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Makita RJ03R1

Makita RJ03R1 12V Max CXT Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw Kit - Instruction Manual

Model: RJ03R1 | Brand: Makita

1. Introduction and Overview

The Makita 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw (Model RJ03R1) is engineered to deliver power and speed in an ultra-compact size, making it suitable for a wide range of cutting applications. This kit includes the recipro saw, two 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion slide-style batteries, and a charger, providing improved balance and ergonomics. The batteries feature an on-board L.E.D. charge level indicator for convenience.

Weighing only 2.9 lbs. (with a 12V max CXT 2.0Ah battery), the RJ03R1 features a variable speed motor that delivers 0-3,300 strokes per minute and an efficient 1/2-inch stroke length for faster cuts. It is an ideal solution for users requiring a compact, lightweight cutting tool or for tasks in confined spaces. For extended operation, all 12V max CXT cordless tools are compatible with the 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion 4.0Ah battery (BL1041B). The 12V max CXT lithium-Ion batteries are equipped with a Battery Protection Circuit to guard against overloading, over-discharging, and overheating. This tool is part of the expanding 12V max CXT series, offering a combination of performance and superior ergonomics in a compact design.

Key Features:

- Variable speed motor delivers 0-3,300 strokes per minute combined with a 1/2" length stroke to provide faster cutting.
- Exclusive dual-position on/off switch design allows for either paddle or trigger switch operation.
- "Tool-less" blade change system allows for faster blade installation and removal for increased productivity; accepts both Recipro and Jig Saw blades.
- Ergonomically designed handle with rubberized soft grip provides increased comfort.
- Compact design at 14-3/4" long.

2. Safety Information

Always read and understand all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

General Power Tool Safety Warnings:

- **Work Area Safety:** Keep work area clean and well lit. Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents. 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. Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.
- **Electrical Safety:** 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. 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. Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock. 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.
- **Personal Safety:** 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. 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. 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 energizing power tools that have the switch on invites accidents. 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. Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations. Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewelry or long hair can be caught in moving parts. 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. Do not let familiarity gained from frequent use of tools allow you to become complacent and ignore tool safety principles. A careless action can cause severe injury within a fraction of a second.
- **Power Tool Use and Care:** 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. 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. Disconnect 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. 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. Maintain power tools and accessories. 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. Keep cutting tools sharp and clean. Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control. 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. Keep handles and grasping surfaces dry, clean and free from oil and grease. Slippery handles and grasping surfaces do not allow for safe handling and control of the tool in unexpected situations.
- **Battery Tool Use and Care:** 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. Use power tools only with specifically designated battery packs. Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire. 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. 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. Do not use a battery pack or tool that is damaged or modified.

Damaged or modified batteries may exhibit unpredictable behavior resulting in fire, explosion or risk of injury. Do not expose a battery pack or tool to fire or excessive temperature. Exposure to fire or temperature above 130°C (265°F) may cause explosion. Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or tool outside of the temperature range specified in the instructions. Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

- **Service:** 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. Never service damaged battery packs. Service of battery packs should only be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service providers.

WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

3. Package Contents

Upon opening the packaging, please verify that all items listed below are present and undamaged. If any items are missing or damaged, please contact your retailer or Makita customer service.

- Makita 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw (Model RJ03R1)
- (2) 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Battery Charger
- Carrying Case
- Instruction Manual (this document)



Image 1: The Makita RJ03R1 Recipro Saw Kit, showing the saw, two 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion batteries, and the battery charger.

4. Setup

4.1 Charging the Battery

1. Connect the battery charger to a standard electrical outlet.
2. Slide the 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion battery into the charger until it clicks into place.
3. The charger's indicator lights will show the charging status. Refer to the charger's specific manual for detailed light patterns.
4. Once fully charged, remove the battery from the charger.

4.2 Installing the Battery

1. Ensure the recipro saw's power switch is in the "OFF" position.
2. Align the charged battery with the battery port on the bottom of the saw handle.
3. Slide the battery into the handle until it locks securely into place with a click. Do not force the battery.
4. To remove the battery, press the release button(s) on the battery and slide it out of the tool.



Image 2: The Makita RJ03R1 Recipro Saw, illustrating the compact design and battery port location.

4.3 Installing a Blade

The RJ03R1 features a "tool-less" blade change system for quick and easy blade installation and removal. It accepts both recipro saw blades and jig saw blades.

1. Ensure the battery is removed from the saw before installing or removing a blade to prevent accidental startup.
2. Locate the blade clamp lever on the front of the saw.
3. Rotate the blade clamp lever fully counter-clockwise to open the blade clamp.
4. Insert the shank of the desired blade fully into the blade clamp opening. Ensure the teeth of the blade are facing the correct direction for cutting.
5. Rotate the blade clamp lever fully clockwise to secure the blade. Tug gently on the blade to ensure it is firmly seated and cannot be pulled out.
6. To remove a blade, reverse the process: rotate the lever counter-clockwise, pull the blade out, and then rotate the lever clockwise to close the clamp.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Powering On/Off

The RJ03R1 features an exclusive dual-position on/off switch design, allowing for either paddle or trigger switch operation.

- **Trigger Switch Operation:** Squeeze the main trigger switch located on the handle to start the saw. Release the trigger to stop.
- **Paddle Switch Operation:** For certain applications, the paddle switch located on the top of the tool body can be engaged. Squeeze the paddle switch to start the saw. Release to stop.

The saw features variable speed control. The more you depress either switch, the faster the blade will reciprocate, allowing for precise control over cutting speed.

5.2 Cutting Techniques

Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including eye protection, gloves, and hearing protection, before operating the saw.

1. **Secure the Workpiece:** Ensure the material you are cutting is firmly clamped or held to prevent movement during operation.
2. **Blade Selection:** Choose the appropriate blade for the material being cut (e.g., wood, metal, plastic).
3. **Starting a Cut:** Place the shoe of the saw firmly against the workpiece. Start the saw at a low speed and gradually increase speed as the blade begins to cut into the material.
4. **Maintaining Control:** Apply steady, consistent pressure. Do not force the saw through the material; let the blade do the work. Maintain a firm grip on the tool with both hands.
5. **Plunge Cutting:** For plunge cuts (cutting into the middle of a surface), ensure the blade is sharp. Rest the shoe on the workpiece, tilt the saw so the blade tip is clear, start the saw, and slowly pivot the saw down until the blade penetrates the material.
6. **Cutting Metal:** When cutting metal, use a metal-cutting blade and apply cutting oil to the blade to reduce heat and extend blade life.



Image 3: The Makita RJ03R1 Recipro Saw in use, demonstrating its capability to cut metal pipes.



Image 4: The Makita RJ03R1 Recipro Saw in use, demonstrating its capability to cut PVC pipes.

6. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Makita Recipro Saw. Always disconnect the battery before performing any maintenance.

6.1 Cleaning

- After each use, wipe down the tool with a clean, dry cloth to remove dust, debris, and moisture.
- Use compressed air to clear dust from ventilation openings and the blade clamp area.
- Do not use harsh chemicals, solvents, or abrasive cleaners, as these can damage plastic parts.

6.2 Blade Care

- Inspect blades before each use for sharpness and damage. Dull or damaged blades can cause kickback and

reduce cutting efficiency.

- Replace blades as needed.
- Store blades in a dry place to prevent rust.

6.3 Battery and Charger Care

- Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Do not store batteries in a discharged state for extended periods. Charge them periodically if not in use.
- Keep charger terminals clean and free of debris.

6.4 General Inspection

- Periodically check all screws and fasteners for tightness. Tighten as necessary.
- Inspect the power cord of the charger for any damage. If damaged, have it replaced by a qualified service technician.

7. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Makita Recipro Saw. If you experience a problem not listed here, or if the suggested solutions do not resolve the issue, please contact Makita customer service.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Saw does not start.	Battery not inserted correctly. Battery is discharged. Tool's protection circuit activated. Switch malfunction.	Ensure battery is fully clicked into place. Charge the battery fully. Allow tool to cool down; remove and reinsert battery. Contact Makita service center.
Reduced cutting performance.	Dull or incorrect blade. Battery charge is low. Overloading the tool.	Replace with a sharp, appropriate blade. Recharge the battery. Reduce pressure; allow the tool to work at its own pace.
Excessive vibration or noise.	Blade not properly secured. Damaged blade. Internal component issue.	Ensure blade is fully inserted and clamp lever is locked. Replace the blade. Discontinue use and contact Makita service center.
Battery not charging.	Charger not plugged in. Battery or charger is too hot/cold. Damaged battery or charger.	Verify charger is securely plugged into a working outlet. Move battery/charger to a room temperature environment. Contact Makita service center for replacement.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail

Feature	Detail
Brand	Makita
Model Number	RJ03R1
Voltage	12 Volts max CXT
Power Source	Battery Powered (Lithium-Ion)
Strokes Per Minute (SPM)	0-3,300 SPM (Variable Speed)
Stroke Length	1/2 inch
Item Weight	3 Pounds (with 2.0Ah battery)
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	16.8" x 5.2" x 13"
Blade Material Recommendation	High Speed Steel (for general use)
Included Components	(2) 12V max CXT Lithium-Ion batteries, Charger, Recipro Saw
Handle Material	Rubber
Special Feature	Brushless Motor

9. Warranty and Support

9.1 Limited Warranty

The Makita RJ03R1 12V Max CXT Lithium-Ion Cordless Recipro Saw Kit is covered by a**3-year limited warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. For full details regarding warranty coverage, limitations, and how to make a claim, please refer to the official Makita warranty statement included with your product or visit the Makita website.

9.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or warranty service, please contact Makita customer support. You can find contact information on the official Makita website or in the documentation provided with your product.
An electronic version of the User Guide (PDF) is also available for download:Download User Guide

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