

Miter Saws A to Z

By Jim Burke

Been thinking about a new miter saw? Here's a look of the latest models that will help improve your production and efficiency.

Even though the miter saw has long been a mainstay in the backrooms of most custom frame shops, the models that are on the market keep changing, making advances in design and giving the framing businesses more variety. Even since last year, the market has changed. Some new saws have been introduced, while some of the older models are no longer available.

The following survey of today's miter saws is listed alphabetically by manufacturer and brand name, with saws ranging from basic models to automated production machines. There are a surprising number and variety of miter saws from which to choose, no matter what level fits your cutting needs.

Because many of the double miter saws today are made offshore, they are listed with metric-sized blades. Generally a model 250 or 300 designation means that the saw has 250mm or 300mm blades. To translate these sizes into English system diameters, remember that 1" is approximately 25mm. So, a 250mm blade is almost 10", a 300mm blade is almost 12", a 350mm blade is almost 14", and a 400mm size is almost 16" in diameter. Every 50mm is equivalent to a 2" larger diameter.

Alfa Automation

This European company has a long history of manufacturing production saws, robotic joiners, and tab machines for large factories. Its products are just now becoming available in the US. It offers both manual pneumatic saws as well as fully automatic, self-feeding production saws under the name Alfa Automation USA.

- **Model T2350** uses 350mm blades with vertical drop technology to reduce the knockout to as little as 1/16". It comes with a standard measuring gauge with manual stops and will cut mouldings up to 3-1/8" tall by 3-1/8" wide.
- **Model T2400** uses 400mm blades and is similar to the T2350 except that it will cut up to 4" wide.
- **Model T2400+Auto Gauge** is a combination of the T2400 saw and computerized measuring system, capable of integrating with bar code readers and a customer's computer software. Available in 70" or 94" lengths, it automatically measures the moulding width and adjusts accordingly for length.
- **Model T300 Automatica** or T350 Automatica are fully automatic production saws that can

be paired with either a vertical or a horizontal hopper system for the automatic infeed of moulding to the saw. Cut pieces are fed by the saw to a takeaway system, such as a con-



Alfa Automation T-300 Automatica

veyor belt system or a hopper. The T300 Auto will cut 2-1/8" tall by 2" wide while the T350 Auto cuts 2-1/8" tall by 3" wide. Both are capable of cutting up to 500 frames per hour for 4"x6" size and slightly less for larger sizes.

Cassese

Cassese saws and choppers have been sold in the U.S. for many years, and there are several models to choose from.

- **Model CS55M** is a manual foot-operated chopper that cuts both angles with a double set of blades. With reversible blades,

it will cut up to 2-3/4" wide or with standard blades, up to 4" wide. A 72" color scale is available, with 40" being standard.

- **Model CS969** automatic double miter saw brings the blades above the moulding, similar to a radial arm saw, using independent



Casese CS969

pneumatic operation. This allows for almost zero waste. It cuts mouldings up to 4-3/8" tall by 6-3/8" wide. It also has a fully enclosed cabinet with dust extraction at the blades and is available in 220V single phase or 220V 3-phase 2 hp motors. Pneumatic horizontal and vertical clamps are standard.

- **Model CS999** is a vertical drop double miter saw with 14" blades

for cutting mouldings up to 4" tall by 3-1/4" wide at a rate up to 1000 cuts per hour (250 frames/hour). It is available with either 220V or 380V 3-phase electrical and features stable speed controls for the down stroke as well as adjustable blade height to increase productivity. The standard 58" measurement gauge has options to extend up to 136".

- **Smartstop** is an automatic digital measuring system for any Casese saw. The system automatically measures moulding width and adjusts for length. The system stores up to 800 moulding programs and 80 frame sizes and is available in 72" or 96" ranges.

Clearmount

Clearmount is now a division of Craft Inc., but it still sells the same three models of miter chop saw measuring systems and complete chop saws as before.

- **Model SW6** is 66" long and measures up to 41" on one side. The fence is a single extrusion that mounts on top of the saw.
- **Model SW7** is 88" overall, measuring 41" on either side of the saw.

The rabbet of the moulding faces outward on all of the Clearmount systems to allow cutting wider mouldings.

- **Model SW7-1** is also 88" long but mounts offset to allow measuring up to 64" on one side.
- **Model SW11** is a complete saw system with an overall length of 134". The scales allow measuring up to 64" on each side of the saw. The complete saw comes with measurement stop, clamps, and saw with a 10" blade.



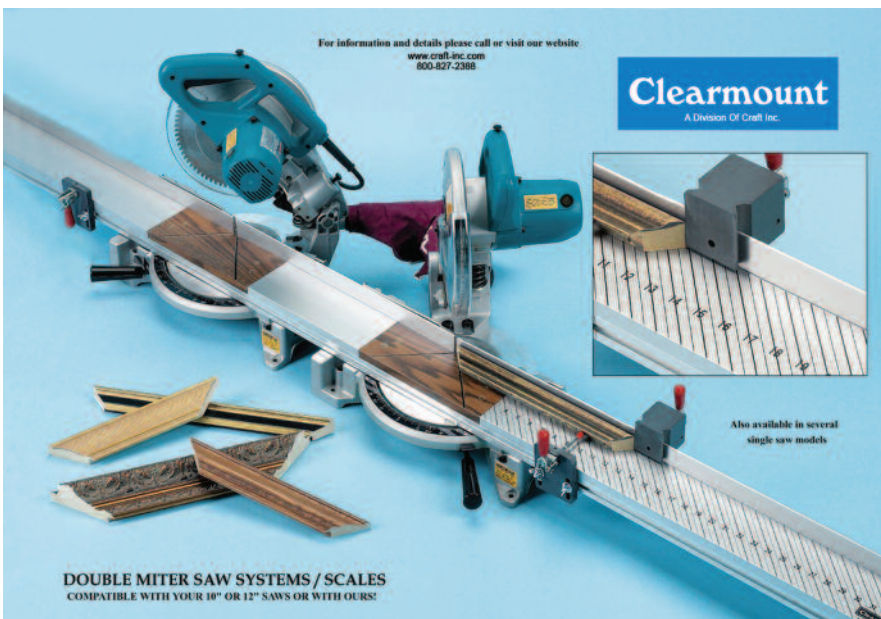
Clearmount SW11-2

- **Model SW11-2** is a double saw system that has the scale set for measuring 64" to the right of the second saw. The left side is a plain infed table, enabling the first 45-degree cut on the left saw and the second cut with the right saw, after sliding the moulding to the stop. This system includes two saws with 10" blades.

CTD

CTD offers many models of saws for a wide range of picture framing applications.

- **Model D20R** is a manually operated single-double miter saw. Right and left saw heads individually operate on a common base that uses 12" blades to cut up to 3" high by 5-3/4" wide mouldings. It is available with 115V 1-hp motors, with 220V single-phase optional as



well as a dust and scrap drawer.

- **Model D45AX** is a pneumatic double miter saw of the swing arm variety with 12" blades. Pneumatic



CTD D45AX2

clamps are optional as is the measuring system. The 12" model will cut mouldings 4" tall by 2-1/2" wide or 3-1/4" wide if the overall height is less.

- **Model D45AX14** is a larger version of the D45AX, using 14" blades for a wider cut up to 6" wide by 2" tall, or 4" tall when moulding is less than 3" wide. CTD cutting charts show complete coverage.
- **Model DMC70 "Miter Max"** is a 13" 45-degree double miter crosscut saw. Available as a Model H (hand operated) or Model A (pneumatically actuated), this saw can cut moulding up to 4" high by 8" wide. This saw has two 1-1/2 hp motors, single-phase 220V power, with a dust drawer and 4" outlets to connect a dust collector.
- **Model PF45** is an automatic push feed saw system designed with in-feed hopper and automatic saw activation for high production using the D45AX saw. The linear positioner push feeds the moulding to predetermined lengths for automatic cutting.

Fletcher-Terry AMP

Fletcher-Terry AMP has consolidated its saw line to a single model, a pneumatic double miter saw.

- **Model T400** is a vertical drop double miter saw with 15.7" blades



Fletcher-Terry AMP T400

(400mm). It is available with 230/400V 3-phase motors that can cut up to 800 cuts per hour. The blade descent is adjustable in speed

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and position for quicker cutting. Dual stops are standard for cutting both rail dimensions. Four vertical pneumatic clamps hold the moulding firmly while cutting. An optional Auto Gauge digital stop allows precise measuring and automatic positioning with programmed rail lengths.

Inmes

Inmes saws are available in various configurations, from single miter pivot saws to double miter saws and wide-cutting slide saws. They are now being sold by Omega Moulding.

- **Model IM-30MP** is a single pivoting chop saw on a cabinet base and with an independent dust collector system. The model also includes infeed and outfeed arms to support the moulding. The calibrated scale measures to 47" and includes the production stop and two pneumatic clamps to secure the moulding while cutting. Using a 300mm blade, it will cut up to 2-7/8" high by 4" wide profiles.
- **Model IM-300P** is a pneumatic double miter saw with swing arms enclosed in a full cabinet with a dust collector included. Both blades actuate with a single pneumatic



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Inmes IM-30MP

ic foot pedal. It has two 1-1/2 hp 220V single-phase motors with 12" blades to cut up to 3-3/16" high by 3-3/16" wide mouldings.

- **Model IM-300PL** is similar to the IM-300P but includes independent action of each blade with dual foot pedals. This brings scrap loss down to almost zero for cutting wider mouldings up to 3-3/16" high by 5-5/8" wide. Both blades

can be actuated at the same time for smaller profiles and quicker cuts. Outfeed measuring on both models is 58" on the right-hand calibrated scale.

- **Model IM-350P** is a bottom cut, sliding-style saw that can cut up to 8" wide by 4" tall mouldings. It is available as a manually actuated saw (IM-350M) as well as the pneumatic actuation of each blade individually on the IM-350P. This saw uses two 2 hp 220V single-phase motors and 14" blades. An inside dust and scrap drawer is standard, but an external chute that exits to the rear of the saw is available. It is also equipped with infeed and outfeed arms with calibrated scales up to 50" on each side.

Miter-Master

Miter-Master saw offers single and

double-miter chop saw systems as well as a universal measuring fence to mount on your saw.

- **Model M60** is a single 10" miter chop saw with calibrated 45-degree stops added for accuracy. Multi-matic clamps hold down the moulding for hands-free cutting. The blade cut path has been moved forward for safer cutting and the rabbett faces towards the saw. The saw comes with a 10" carbide blade designed to cut wood or aluminum profiles. The infeed support is 48", with a 60" measuring scale to the right. The adjustable stop can be calibrated to include a fitting allowance if desired.
- **Model M50** is a double 10" miter chop saw system with two chop saws on a common measuring table for faster cutting. The two saws remain fixed at 45-degree angles on

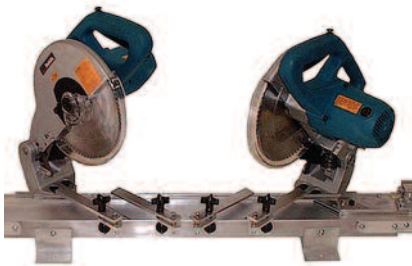
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Miter-Master M50

each side, resulting in better accuracy than a single saw. Infeed and outfeed supports are 60" long. Multi-matic clamps are mounted for both saws, and it uses the same sliding stop with calibration.

- **Model M100 Universal** is a stand-alone measuring bench designed to connect to a saw with either a 10" or 12" blade. It has built-in clamps and measuring scales. Saw and blade are sold separately. Its assembled length is 11'.

Morso

Morso choppers have an extensive history and are available from several sources. There are two main models to choose from.

- **Model F** is the standard foot-operated chopper with double 45-degree blades and adjustable front fence. It



Morso

comes equipped with safety guard, waste chute, sliding longitudinal stop, and a 59" measuring scale. As

with all choppers, it has adjustable rabbet supports. It is capable of maximum cuts of 5-3/4" high by 4" wide profiles.

- **Model H** is a semi-automatic pneumatic mitring machine with a two-hand release built in, which makes it impossible to operate the machine and touch the blades at the same time. All specs are the same as the Model F, with a safety guard, waste chute, etc.

Nicoletti

Nicoletti has two double miter saw models available in two different styles.

- **Model T350** is a vertical drop saw available with 12" or 14" blades, 2-1/2 hp motors, 220/480V 3-phase electrical and dual dust ports in the enclosed

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Nicoletti T350

cabinet. Standard 60" infeed and outfeed tables with extension are available. Production rates are 40 to 50 cycles per minute, which translates into 2,400 to 3,000 cycles per hour. Actual cut times will be lower due to moulding feed rates, etc. Maximum moulding width for the 12" blades is 3.2" and for the 14" blades it is 4".

- **Model T2000** is an adjustable-angle double miter saw that cuts from the bottom and traverses across the miter cut. Cutting capacity is 4" high by 6" wide with built-in clamps. A double thumb switch controls saw activation. The totally enclosed cabinet has dual 4" dust ports and a waste chute in the back. This saw has two 3 hp motors with 220/440V 3-phase operation.

Omga

Omga Saws are based in Indiana and service the industrial and production framing markets directly.

- **Model V235** is the latest generation double miter saw from Omga with 350mm blades (13.75") and 2 hp motors that can be ordered as 208, 230 or 460V 3-phase. The measuring system can have manual flipover stops or pneumatic flip stops, with various outfeed table lengths. Maximum cutting is 3" high by 3-9/16" wide. This saw can also be mated to the Omga Stop system.
- **Omga Stop** is a numerically controlled stop system available in lengths from 6.5 to 30' for either right or lefthand measuring and can be fit to many dif-



Omga V235

ferent saws. It can also connect to bar code readers and includes software for Pusher, Stop, or Picture Frame applications.

- **Model V235 NC** is a production version of the V235 saw with a

For More Information

Alfa Automation USA
Cassese
Clearmount Saws
CTD Saws
Fletcher-Terry AMP
Inmes saws
Miter Master Saws
Morso Choppers
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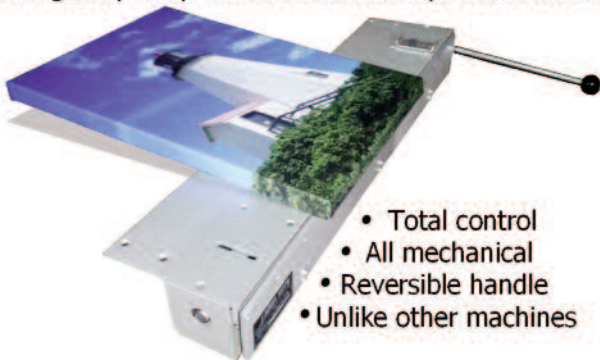
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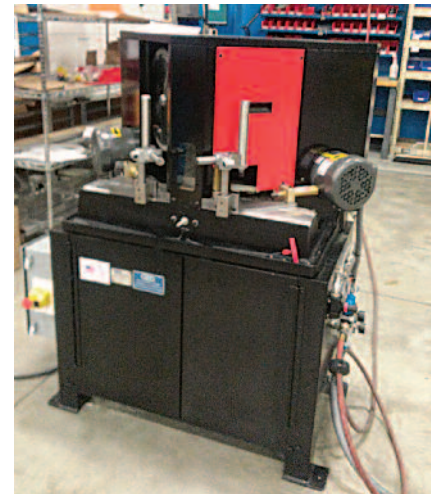
hopper-fed pusher to feed moulding to the saw. The system is fitted with a guidance computer for optimized cutting with various moulding lengths to maximize yield for each stick. Infeed hoppers can be horizontal or vertical. The computer has zero setup time for changes in the cutting list. Depending on several variables, the output of the system ranges from 1,000 to 1,500 pieces per hour. Maximum cutting is 2-3/4" high by 3-9/16" wide.

- Model **V2013 NC** and **V2015 NC** production saw systems raise the production rates to a higher level. Totally automatic hopper feed systems and fast-acting saws integrated with computers are able to reach production speeds of up to 1,000 frames per hour on the V2015 NC system. Maximum cutting on the V2013 is 2-3/8" high by 2-3/8" wide while the V2015 NC handles profiles up to 1-31/32" high by 1-3/8" wide.

Tem-Tech Machinery

Tem-Tech has a new double miter saw, **Model MN14**, that features

pneumatic horizontal and vertical clamping, a total enclosure with four dust ports, 2 hp motors (230/460V 3-phase operation), and manual stop or CNC positioning. It can cut up to 6" wide and 4" high using 14" (355mm) blades,



Tem-Tech MN14

and has external speed control. There's also an optional digital positioning system, which also works with some other brands of saws.

Universal Products

Universal Products has two models, including a new one being introduced this year.

- **Model DY103** is a double miter saw with individual action on each arm for near zero waste. Using 14" blades powered by 1-1/2 hp motors, this saw can cut

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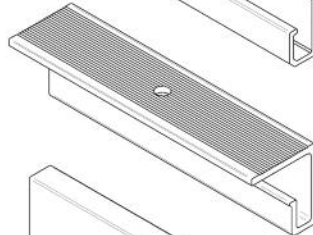
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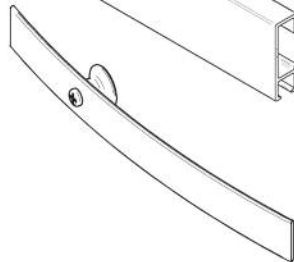
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Universal DY105

up to 6" to 7" wide, depending on the overall profile shape. The outfeed measuring fence is 103" long and has pneumatic vertical clamps. Dust collection is included in the enclosed cabinet.

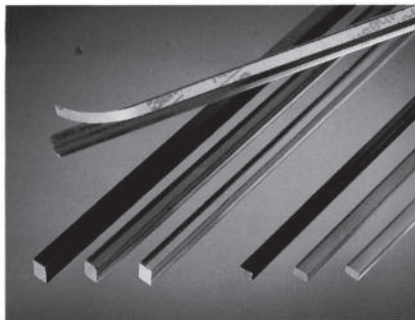
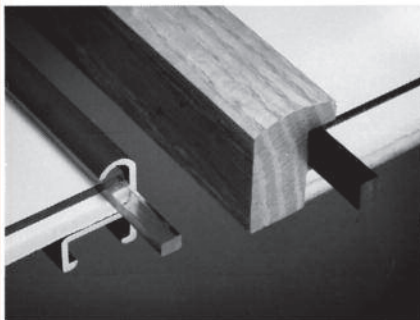
- **Model DY105** is a traditional vertical-drop double miter saw with 14" blades powered by 1-1/2 hp motors. This saw can cut up to 4" wide moulding. The blades are mounted on pivoting arms for quick actuation. It also includes vertical pneumatic clamps and internal dust collection within the enclosed cabinet.

Pistorius Parts

No article on saws today would be complete without a mention about spare parts for Pistorius and service for that brand. Two companies offer these parts and service:

- JIJ Company, 1488 Deer Park Ave., North Babylon, NY 11703. Tel: 631-772-9901
- Tem-Tech Machinery, 7801 Industrial Dr., Spring Grove, IL. Tel: 219-242-9312. ■

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