Makita HM1203C

Makita HM1203C 20 lb. Demolition Hammer Instruction Manual

Model: HM1203C | Brand: Makita

Introduction

The Makita HM1203C 20 lb. Demolition Hammer is a powerful tool designed for demanding applications such as breaking concrete, brick, stone, and asphalt. It features a 14 AMP motor delivering 18.8 ft.lbs. of impact energy, constant speed control, and a soft start function for precision. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, maintenance, and care of your demolition hammer.



Figure 1: Makita HM1203C 20 lb. Demolition Hammer.

Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when operating power tools. Read and understand all instructions before use. Failure to follow these warnings may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When operating this tool, always wear the following protective equipment:

- **Eye Protection:** Safety glasses or a face shield to protect against flying debris.
- **Hearing Protection:** Ear protection (earplugs or earmuffs) to prevent hearing damage from loud noise.
- **Gloves:** Work gloves for better grip and hand protection.
- **Dust Mask:** To protect against inhaling dust particles.
- **Hard Hat or Safety Helmet:** For head protection in construction environments.
- **Boots:** Sturdy work boots for foot protection and stability.

Electrical Safety

- Ensure the tool is disconnected from the power source before changing or inserting bits.
- Use an appropriate extension cord. A 10-gauge extension cord up to 50 feet in length is recommended.
- Always plug the extension cord into a grounded power source.

Product Overview and Features

The Makita HM1203C is engineered for efficiency and durability in heavy-duty demolition tasks. Key features include:

- **Powerful Motor:** 14 AMP motor delivers 18.8 ft.lbs. of impact energy.
- **Constant Speed Control:** Automatically applies additional power to the motor to maintain speed under load.
- **Soft Start:** Suppresses start-up reaction for more precision and better accuracy.
- **Variable Speed Control:** Dial enables the user to match the speed to the application for greater versatility.
- **SDS-MAX Bit Acceptance:** Designed to accept SDS-MAX bits for efficient demolition.
- **12 Bit Angle Settings:** Bit can be set at 12 different positions for operating convenience.
- **LED Service Light:** Notifies the user approximately 8 hours before the carbon brushes need to be replaced.
- **LED Power Light:** Indicates switch failure or cord damage.

Setup

1. Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the demolition hammer and all accessories from its packaging. Inspect the tool for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Ensure all components listed in the packing list are present.

2. Bit Installation

1. Ensure the tool is disconnected from the power source.
2. Clean the bit shank and apply a small amount of bit grease to ensure smooth operation and prevent wear.
3. Insert the bit into the tool's chuck. Turn and push the bit until it engages securely.
4. Verify the bit is securely held in place by attempting to pull it out. It should not come loose.



Figure 2: Demolition hammer with a long chisel bit installed, ready for use.

3. Connecting to Power

1. Connect the tool's power cord to a suitable extension cord (refer to Electrical Safety for recommendations).
2. Plug the extension cord into a grounded power outlet.
3. A green LED power light on the tool will illuminate, indicating it is ready for operation.

Operation

1. Starting the Tool

To start the demolition hammer, slide the power switch to the "ON" position. The tool will begin to operate.

2. Proper Use

- Always use the side grips and firmly hold the tool with both hands during operations.
- Apply slight pressure on the tool to prevent it from bouncing around uncontrollably. Excessive downward pressure will not increase efficiency.

- Do not touch the bit or parts close to the bit immediately after operation, as they will be very hot.
- Operate the tool only when handheld. Do not leave the tool running unattended.



Figure 3: Proper technique for operating the demolition hammer on a concrete surface.

3. Applications

The Makita HM1203C is suitable for a variety of demolition tasks, including:

- Breaking up concrete slabs and foundations.
- Chiseling and breaking brickwork.
- Demolishing stone structures.
- Removing asphalt.
- Medium to large chiseling, hammering, and tile removal projects.

Official Product Video

An official operation guide video titled "Makita Demo Hammer Operation Guide (HM1203C, HM0870C, HM1214C)" is available. This video provides visual instructions on the overview, protective equipment, bit installation, and proper use of Makita demolition hammers, including the HM1203C model. While this video is produced by a vendor, it offers

valuable insights into the tool's operation.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Makita demolition hammer.

- **Brush Replacement:** The L.E.D. service light will illuminate approximately 8 hours before the carbon brushes need to be replaced. Replace brushes promptly to prevent motor damage.
- **Bit Lubrication:** Regularly apply bit grease to the bit shank before installation to reduce friction and wear on the chuck.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the tool clean and free from dust and debris. Regularly clean the ventilation openings to prevent overheating.
- **Cord Inspection:** Periodically inspect the power cord for any signs of damage. The L.E.D. power light can indicate cord damage.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your demolition hammer.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Tool does not start.	No power supply; damaged cord/switch; worn carbon brushes.	Check power connection; inspect cord/switch (LED power light); replace carbon brushes (LED service light).
Reduced impact force.	Worn bit; insufficient lubrication; worn internal components.	Replace bit; apply bit grease; consult authorized service center.
Tool overheats.	Blocked ventilation; continuous heavy use; motor overload.	Clean ventilation openings; allow tool to cool; reduce load.

Specifications

Detailed technical specifications for the Makita HM1203C Demolition Hammer.

Specification	Value
Brand	Makita
Model Number	HM1203C
Power Source	Corded Electric
Voltage	115 Volts
Amperage	14 Amps
Impact Energy	18.8 Foot Pounds
Blows per Minute	950-1900 BPM
Drive System	SDS Max

Specification	Value
Item Weight	21.4 pounds
Product Dimensions	12"L x 12"W x 12"H
Wattage	1510 watts
Included Components	Unit, Instruction Guide

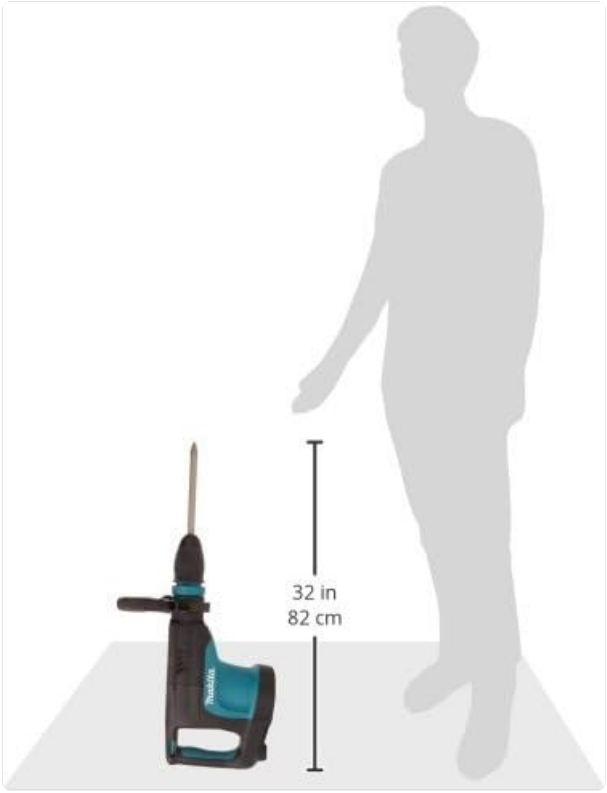


Figure 4: Size comparison of the Makita HM1203C Demolition Hammer.

Warranty and Support

Makita provides a warranty for this product to ensure customer satisfaction.

- **Warranty:** This product comes with a 1-year warranty. For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official warranty documentation included with your purchase.
- **User Manual (PDF):** A comprehensive User Manual in PDF format is available for download. This document contains additional information not discussed in this guide, including detailed safety instructions, assembly, operation, maintenance, and parts lists. You can access it via this link: Makita HM1203C User Manual PDF.
- **Protection Plans:** Extended protection plans may be available for purchase. These plans offer additional coverage beyond the standard manufacturer's warranty.

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries, please contact Makita customer service or an authorized service center.

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