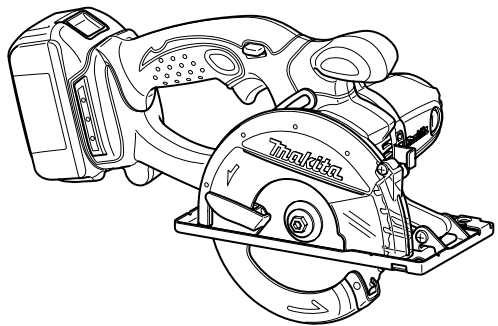


INSTRUCTION MANUAL



Cordless Metal Cutter

DCS550



007522

IMPORTANT: Read Before Using.

ENGLISH (Original instructions)

SPECIFICATIONS

Model	DCS550
Blade diameter	136 mm
Max. Cutting depth	51 mm
No load speed (min ⁻¹)	3,600
Overall length	348 mm
Net weight	2.6 kg
Rated voltage	D.C. 18 V

- Due to our continuing program of research and development, the specifications herein are subject to change without notice.
- Specifications and battery cartridge may differ from country to country.
- Weight, with battery cartridge, according to EPTA-Procedure 01/2003

END004-6

Symbols

The following show the symbols used for the equipment. Be sure that you understand their meaning before use.



- Read instruction manual.



- Only for EU countries

Do not dispose of electric equipment or battery pack together with household waste material!

In observance of the European Directives, on Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment and Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators and their implementation in accordance with national laws, electric equipment and batteries and battery pack(s) that have reached the end of their life must be collected separately and returned to an environmentally compatible recycling facility.

ENE066-1

Intended use

The tool is intended for cutting in mild steel and aluminum only with appropriate saw blades.

ENG905-1

Noise

The typical A-weighted noise level determined according to EN60745:

Sound pressure level (L_{pA}) : 78 dB (A)

Uncertainty (K) : 3 dB (A)

The noise level under working may exceed 80 dB (A).

Wear ear protection

ENG900-1

Vibration

The vibration total value (tri-axial vector sum) determined according to EN60745:

Work mode : cutting metal

Vibration emission ($a_{h,M}$) : 2.5 m/s²

Uncertainty (K) : 1.5 m/s²

ENG901-1

- The declared vibration emission value has been measured in accordance with the standard test method and may be used for comparing one tool with another.
- The declared vibration emission value may also be used in a preliminary assessment of exposure.

⚠WARNING:

- The vibration emission during actual use of the power tool can differ from the declared emission value depending on the ways in which the tool is used.
- Be sure to identify safety measures to protect the operator that are based on an estimation of exposure in the actual conditions of use (taking account of all parts of the operating cycle such as the times when the tool is switched off and when it is running idle in addition to the trigger time).

ENH101-16

For European countries only

EC Declaration of Conformity

We Makita Corporation as the responsible manufacturer declare that the following Makita machine(s):

Designation of Machine:

Cordless Metal Cutter

Model No./ Type: DCS550

are of series production and

Conforms to the following European Directives:

2006/42/EC

And are manufactured in accordance with the following standards or standardised documents:

EN60745

The technical documentation is kept by:
Makita International Europe Ltd.
Technical Department,
Michigan Drive, Tongwell,
Milton Keynes, Bucks MK15 8JD, England

30.1.2009



000230

Tomoyasu Kato
Director
Makita Corporation
3-11-8, Sumiyoshi-cho,
Anjo, Aichi, 446-8502, JAPAN

GEA006-2

General Power Tool Safety Warnings

⚠ WARNING Read all safety warnings and all instructions. Failure to follow the warnings and instructions 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

1. **Keep work area clean and well lit.** Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
2. **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.
3. **Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool.** Distractions can cause you to lose control.

Electrical safety

4. **Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools.** Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of electric shock.
5. **Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators.** There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.
6. **Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.** Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.

7. **Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts.** Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
8. **When operating a power tool outdoors, use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use.** Use of a cord suitable for outdoor use reduces the risk of electric shock.
9. **If operating a power tool in a damp location is unavoidable, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected supply.** Use of an GFCI reduces the risk of electric shock.

Personal safety

10. **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.
11. **Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection.** Protective equipment such as dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.** This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations.
15. **Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair, clothing, and gloves away from moving parts.** Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
16. **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.

Power tool use and care

17. **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.

18. **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.
19. **Disconnect the plug from the power source and/or the battery pack 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.
20. **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.
21. **Maintain power tools. 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.
22. **Keep cutting tools sharp and clean.** Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
23. **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.

Battery tool use and care

24. **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.
25. **Use power tools only with specifically designated battery packs.** Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire.
26. **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.
27. **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.

Service

28. **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.

29. **Follow instruction for lubricating and changing accessories.**
30. **Keep handles dry, clean and free from oil and grease.**

GEB058-3

CORDLESS METAL CUTTER SAFETY WARNINGS

Cutting procedures

1. **⚠ DANGER: Keep hands away from cutting area and the blade. Keep your second hand on auxiliary handle, or motor housing.** If both hands are holding the tool, they cannot be cut by blade.
2. **Do not reach underneath the workpiece.** The guard cannot protect you from the blade below the workpiece.
3. **Adjust the cutting depth to the thickness of the workpiece.** Less than a full tooth of the blade teeth should be visible below the workpiece.
4. **Never hold piece being cut in your hands or across your leg. Secure the workpiece to a stable platform.** It is important to support the work properly to minimize body exposure, blade binding, or loss of control.
5. **Hold power tool by insulated gripping surfaces only, when performing an operation where the cutting tool may contact hidden wiring.** Contact with a "live" wire will also make exposed metal parts of the power tool "live" and could give the operator an electric shock.
6. **When ripping, always use a rip fence or straight edge guide.** This improves the accuracy of cut and reduces the chance of blade binding.
7. **Always use blades with correct size and shape (diamond versus round) of arbour holes.** Blades that do not match the mounting hardware of the tool will run eccentrically, causing loss of control.
8. **Never use damaged or incorrect blade washers or bolt.** The blade washers and bolt were specially designed for your tool, for optimum performance and safety of operation.

Kickback causes and related warnings

- Kickback is a sudden reaction to a pinched, bound or misaligned blade, causing an uncontrolled tool to lift up and out of the workpiece toward the operator.
- When the blade is pinched or bound tightly by the kerf closing down, the blade stalls and the motor reaction drives the unit rapidly back toward the operator.
- If the blade becomes twisted or misaligned in the cut, the teeth at the back edge of the blade can dig into the top surface of the workpiece causing the blade to climb out of the kerf and jump back toward the operator.

Kickback is the result of tool misuse and/or incorrect operating procedures or conditions and can be avoided by taking proper precautions as given below.

9. **Maintain a firm grip with both hands on the tool and position your arms to resist kickback forces. Position your body to either side of the blade, but not in line with the blade.** Kickback could cause the tool to jump backwards, but kickback forces can be controlled by the operator, if proper precautions are taken.
10. **When blade is binding, or when interrupting a cut for any reason, release the trigger and hold the tool motionless in the material until the blade comes to a complete stop. Never attempt to remove the tool from the work or pull the tool backward while the blade is in motion or kickback may occur.** Investigate and take corrective actions to eliminate the cause of blade binding.
11. **When restarting a tool in the workpiece, center the blade in the kerf and check that blade teeth are not engaged into the material.** If blade is binding, it may walk up or kickback from the workpiece as the tool is restarted.
12. **Support large panels to minimise the risk of blade pinching and kickback.** Large panels tend to sag under their own weight. Supports must be placed under the panel on both sides, near the line of cut and near the edge of the panel.
13. **Do not use dull or damaged blades.** Unsharpened or improperly set blades produce narrow kerf causing excessive friction, blade binding and kickback.
14. **Blade depth and bevel adjusting locking levers must be tight and secure before making cut.** If blade adjustment shifts while cutting, it may cause binding and kickback.
15. **Use extra caution when making a "plunge cut" into existing walls or other blind areas.** The protruding blade may cut objects that can cause kickback. For plunge cuts, retract lower guard using retracting handle.

Lower guard function

16. **Check lower guard for proper closing before each use. Do not operate the tool if lower guard does not move freely and close instantly. Never clamp or tie the lower guard into the open position.** If tool is accidentally dropped, lower guard may be bent. Raise the lower guard with the retracting lever and make sure it moves freely and does not touch the blade or any other part, in all angles and depths of cut.
17. **Check the operation and condition of the lower guard spring. If the guard and the**

spring are not operating properly, they must be serviced before use. Lower guard may operate sluggishly due to damaged parts, gummy deposits, or a buildup of debris.

18. **Lower guard may be retracted manually only for special cuts such as "plunge cuts" and "compound cuts". Raise lower guard by retracting handle and as soon as blade enters the material, the lower guard must be released.** For all other sawing, the lower guard should operate automatically.
19. **Always observe that the lower guard is covering the blade before placing tool down on bench or floor.** An unprotected, coasting blade will cause the tool to walk backwards, cutting whatever is in its path. Be aware of the time it takes for the blade to stop after switch is released.
20. **To check lower guard, open lower guard by hand, then release and watch guard closure. Also check to see that retracting handle does not touch tool housing.** Leaving blade exposed is VERY DANGEROUS and can lead to serious personal injury.

Additional safety warnings

21. **Do not stop the blades by lateral pressure on the blade.**
22. **DANGER:**
Do not attempt to remove cut material when blade is moving.
CAUTION: Blades coast after turn off.
23. **Place the wider portion of the tool base on that part of the workpiece which is solidly supported, not on the section that will fall off when the cut is made.**
24. **Never attempt to make a cut with the tool held upside down in a vise. This is extremely dangerous and can lead to serious accidents.**
25. **Wear safety goggles and hearing protection during operation.**
26. **Always use blades recommended in this manual. Do not use any abrasive wheels.**

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

⚠WARNING:

DO NOT let comfort or familiarity with product (gained from repeated use) replace strict adherence to safety rules for the subject product. **MISUSE** or failure to follow the safety rules stated in this instruction manual may cause serious personal injury.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

FOR BATTERY CARTRIDGE

1. Before using battery cartridge, read all instructions and cautionary markings on (1) battery charger, (2) battery, and (3) product using battery.
2. Do not disassemble battery cartridge.
3. If operating time has become excessively shorter, stop operating immediately. It may result in a risk of overheating, possible burns and even an explosion.
4. If electrolyte gets into your eyes, rinse them out with clear water and seek medical attention right away. It may result in loss of your eyesight.
5. Do not short the battery cartridge:
 - (1) Do not touch the terminals with any conductive material.
 - (2) Avoid storing battery cartridge in a container with other metal objects such as nails, coins, etc.
 - (3) Do not expose battery cartridge to water or rain.

A battery short can cause a large current flow, overheating, possible burns and even a breakdown.
6. Do not store the tool and battery cartridge in locations where the temperature may reach or exceed 50 ° C (122 ° F).
7. Do not incinerate the battery cartridge even if it is severely damaged or is completely worn out. The battery cartridge can explode in a fire.
8. Be careful not to drop or strike battery.
9. Do not use a damaged battery.
10. Follow your local regulations relating to disposal of battery.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

Tips for maintaining maximum battery life

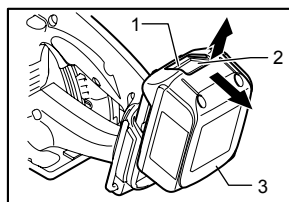
1. Charge the battery cartridge before completely discharged.
Always stop tool operation and charge the battery cartridge when you notice less tool power.
2. Never recharge a fully charged battery cartridge. Overcharging shortens the battery service life.
3. Charge the battery cartridge with room temperature at 10 ° C - 40 ° C (50 ° F - 104 ° F). Let a hot battery cartridge cool down before charging it.
4. Charge the battery cartridge once in every six months if you do not use it for a long period of time.

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

⚠CAUTION:

- Always be sure that the tool is switched off and the battery cartridge is removed before adjusting or checking function on the tool.

Installing or removing battery cartridge



014166

1. Red indicator
2. Button
3. Battery cartridge

⚠CAUTION:

- Always switch off the tool before installing or removing of the battery cartridge.
- **Hold the tool and the battery cartridge firmly when installing or removing battery cartridge.** Failure to hold the tool and the battery cartridge firmly may cause them to slip off your hands and result in damage to the tool and battery cartridge and a personal injury.

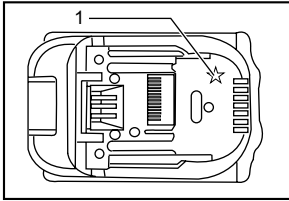
To remove the battery cartridge, slide it from the tool while sliding the button on the front of the cartridge.

To install the battery cartridge, align the tongue on the battery cartridge with the groove in the housing and slip it into place. Insert it all the way until it locks in place with a little click. If you can see the red indicator on the upper side of the button, it is not locked completely.

⚠CAUTION:

- Always install the battery cartridge fully until the red indicator cannot be seen. If not, it may accidentally fall out of the tool, causing injury to you or someone around you.
- Do not install the battery cartridge forcibly. If the cartridge does not slide in easily, it is not being inserted correctly.

Battery protection system (Lithium-ion battery with star marking)



1. Star marking

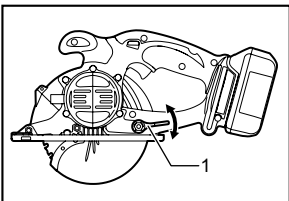
012128

Lithium-ion batteries with a star marking are equipped with a protection system. This system automatically cuts off power to the tool to extend battery life.

The tool will automatically stop during operation if the tool and/or battery are placed under one of the following conditions:

- **Overloaded:**
The tool is operated in a manner that causes it to draw an abnormally high current. In this situation, release the switch trigger on the tool and stop the application that caused the tool to become overloaded. Then pull the switch trigger again to restart. If the tool does not start, the battery is overheated. In this situation, let the battery cool before pulling the switch trigger again.
- **Low battery voltage:**
The remaining battery capacity is too low and the tool will not operate. In this situation, remove and recharge the battery.

Adjusting depth of cut



1. Lever

007524

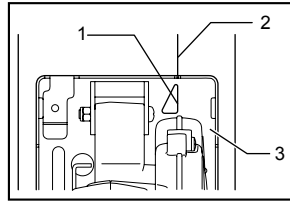
CAUTION:

- After adjusting the depth of cut, always tighten the lever securely.

Loosen the lever on the side of the rear handle and move the base up or down. At the desired depth of cut, secure the base by tightening the lever.

For cleaner, safer cuts, set cut depth so that no more than one blade tooth projects below workpiece. Using proper cut depth helps to reduce potential for dangerous KICKBACKS which can cause personal injury.

Sighting

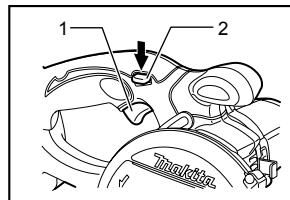


1. A position
2. Cutting line
3. Base

007525

When cutting, align the A position on the front of the base with your cutting line on the workpiece.

Switch action



1. Switch trigger
2. Lock-off lever

007526

CAUTION:

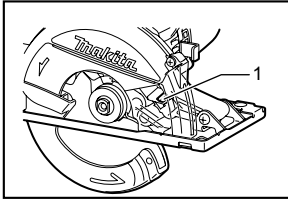
- Before inserting the battery cartridge into the tool, always check to see that the switch trigger actuates properly and returns to the "OFF" position when released.
- Do not pull the switch trigger hard without pressing the lock-off lever. This can cause switch breakage.

To prevent the switch trigger from being accidentally pulled, a lock-off lever is provided. To start the tool, press the lock-off lever and pull the switch trigger. Release the switch trigger to stop.

WARNING:

- For your safety, this tool is equipped with lock-off lever which prevents the tool from unintended starting. NEVER use the tool if it runs when you simply pull the switch trigger without pressing the lock-off lever. Return tool a MAKITA service center for proper repairs BEFORE further usage.
- NEVER tape down or defeat purpose and function of lock-off lever.

Lighting the lamp



1. Lamp

007527

⚠CAUTION:

- Do not look in the light or see the source of light directly.

Only to turn on the light, pull the switch trigger without pressing the lock-off lever. To turn on the light and run the tool, press the lock-off lever and pull the switch trigger with the lock-off lever being pressed.

NOTE:

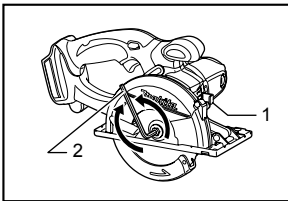
- Use a cotton stick to wipe the dirt off the lens of lamp. Be careful not to scratch the lens of lamp, or it may lower the illumination.
- Do not use gasoline, thinner or the like to clean the lens of lamp. Using such substances will damage the lens.

ASSEMBLY

⚠CAUTION:

- Always be sure that the tool is switched off and the battery cartridge is removed before carrying out any work on the tool.

Removing or installing blade



1. Shaft lock
2. Hex wrench

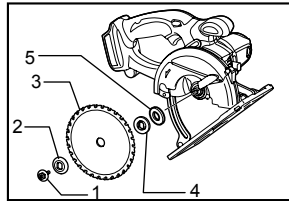
007528

⚠CAUTION:

- Be sure the blade is installed with teeth pointing up at the front of the tool.
- Use only the Makita wrench to install or remove the blade.

To remove the blade, press the shaft lock so that the blade cannot revolve and use the wrench to loosen the hex bolt counterclockwise. Then remove the hex bolt, outer flange and blade.

To install the blade, follow the removal procedure in reverse. **BE SURE TO TIGHTEN THE HEX BOLT CLOCKWISE SECURELY.**

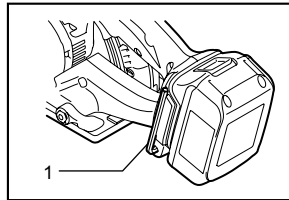


1. Hex bolt
2. Outer flange
3. Saw blade
4. Inner flange
5. Cup washer

007529

When changing blade, make sure to also clean upper and lower blade guards of accumulated chips and particles. Such efforts do not, however, replace the need to check lower guard operation before each use.

Hex wrench storage



1. Hex wrench

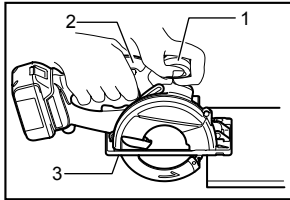
007530

When not in use, store the hex wrench as shown in the figure to keep it from being lost.

OPERATION

⚠CAUTION:

- Always insert the battery cartridge all the way until it locks in place. If you can see the red part on the upper side of the button, it is not locked completely. Insert it fully until the red part cannot be seen. If not, it may accidentally fall out of the tool, causing injury to you or someone around you.
- Be sure to move the tool forward in a straight line gently. Forcing or twisting the tool will result in overheating the motor and dangerous kickback, possibly causing severe injury.
- If the tool is operated continuously until the battery cartridge has discharged, allow the tool to rest for 15 minutes before proceeding with a fresh battery.
- Never twist or force the tool in the cut. This may cause motor overload and/or a dangerous kickback, resulting in serious injury to the operator.
- Always wear eye protection or goggle before operation.



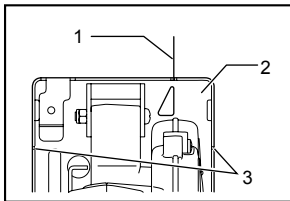
1. Front grip
2. Rear handle
3. Base

007531

Hold the tool firmly. The tool is provided with both a front grip and rear handle. Use both to best grasp the tool. If both hands are holding the tool, they cannot be cut by the blade. Set the base on the workpiece to be cut without the blade making any contact. Then turn the tool on and wait until the blade attains full speed. Now simply move the tool forward over the workpiece surface, keeping it flat and advancing smoothly until the cutting is completed.

To get clean cuts, keep your cutting line straight and your speed of advance uniform. If the cut fails to properly follow your intended cut line, do not attempt to turn or force the tool back to the cut line. Doing so may bind the blade and lead to dangerous kickback and possible serious injury. Release switch, wait for blade to stop and then withdraw tool. Realign tool on new cut line, and start cut again. Attempt to avoid positioning which exposes operator to chips and particles being ejected from the tool. Use eye protection to help avoid injury.

The sight grooves in the base makes it easy to check the distance between the front edge of the blade and the workpiece whenever the blade is set to the maximum depth of cut.



1. Cutting line
2. Base
3. Sight grooves

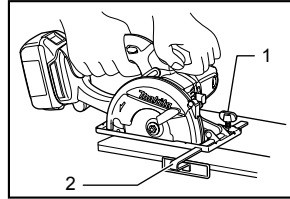
007534

⚠CAUTION:

- Do not use a deformed or cracked blade. Replace it with a new one.
- Do not stack materials when cutting them.
- Do not cut hardened steel, stainless steel, wood, plastics, concrete, tile, etc. **Cut only mild steel and aluminum.**
- Do not touch the blade, workpiece or cutting chips with your bare hand immediately after cutting, they may be extremely hot and could burn your skin.
- **Always use the blades appropriate for your job.** The use of inappropriate blades may cause a poor cutting performance and/or present a risk of

personal injury.

Rip fence (guide rule) (Accessory)



1. Clamping screw
2. Rip fence (Guide rule)

007532

The handy rip fence allows you to do extra-accurate straight cuts. Simply slide the rip fence up snugly against the side of the workpiece and secure it in position with the screw on the front of the base. It also makes repeated cuts of uniform width possible.

MAINTENANCE

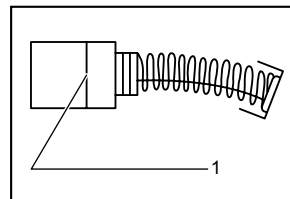
⚠CAUTION:

- Always be sure that the tool is switched off and the battery cartridge is removed before attempting to perform inspection or maintenance.
- Never use gasoline, benzine, thinner, alcohol or the like. Discoloration, deformation or cracks may result.

Inspecting blade

- Check the blade carefully for cracks or damage before and after each use. Replace a cracked or damaged blade immediately.
- Continuing to use a dull blade may cause a dangerous kickback and/or motor overload. Replace with a new blade as soon as it no longer cuts effectively.
- **Blades for metal cutter cannot be re-sharpened.**

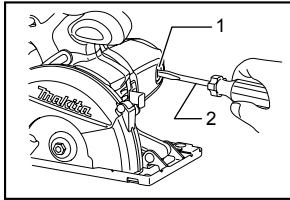
Replacing carbon brushes



1. Limit mark

001145

Remove and check the carbon brushes regularly. Replace when they wear down to the limit mark. Keep the carbon brushes clean and free to slip in the holders. Both carbon brushes should be replaced at the same time. Use only identical carbon brushes.



1. Brush holder cap
2. Screwdriver

007533

Use a screwdriver to remove the brush holder caps. Take out the worn carbon brushes, insert the new ones and secure the brush holder caps.

To maintain product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, any other maintenance or adjustment should be performed by Makita Authorized Service Centers, always using Makita replacement parts.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

⚠ CAUTION:

- These accessories or attachments are recommended for use with your Makita tool specified in this manual. The use of any other accessories or attachments might present a risk of injury to persons. Only use accessory or attachment for its stated purpose.

If you need any assistance for more details regarding these accessories, ask your local Makita Service Center.

- Carbide-tipped blades
- Rip fence (Guide rule)
- Thumb screw M5 x 20
- Compression spring 6
- Hex wrench 5
- Safety goggle
- Makita genuine battery and charger

NOTE:

- Some items in the list may be included in the tool package as standard accessories. They may differ from country to country.

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