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cutting depth of up to 170 millimetres and add to the long list of applications the Arbortech AS170 can manage. The XL General Purpose blades have been re-envisioned to handle tough, deep bricks and cinder-blocks, also known as cement-blocks. The XL General Purpose blade's 34 mortar-cutting tungsten-carbide teeth produce the most aggressive and powerful cutting action to date from the Arbortech AS170. While the XL Woodworking blades make the AS170 the only small handheld saw capable of cutting nearly seven inches deep to chop and shape large logs and timber in ways that a conventional chainsaw never could. These XL blades are custom-tailored for specific applications, but thanks to cutting-edge engineering and machining, they can be used in a variety of construction and restoration applications - such as composite cutting - to deliver safer, more controlled cuts than traditional circular saws and diamond blades.



This month *The Tradie* got the lowdown on Arbortech's award-winning AS170 Brick & Mortar Saw

Who and what jobs would this saw be ideal for?

The AS170 Brick & Mortar Saw is made for any mason, preservationist, or waterproofing contractor. It aims to be the multipurpose tool of the masonry and construction world, with a growing collection of blades available to choose from. Whether you are replacing cracked, chipped or discoloured bricks, re-pointing standard-width and narrow joints, or masonry cutting in general, the AS170 has you covered.

How does it perform?

It features a patented orbital cutting motion, employing a set of powerful alternating tungsten-carbide toothed blades. This unique cutting action allows larger, pebble-sized particles to escape, which either fall to the floor or are

suctioned through the vacuum attachment and dust boot, thus enabling the saw to be used indoors and in enclosed areas. This "limited airborne-particle" technology is what so many users have come to appreciate.

How's the power?

Since 2010, the Arbortech AS170 has featured a new 13-amp motor, with 70 per cent more power than the previous model. It now boasts 1250 watts. The saw also includes a vibration-reducing handle, for user comfort.

What's new and improved?

Painstaking research and design - along with the saw's new power - have allowed the development of two powerful new blades: the XL General Purpose and XL Woodworking blades, which have a

What other blades are there?

For re-caulking and waterproofing jobs between concrete slabs and tilt-ups, the new Caulking blades are far and away the fastest and most powerful option for the professional contractor. A collection of three distinctly sized blades, these tungsten-carbide toothed blades provide the fastest method to cut any standard joint from ¼ of an inch all the way up to two full inches wide. The same power used to cut a brick in half is being reassigned to cut a soft silicone material, cutting both sides of the joint while scraping and prepping the inside of the joint for re-caulking, all in one time-saving power-driven motion.

How easy is cleaning and maintenance?

The saw uses many features to help you maintain your unit, including a built-in dust-clearing centrifuge, automatic cut-off brushes (to prevent motor damage), and slip-resistant synchronous belt.

What's the warranty?

The saw itself is backed-up by a 12-month limited warranty, guaranteeing you a long-lasting construction-grade tool.

Does it come with a carry case?

It comes as a full kit in a heavy-duty, extra-large, black nylon storage bag. It includes three sets of the most popular masonry blades at no additional charge: the General Purpose blades for large cuts, Plunge blades for individual brick removal, and Head-Joint Blades for tuck-pointing. It now also includes the new Caulking blades for a variety of applications.

And the price?

\$990.

See www.as170.com for more information. 