

Using Your Edging Sander: The 2-Minute Guide

Your machine: **Hiretech HT7** · British-built 7-inch disc edging sander
240V · 178mm disc at 3,300 rpm · 16.4kg · deadman switch · dust bag collection



READ THIS FIRST

Keep it moving - and let the switch do its job

TILT TO START

KEEP IT MOVING

ONE DISC ONLY

The switch is a deadman switch: hold it ON with your thumb, and the machine stops the instant you let go. That is the design, not a fault - it can never be locked on.

The rule that saves floors: never let the spinning disc sit still on the wood. Lower it while already sweeping side-to-side, keep sweeping, and tilt it up before you stop. A moment of dwelling cuts a mark; pressing harder does not sand faster - it burns.

QUICK START

Six steps and you are sanding

1 Punch every nail

Below the surface, the whole area. One nail strike shreds the disc and scars the pad.

2 Fit ONE disc

Unplug, flip the machine onto its top and handles, wrench from its clips, centre bolt + washer, firm.

3 Bag on, PPE on

Bag clipped to its frame. Dust mask and ear defenders on - this machine runs at 100 dB(A).

4 Kneel behind it

One knee down, cable over your right shoulder, both hands on the handles, disc tilted OFF the floor.

5 Switch, then sweep

Thumb holds the switch ON. Lower the disc gently while already moving side-to-side.

6 Stop the right way

Tilt up or release the switch BEFORE you stop moving. Empty the bag every time it reaches MAX.

KNOW YOUR MACHINE

Five things on this machine worth knowing



Twin handles, deadman switch on top, dust bag on the wire frame behind.

Deadman switch

Push ON and hold with your thumb; release and it stops. The small light shows power is connected. Never wedge or tape it on.

Twin handles

Both hands, always. Loop the cable in your right hand and over your right shoulder so it can never meet the disc.

Dust bag

Clips to the wire frame. Empty at the MAX line, never fuller. Paper bags are single-use - do not reuse them.

Disc & centre bolt

One 178mm disc under the washer clamp, firmly tightened. The wrench lives in its own clips between the castors.

Castors

Factory-set - they control how the pad meets the floor. If sanding looks uneven, call us; do not adjust them.

DISCS & GRITS

One disc - and never skip a grade

Discs are consumables; nails are the killer. Change and progress like this.

Changing the disc

- 1 Unplug. Every time, before the disc is touched.
- 2 Flip the machine onto its top and handles - they are designed to take its weight.
- 3 Take the wrench from its clips between the castors.
- 4 Centre bolt and washer off, ONE new disc on, bolt back firm - not gorilla-tight.
- 5 New coarse discs sit proud at first - they seat in after a minute of work.



Kneel behind it on one knee, cable over your shoulder, sweep side-to-side.

The grit path - work through every grade

24 strips old varnish and levels

50/60 removes the 24-grit scratches

80 refines

120 final pass

Match your edger grit to whatever the drum sander just used on the main floor, and vacuum between grades. Skipping a grade is what leaves swirl marks.

Sanding dust is a fire and explosion risk

Empty the bag at the MAX line, never leave dust in the machine overnight, keep flames and smoking out of the room, and dispose of dust cold. Fine wood dust mixed with air can ignite - treat it with respect.

WHILE IT'S RUNNING

All of this is normal

Six things people call us about that are the machine doing its job.

NORMAL

It stops the instant you let go

The deadman switch doing its job. Hold it with your thumb while you work.

NORMAL

A new coarse disc sits proud

Fresh 24s and 36s do not lie perfectly flat until they have seated in. Give them a minute of work.

NORMAL

Swirl marks after coarse grits

24-grit leaves its own scratches by design - the finer grades remove them. That is what the sequence is for.

NORMAL

The bag fills fast on old varnish

Stripping coats makes a lot of dust. Empty at MAX, every time - pickup drops sharply past the line.

NORMAL

The motor note changes with pressure

Hear it labouring? You are pressing. Ease off and let the weight of the machine do the sanding.

NORMAL

A film of fine dust between grades

No edger catches everything. Vacuum between grits - it also stops loose grit scratching the next pass.

WORKING WITH THE DRUM SANDER

The official pair

This edger is one half of the trade-standard pairing: the drum sander cuts the main floor, the HT7 blends the edges, corners and thresholds the drum cannot reach.

Do the drum pass first at each grit, then the edges at the SAME grit, so the two areas blend without a visible line. Both machines are on hireload.co.uk - most floors need the pair.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Something not right? Start here

Written the way people actually describe it. Each fix takes about a minute.

"It has dug a mark into the floor"

USUAL CAUSE

The spinning disc sat still on the wood - a moment of dwelling, dropping it flat, or leaning on it.

THE FIX

Lower it only while already sweeping, and tilt up before you stop. A shallow mark sands out: go back to the coarsest grit you used, feather a wider area, then work back up the grades.

MOST COMMON

"It will not start"

USUAL CAUSE

No power at the socket, a tripped RCD, or a long thin extension lead.

THE FIX

Direct socket, RCD reset, lead fully unwound or none. Still dead? Stop and call us - internal parts are our job, not yours.

"It stops every time I let go"

USUAL CAUSE

The deadman switch - it is designed to do exactly that and cannot be locked on.

THE FIX

Hold the switch with your thumb while sanding. Two-handed grip stays on the handles.

"Swirl marks everywhere"

USUAL CAUSE

A grade got skipped, or the last grit was too coarse for the finish.

THE FIX

Drop back one grade and work through 24, 50/60, 80, 120 in order - and vacuum between grades so loose grit cannot scratch.

"Dust pickup has gone poor"

USUAL CAUSE

Bag past the MAX line, a reused or holed bag, or a blocked throat.

THE FIX

Empty at MAX, fit a fresh paper bag, check the bag frame seal. Pickup returns instantly.

"The disc ripped"

USUAL CAUSE

A nail strike - or more than one disc stacked under the clamp.

THE FIX

Punch every nail below the surface and fit exactly ONE disc, firmly clamped.

"It smells hot or leaves burn marks"

USUAL CAUSE

Pressing down or dwelling - the disc glazes, burns the wood and labours the motor.

THE FIX

Ease right off, let the machine's own weight cut, and run it off the floor for a minute to cool.

Before you call us - the 30-second check

- ☒ Nails punched below the surface?
- ☒ Bag under MAX and clipped on?
- ☒ One disc, firmly clamped?
- ☒ Working through the grades in order?

All four yes and still stuck? Two minutes on WhatsApp usually sorts it - send a photo.

WhatsApp us · 020 3375 4048

Call 020 3375 4048

SAFETY

Five rules - that's all

Unplug before touching the disc or flipping the machine over. Every time, no exceptions.

Never wedge or tape the deadman switch on. It is the machine's main safety device.

Dust discipline: empty at MAX, never store the machine with dust inside, no smoking or flames in the room.

RCD-protected socket, cable over your shoulder and away from the disc, fully unwound if extended.

Mask and ear defenders on whenever it runs - 100 dB(A) at one metre is genuinely loud.

END OF HIRE

Before we collect - two minutes

- 1 Empty the dust bag completely and dispose of the dust cold - never hand the machine back with dust inside.
- 2 Remove the last disc and clip the wrench back into its home between the castors.
- 3 Coil the 7-metre cable loosely and give the body a quick wipe-down.
- 4 Keep any unused discs with the machine, boxed.

Handed back like this, your deposit goes straight back - no questions, no delays.

Procedures and specifications from Hiretech's official HT7 owner's manual - Hiretech of Watford has built floor sanders for the hire industry since 1974, and this British-made edger is the trade standard. Keep this guide with the machine - it also lives on the product page at hireload.co.uk.

Hireload guide v1.0 · July 2026 · The Hireload Team