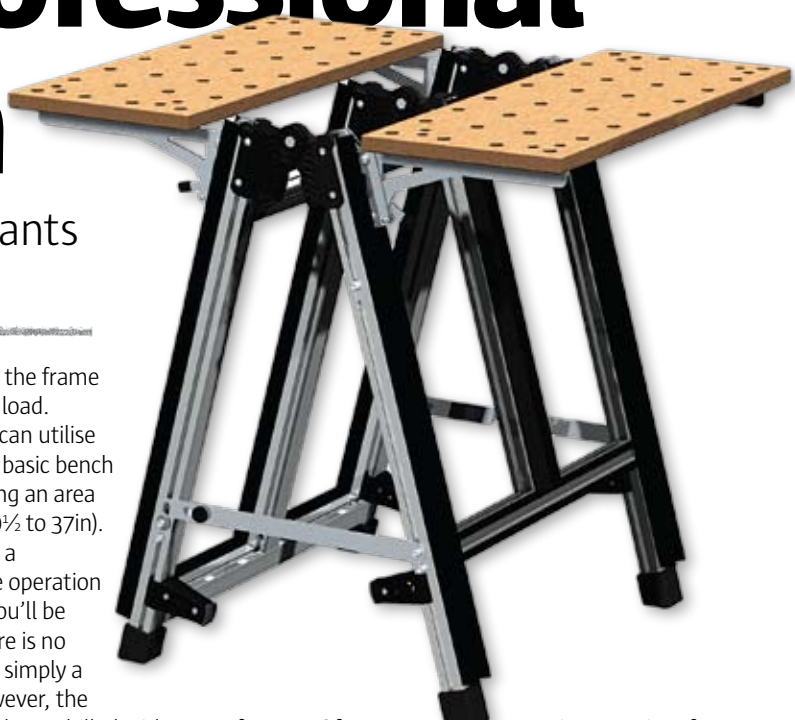


Walko-3 Professional Workbench

It might be pricey but this system grants incredible, unique functions



Let's get the price out of the way first – at £420, this is expensive, so if all you want is a simple trestle or worktable, look away now!

Those willing to take a closer look will find a highly versatile and rather unique system, capable of aiding all manner of working methods. It will prove an invaluable companion to a plunge saw and guide rail system like Festool's, and is built to that level of quality.

Essentially based around a hinged frame, the vertical components have a series of double slots to allow either the table-tops or support brackets to clip in at any position. The tops and brackets have an additional locking lever to securely fasten them.

Setting the workbench into different positions is simple; there are three locking knobs with serrated locking collars to hold the settings once tightened. For trestle mode there are additional straps to lock the legs. These store onboard, and have a keyhole slot to lock

into place, ensuring the frame remains rigid under load.

In this mode you can utilise the worktables as a basic bench for working on, giving an area of 750 x 945mm (30½ to 37in).

If you are expecting a Workmate-type vice operation in this mode then you'll be disappointed as there is no operational jaw, it's simply a bench-top one. However, the bamboo-faced boards are drilled with rows of 19mm (¾in) holes for making use of the accessories available.

Some fast-adjusting cam-type clamps and pegs allow work to be held solidly for further work, but if you already use any of the fantastic bench aids from Lee Valley and Veritas, then you'll have an even more versatile workbench.

Moving the worktop leaves further down the legs allows you more scope for working and assembling, and the brackets work in two positions – either horizontal or tipped back at an angle so the workpiece rests against the frame of the workbench. The tops are designed so that with one fitted in the correct slots, you can tip the Walko on its side and take advantage of a level surface allowing smaller sheet material to be cut to size.

Open the Walko out and place it on the floor and the small feet on the frame keep it up so that you can lay big sheets on it to work on. There are plastic sacrificial strips on the face of each leg, so you don't have to worry about cutting into the frame itself when sizing sheets.

Of course, space is a premium for most of us, so if you can't lay the Walko down you can position it against a wall and use it as a wall saw, clipping the table-tops or optional brackets onto it to support the work. Additional wall-mounting brackets are available to keep it securely mounted. In this position you can also make good use of it for additional shelving if you don't need to use it.

The aluminium boxy construction has a flat-back edge so you can clamp anything to it very easily, which is what lends it so well to a guide rail system. It's pretty compact when folded and weighs 15kg, so it's easy to transport, especially with the built-in handle.

And it's this portability that makes the Walko worth laying out for – particularly if you need a decent portable bench *and* a cutting solution for sheets. A pair of trestles gets you halfway there, but this covers the bases perfectly, needing only a wall to cut things if space is really tight, but more importantly supporting the work fully for increased safety however you're cutting it.

If you look beyond the price and appreciate what you can do with a neat solution like this, the cost factor diminishes in favour of the demands of usefulness. 🛠️



▲ In 'A' frame mode you get a large surface area for assembly or to clamp work to



▲ With a panel in place you can clamp a guide rail directly to the Walko for easy cutting



▲ The brackets adjust to two positions to sit horizontally or to tip back and retain a 90° position to the legs

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Versatile and space saving
- Expensive; additional brackets and clamps are extra

Rating ★★★★★

Typical Price: £420

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