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Press release for the technical press

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Hotline for the technical press and
journalists

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Thumbs up for the first portable table saw with SawStop AIM technology in Europe

**How an innovative table saw is making the day-to-day work of a
kitchen cabinetmaker and furniture maker even safer**

While our heads come up with ideas, our hands and fingers are what carry them out. This allows tradespeople to be productive but also means that they are exposed to many risks at the same time. And, because your fingers are invaluable, these assets must be given special protection. This is why Festool has incorporated innovative SawStop AIM technology into its TKS 80, the first portable table saw in Europe. The SawStop AIM technology stops the saw blade in fractions of a second and lowers it into the work surface as soon as the operator's hands or fingers get too close, reducing the risk of extremely serious cutting injuries.

Markus Michalski's job is a cut above. As a kitchen cabinetmaker and furniture maker at the Raumdynamik workshop in the south-western German town of Lichtenwald, the joiner spends every day cutting pieces of wood to size, shortening strips and creating products of the highest quality by making cuts with millimetre precision. He needs to have his wits – and his ten fingers – about him when carrying out his work because these are the assets he uses to make his works of master craftsmanship. Even the slightest lapse of attention or distraction could have dire consequences, with his hands and fingers at particular risk. However, it is tradespeople's

thumbs, the most agile and strongest digit when guiding and holding workpieces, which are on the front line and come perilously close to saw blades.

Tool specialist Festool understands this risk and has taken up the challenge. Markus Michalski is enthusiastic about the SawStop AIM technology. "It's a good feeling to know that this solution keeps your fingers intact if something goes wrong," he says. Moreover, the Festool TKS 80 is the first portable table saw in Europe to use this technology. Festool developer Andreas Sdrzallek explains how the system works, "the function is triggered by a capacitive sensor. If this sensor registers contact with human skin, this activates a cartridge that works together with a spring to push an aluminium block into the saw blade – and everything stops."

Maximum protection and precision

The TKS 80 therefore stops in less than five milliseconds thanks to the SawStop AIM technology, which reduces the risk of extremely serious cutting injuries. This technology plays a key role in ensuring even greater safety at the workplace. Prof. Marco Einhaus (PhD), head of the building construction unit at the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the construction sector (BG BAU), emphasises how important occupational health and safety is in skilled trades and construction occupations, "lots of companies are setting good examples with respect to occupational health and safety. But there's still plenty to be done." He adds that safety and cost-effectiveness are often weighed up against each other but are ultimately always compatible with each other. Nevertheless, the Festool TKS 80 is not only synonymous with improved safety but also with maximum precision. "You can use the TKS 80 to make very precise mitre cuts," says Daniel Knoblauch, another joiner at Raumdynamik in Lichtenwald. He continues that this table saw always gives you a good feeling while working, which is why they take it with them to all construction sites.

However, this safety system never means that workers do not need concentrate or pay attention. "The SawStop AIM technology is more of a last resort to protect operators, just in case something does go wrong," Andreas Sdrzallek explains.

For further information about the TKS 80, visit www.festool.co.uk/sawstop

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Further information ...

... about the portable Festool TKS 80 table saw with SawStop AIM technology: The Festool TKS 80 is the first saw with SawStop AIM technology in Europe and ensures maximum safety when carrying out work. If the saw blade comes into contact with the user's skin, it stops immediately and disappears into the work surface. This means that the risk of extremely serious cutting injuries is reduced. With a cutting height of up to 80 mm, an extendible work surface, longitudinal stopper and angle stop, the TKS 80 is extremely variable and offers greater flexibility even with large workpieces. Its precision and the ability to swivel the saw blade to the left means that there is less splintering on the upper side of the material when making mitre and rip cuts with the TKS 80. In addition, the dust extraction attachment with CLEANTEC extraction sleeve keeps dust levels low while you work and provides a clear view of the workpiece.

... about SawStop AIM technology: SawStop AIM technology was developed by Dr Steve Gass. The patent agent with a doctorate in physics is a founding member of SawStop LLC – a company based in Portland and one of the leading suppliers of stationary table saws in the USA. In July 2017, this American company was integrated into the TTS Group as a fully owned subsidiary and independent company. SawStop AIM technology has been sold as part of SawStop table saws since 2004. Its developer Steve Gass, who is also a passionate amateur joiner, says that this technology has been proven to have saved over 6000 fingers.

... about Festool: As a manufacturer of high-quality power tools, Festool has been a partner to professional tradespeople for almost 100 years. The system concept has always played an important role for the company, which

is located in Wendlingen am Neckar. In addition to superior product quality, this specialist company relies on innovative strength and, in the course of their history, they have applied for 350 patents. Among other things, with the Systainer and its latest version, Systainer³, Festool will be able to look back on further success. Festool discovers ideas for new products and for further developments in practice and from discussions with professional tradespeople. With the use of SawStop AIM technology, Festool is once again setting new benchmarks. It is designed to provide tradespeople with even better protection against serious cutting injuries when they are working.

Image preview



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-01.jpg

"It's a good feeling to know that the SawStop AIM technology keeps your fingers intact if something goes wrong. But first we had to get used to the fact that there's a transportable table saw that offers this additional safety feature," explains joiner Markus Michalski. Image source: Annette Kuhls



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-02.jpg

The SawStop AIM technology reacts at lightning speed and stops the saw blade in less than five milliseconds. Image source: Annette Kuhls



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-03.jpg

The ability to swivel the saw blade to the left is an asset for kitchen cabinetmakers and furniture makers.

Image source: Annette Kuhls



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-04.jpg
 Markus Michalski and Daniel Knoblauch are kitchen cabinetmakers and furniture makers at Raumdynamik in Lichtenwald, Germany. As Festool test customers, they put the new TKS 80 table saw through its paces. Image source: Annette Kuhls



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-05.jpg
 Thumbs up for the cutting-edge SawStop AIM technology. Image source: Annette Kuhls



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-06.jpg
 Greater flexibility: With a cutting height of up to 80 mm, an extendible work surface, longitudinal stopper and angle stop, the TKS 80 is extremely variable, even with large workpieces.
 More precision: Less splintering on the upper side of the material in longitudinal mitre cuts by swivelling the saw blade to the left.
 Image source: Festool GmbH



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-07.jpg
 Your fingers are invaluable: With the SawStop AIM technology, Festool is once again setting new benchmarks. It is designed to protect a tradesperson's most valuable tools – their fingers. But still, all tradespeople always need to be careful and must never become negligent when using a saw.
 Image source: Festool GmbH



Image: Festool-TKS80-story-08.jpg
 Greater safety: The first Festool saw with innovative SawStop AIM technology for greater safety while sawing. If the saw blade comes into contact with the user's skin, it stops immediately and disappears into the work surface. This means that the risk of extremely serious cutting injuries is reduced.
 Image source: Festool GmbH

Image source: Festool GmbH/Annette Kuhls