

## Silverline 263524

**BEST  
CAR  
MECHANICS  
BUY**



Compared to many of the bigger units here, this one looks a little toy-like – but don't be fooled by appearances. The punchy 200 Watt motor drives the 6-inch stone wheels around effortlessly, making the grinder powerful enough for most DIY and automotive work. In fact, the only issue with the unit's compact size and weight is its stability if you press too hard while grinding. However, four holes drilled into the base allow permanent fitment to a suitable bench top. Other points we like are the budget basement price, the 2.3m lead, and the bevelled and easily-adjusted tool rests.

PRICE	£30.45
CONTACT	01935 382252
PRICE from	www.tools4trade.com
WEB	www.silverlinetools.com
PERFORMANCE	10/14
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	6/6
OVERALL SCORE	16/20

## Draper 06498

Compared to the other grinders here, this really is tiny – the wheels have a 3-inch diameter. And it's fair to say that if you want a heavy duty grinder to chew through metal constantly, this is not the best choice. But what the unit misses in raw power – the motor is only 50 Watts – it more than makes up for in versatility. Instead of having two stones, there's a



PRICE	£47.99
CONTACT	02380 494333
PRICE from	www.lawson-his.co.uk
WEB	www.draper.co.uk
PERFORMANCE	8/14
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	5/6
OVERALL SCORE	13/20

medium grade 80-grit wheel and a cotton buffing wheel for metal polishing. On top of that, a flexible driveshaft is supplied, which means it can be used with a host of Dremel-style accessories, with a 100-piece set supplied.

cost more to replace, too. The other issue is whether to choose two stones of differing grades, or to have one stone and one wire brush wheel. For automotive work, the power brush is a formidable cleaner of small components – such as removing burnt-on carbon from the bottom face of engine valves.

Finally, there's price. As you can see here, 6-inch grinders start at just over £20. But professional 6-inch models can easily

cost several hundred pounds. So what's the difference? In a nutshell: intended usage. In a fabrication shop, a bench grinder will be switched on most of the time and it'll be hammered hard, whereas even a busy garage will only use their machine very occasionally. Although it's always good to buy the best equipment you can afford, with bench grinders it's easy to pay over the odds for something that's far heavier duty than you actually need.

## RECOMMENDED

## Screwfix 69142

If the Best Buy was just the job for occasional use, this is a much more serious machine designed to withstand a bit more hammer. The combination of 8-inch stone wheels – in 36- and 60-grit grades – driven by 370 Watts makes this grinder feel pretty bombproof. Once again, all-out performance is complemented by plenty of impressive features, such as the ultra-generous 3m power lead and the huge oval shields. The tool rests are noticeably sturdy, but adjusting them means keeping a 13mm spanner handy at all times, which is a pain.



PRICE	£71.80
CONTACT	0500 414141
PRICE from	www.screwfix.com
WEB	www.screwfix.com
PERFORMANCE	10/14
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	4/6
OVERALL SCORE	14/20



Draper's 06498 is a bizarre, but clever, idea. It also highlights another use of these tools: metal polishing. Cotton mops and abrasive soaps can bring almost any metal to a mirror finish. And, for small items, it's much easier to hold the item being polished against a moving mop than trying to use a drill-based mop against a secured item.