

Kit & Tools



▲ On smaller joints the saws cut quickly and smoothly

Veritas carcass saws

Cutting performance wins out over style

In my day saws were sold in two flavours: tenon and dovetail. There are other types, sure, but they were few and far between. Across the pond, however, they seem to favour a more exotic system of nomenclature, hence the 'carcass saw' from Veritas. I should point out at this stage that I always taught this spelling was limited to butchery, with 'carcase' being used for wood, but I suppose that, like Americans, Canadians can't spell...

Anyway, there are two varieties of this saw: a crosscut at 14 tpi, and a rip at 12tpi - almost a buy one, get one free situation, as you could buy both of them for about the same price as a 'premium' saw. They're along the same lines as Veritas' excellent dovetail saws, sharing their stainless steel powder and glassfibre resin composite for the back, and bubinga pistol grip handle. They therefore offer the same comfortable drive when during use.

Both versions have a 280mm (11in) blade, with a cutting depth of 60mm (2 $\frac{3}{8}$ in). Where there is a difference is in the pitch of the teeth. The aggressive requirements of a rip means the front angle is set at 10°, where the crosscut's is set to 15° for a smoother, more

controlled cut. Set on both saws is minimal, so they track beautifully, and although machine-filed, are as sharp as hand filed saw.

I had to cut a few tenons in ash for a future project, as well as the dovetails for the benchtop build, so was presented with the perfect opportunity to use the saws.

With the rake knocked back on the rip, the rip cut starts well without grabbing like some saws with bolt upright rip-filed teeth. It means a stroke or two more for the cut as it's less aggressive, but the initial control is better. The crosscut saw is equal in performance, and leaves a very clean cut on the shoulderline without a knife line. It's pretty speedy as well.

These saws are very much 'function over form': they're very utilitarian, and the closest



▲ Thick stock and deep cuts can take longer as the saws lack the weight of brass-backed models

thing to an embellishment is the indication of the tooth type on the blade. But when it boils down to performance, they're equal to their high-end brass backed counterparts.

They lack the weight of a big brass back, though, so sometimes you do feel the need to lean on the saw to try and get it to cut more quickly in bigger stock (for which a bit more time is required). Neither saw really requires this, though, as they cut perfectly without it; it's just that you end up doing it instinctively.

While these saws may lack the 'wow' factor of their flashier counterparts, they're a reminder that plain looks don't necessarily mean middling performance. Veritas puts performance before appearance in all its products, so while these saws may not be the most beautiful you'll have seen, at the end of the day what really matters is how well they work not how smart they look. 🛠️

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Razor sharp, comfortable
- lack weight for bigger joints

Rating ★★★★★

Typical prices: **£58.96 (each)**

Length: 150mm

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