Makita BJR181

Makita BJR181 18V LXT® Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw Kit - Instruction Manual

Model: BJR181 | Brand: Makita

1. Introduction and Overview

The Makita BJR181 18V LXT® Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw is engineered to deliver faster cutting and demolition performance for professional job sites. Featuring a high-torque motor with a 1-1/8-inch stroke, this saw is designed for a wide range of cutting and demolition tasks, including plumbing, flooring, electrical work, and general construction. Its cordless design, powered by LXT Lithium-Ion batteries, offers exceptional portability and convenience for remote applications where corded tools are impractical.
Key features include:

- Makita-built variable speed motor delivering 0-2,900 strokes per minute for faster cutting.
- 1-1/8" length stroke for efficient material removal.
- Large 2-finger variable speed trigger for enhanced control and convenience.
- Retractable tool hook for secure storage when not in use.
- Rubberized soft grip handle for increased comfort and reduced operator fatigue.
- Compact and ergonomic design at 19-5/8" long.
- Built-in L.E.D. light to illuminate the work area.
- "Tool-less" blade change for quick and easy blade replacement.

2. Setup

2.1. Battery Charging

The Makita BJR181 is powered by 18V LXT Lithium-Ion batteries, which are designed for rapid charging and extended run time. Before initial use, ensure the battery is fully charged using the supplied 30-Minute Rapid Optimum Charger.



Figure 2.1: Makita 30-Minute Rapid Optimum Charger. This charger ensures your 18V LXT Lithium-Ion batteries are ready for use quickly.



Figure 2.2: Makita 18V LXT Lithium-Ion Battery. These batteries provide long-lasting power and are compatible across the LXT line.

2.2. Blade Installation

The BJR181 features a convenient "tool-less" blade change mechanism, allowing for quick and easy blade installation and removal without the need for additional tools.

1. Ensure the battery is removed from the saw before installing or removing a blade.
2. Lift the blade clamp lever located near the front of the saw.
3. Insert the reciprocating saw blade fully into the blade holder until it clicks into place.
4. Release the blade clamp lever. Gently pull on the blade to ensure it is securely locked.
5. To remove the blade, repeat step 2 and pull the blade out.



Figure 2.3: Makita BJR181 Recipro Saw with a blade installed. The tool-less blade change system simplifies blade swaps.

3. Operating the Recipro Saw

3.1. General Operation

The Makita BJR181 is designed for versatile cutting. It features a variable speed trigger that allows you to control the strokes per minute (SPM) from 0 to 2,900, providing optimal speed for different materials and applications. The electric brake ensures quick stopping of the blade for increased user safety.

3.2. Cutting Techniques

This reciprocating saw is capable of cutting various materials with impressive depth:

- **Pipe:** Maximum cutting depth of 5-1/8 inches.
- **Wood:** Maximum cutting depth of 10 inches (when using a 12-inch blade).

Always ensure the shoe is firmly against the workpiece before starting a cut to maintain stability and control. The built-in L.E.D. light illuminates the work area, improving visibility in dimly lit conditions.



Figure 3.1: Makita BJR181 Recipro Saw in action, demonstrating its use for cutting metal studs. Always wear appropriate safety gear.

4. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Makita BJR181 Recipro Saw.

- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean the tool's ventilation openings to prevent overheating. Use a soft, damp cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Blade Inspection:** Before each use, inspect the blade for sharpness and damage. Replace dull or damaged blades immediately.
- **Battery Care:** Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight. Do not store fully discharged batteries for extended periods.
- **General Inspection:** Periodically check all screws and fasteners for tightness. Ensure the shoe adjustment mechanism operates smoothly.

5. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Makita BJR181, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Tool does not start	Battery not charged or improperly inserted; Faulty switch	Ensure battery is fully charged and correctly inserted. If problem persists, contact Makita service.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Reduced cutting performance	Dull or incorrect blade; Overload protection activated	Replace blade with a sharp, appropriate type. Reduce cutting pressure.
Battery not charging	Charger or battery fault; Improper connection	Ensure proper connection. Check charger indicator lights. If fault persists, test with another battery/charger or contact service.
Excessive vibration	Loose blade; Damaged blade; Internal issue	Check blade for secure installation and damage. Replace if necessary. If problem persists, seek professional service.

6. Specifications

Specification	Value
Brand	Makita
Model Number	BJR181
Power Source	Battery Powered
Voltage	18 Volts
Length of Stroke	1-1/8 inches
Strokes Per Minute (SPM)	0-2,900 SPM
Max. Cutting Depth (Pipe)	5-1/8 inches
Max. Cutting Depth (Wood)	10 inches
Item Weight	8.1 pounds (with battery)
Product Dimensions	19.69 x 19.69 x 11.02 inches
Handle Material	Rubber
Included Components	Recipro Saw, (2) 18V LXT Lithium-Ion batteries, 30-Minute Rapid Optimum Charger, Recipro Saw blade, tool case

7. Warranty and Support

Every Makita Lithium-Ion tool is backed by Makita's 3-Year Limited Warranty that covers repair due to defects in materials or workmanship for up to three years from the date of original purchase. Makita Lithium-Ion batteries and chargers have a limited 1-year warranty.

For complete details regarding the warranty, product support, or to locate an authorized service center, please visit the official Makita website: makitatools.com.

© 2023 Makita Corporation. All rights reserved. Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. Privacy details.

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question