

Impact Driver Test

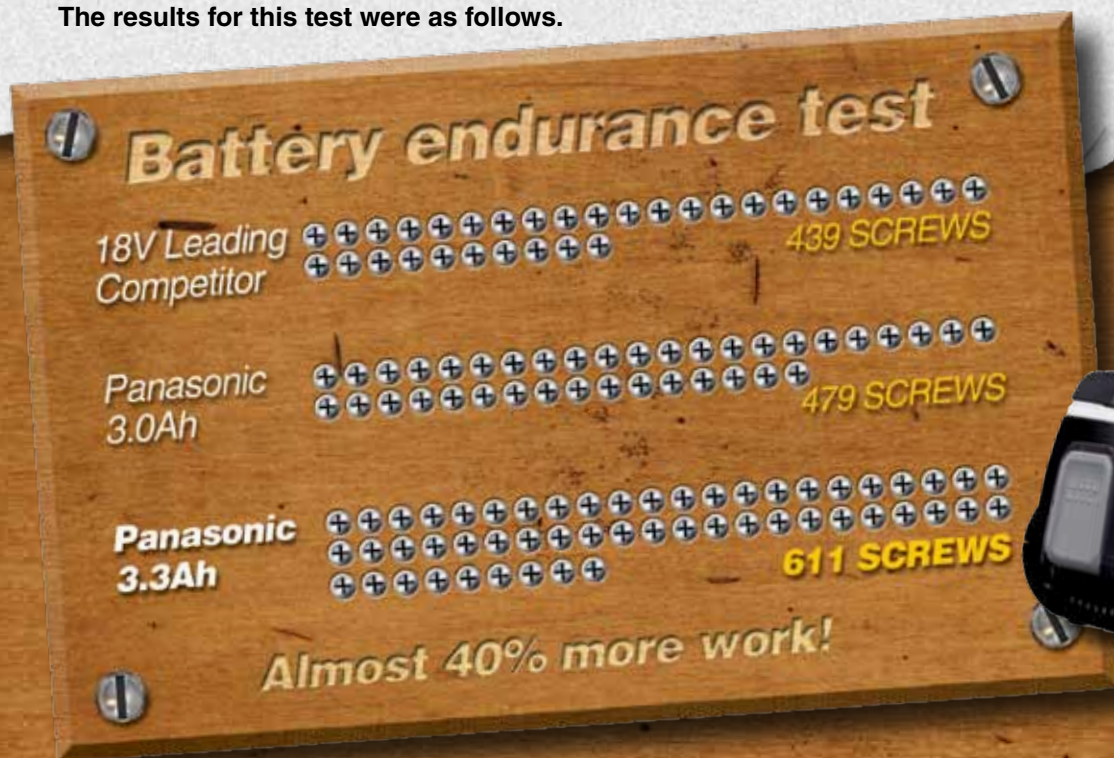
With the introduction of Panasonic's new 3.3 amp hour 14.4 volt cobalt lithium ion battery, I thought that now was an appropriate time to see exactly what sort of performance was offered by this battery, but first I'll give you some background.

A good eighteen months ago is when I first tested the Panasonic 3.0 amp hour 14.4 volt lithium battery. It was in their new brushless impact driver. It was a bench test against the market leading 18 volt lithium ion battery and impact driver. That test was more of a power test. I'd heard claims and wanted to see how they stacked up. It involved 100mm batten and tek screws into solid flitches of oregon and the same screws again into hardwood! The Panasonic was more powerful than the 18 volt, not by a huge margin, but it was more powerful. Now having performed an endurance test on these tools/batteries, it really is plainly illustrated for all to see.

The method used to conduct this test is to see how many 40mm screws could be driven into 45mm thick Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF). The test was conducted under same conditions for each battery, using impact drivers.

Three tools were tested back to back, The 3.3 amp hour 14.4 panasonic battery, the existing 3.0 amp hour 14.4 volt Panasonic battery and the current market leading 3.0 amp hour 18 volt lithium ion battery from another manufacturer.

The results for this test were as follows.



This is a truly surprising and impressive result, the 3.3 amp hour battery is a full 28% more powerful than the 3.0 amp hour battery and a full 36% more powerful than the 18 volt competitor. The other thing that impressed me was the panasonic's ability to deliver consistent power right up to the point of cutout, whereas the 18 volt competitor struggled along at greatly reduced capacity, with the end result being inferior to the two panasonic batteries. A very impressive debut.

Test conducted by Richard Westaway of Richard Westaway Labor Hire. Independent tool tester, on the 20th April 2009.