

■ MACHINES

High-end bandsaw that won't break the budget

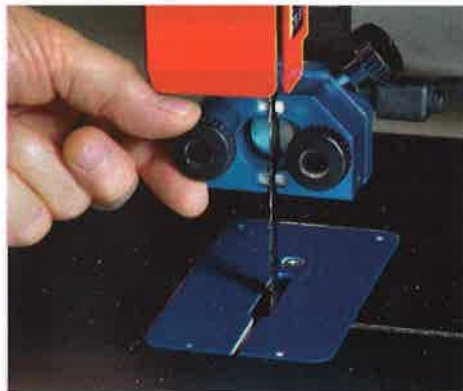
14-in. bandsaw by Laguna

Model: 14/Twelve \$1,097; mobility kit (\$150) and worklight (\$100) sold as accessories
lagunatools.com

LAST WINTER, WHILE TOURING with The Woodworking Shows, I saw a prototype of the Laguna 14/Twelve bandsaw and was impressed. Now, after using a production model of the saw for a few weeks in my own shop, I highly recommend it.

First off, I like the scale of this machine. It's compact, yet you get a 14-in. throat and generous 12-in. resaw capacity. The 16-in. by 21½-in. table rivals that of many larger bandsaws, and the massive trunnions keep the table stable, even when tilted.

The 1¾-hp motor has plenty of power, and it works on 120-volt circuits (can be rewired for 240 volts). Stout cast-iron wheels, with polyurethane tires, provide vibration-free inertia and smooth operation.



Uncommon features. Laguna's new bandsaw has high-end ceramic guides that are easy to set, and a throat plate that can be leveled to ensure smooth sliding.

What I really like about the saw is that it comes with easy-to-set ceramic guides. These high-end guides are not typically found on bandsaws in this price range, a nod to the value inherent in this machine. The super-stout upper guide post works smoothly and moves accurately throughout its travel, a boon for resawing.

The saw's 5½-in.-tall fence is perfect for resawing, but it's

easily flipped down for ripping too. I found the table-mounted scale to be very accurate when referencing the fence. Dust collection is great, thanks to a 4-in. port just below and behind the lower guides.

Other small details that add big benefits include a window in the upper frame that makes it easy to track the blade. Laguna also placed a convenient electrical outlet on the back of the saw for a worklight. Finally, the oversize throat plate features leveling screws so there are no hang-ups while you saw.

All in all, this is a well-engineered bandsaw with big-time features at an affordable price. The mobility kit (\$150) and worklight (\$100) are options worth considering.

—Roland Johnson, contributing editor, is a bandsaw connoisseur.

