

Mobishear rechargeable cordless handpiece

Kondinin Group members using the Mobishear cordless handpiece from Greenpatch Agricultural Supplies have reported favourable results for crutching the odd sheep, but low handpiece RPM means shearing would be a struggle.

By Ben White

We have reviewed a couple of portable shearing devices over the years, with the latest being the revised Handypiece in September 2015. This unit from Eyre-Peninsula-based Greenpatch Agricultural Supplies have a rechargeable 10.8V 3Ah lithium ion removable battery pack which slots into the rear of the handpiece, much like a cordless tool.

Batteries clip in and out of the handpiece. Removal is by depressing tabs on either side of the handpiece and sliding the battery out.

Powered by a 45watt motor, the unit is supplied with two batteries and a charger along with a few tools. A blow-moulded case with foam inserts houses all components for transport.

The handpiece with the battery fitted weighs around 1.26kg.

Body construction is predominantly plastic while the cutter head chassis is an aluminium alloy. Dimensionally, the girth is significantly larger than a conventional overhead driven handpiece.

Tension nut adjustments are made in the same way as a conventional handpiece.

Supplied with a narrow “dagging” comb, the handpiece can be fitted with a wide comb if preferred.

BATTERY LIFE

Each 3Ah 10.8V battery is sufficient to full crutch 30–40 sheep before needing replacement according to owners. Greenpatch claim about one hour of run-time per battery.

Capacity is therefore only a fraction of what more expensive battery operated

handpieces are capable of, but with a couple of batteries in the highly-portable kit, it would be superior to the other highly portable alternative; using hand-shears.

SPEED

The Mobishear operates at a nominal 2300rpm unloaded which, under load in operation will reduce to under 2000rpm.

By comparison, conventional handpieces running off overhead shearing plants via a downtube operate at between 2700rpm and 3500rpm with little drop-off in speed under load thanks to powerful motors.

Premium battery powered shearing outfits like the Handypiece offer variable speed operation from 2400rpm to 3500rpm and have high-torque motors to combat speed drop.

For the Mobishear, low cutter speeds means it is really best suited to crutching the occasional sheep and by way of its portable design, could be left in the ute or the quad-bike for a quick in-paddock clean-up.

As shown in the lead image, paired with an aerosol can of Extinosad, the Mobishear would be ideal for cleaning and treating the odd fly-struck animal

PRICING

Online pricing is \$440 including GST with a 12-month warranty. The unit comes with two batteries, a charger, oil and a cleaning brush in a carry case. **FA**

Contact:

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OWNER OPINION

Boyup Brook farmers, Ben and Esther Creek have used the Mobishear for a couple of months and rate it highly. Ben says the compact design means it fits neatly behind the seat of the ute or on the motorbike and is there and ready for use if he sees a sheep in the paddock that needs a tidy-up.

Ben pairs the handpiece with a good dog capable of catching a fly blown ewe in the paddock for him and a can of Extinosad. Being able to promptly treat four or five fly-struck ewes, without having to bring the mob in, means the handpiece has already paid for itself according to Ben.

Battery life is sufficient for 30–40 ewes according to Ben who has been using the Mobishear with the supplied narrow comb, but will swing over to a wider comb once the original is worn.

Ben says the unit was shipped promptly after ordering online and that service from the supplier was friendly and helpful.