



Triton orange a winner?

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Time to test three absolute bargains: the AEG OmniPro and two very affordable Triton machines. Many professionals regard AEG as a DIY brand. We've tested AEG before and concluded that these machines are pretty good when you take the price into account. But professionals didn't care too much for the brand and slowly AEG lost its foothold. The same goes for Triton. About 10 years ago everyone was impressed by Triton's mortar rake. Also Triton's Super-Jaws was an absolute must have. The rest of the tools from the Australian brand hardly got noticed, partly as a result of some poor distribution.

But times have changed and a lot of professionals need to watch their pennies. With the aim of meeting the needs of our colleagues with smaller budgets who want to own quality products, we are looking for affordable, professional tools. Over the past few years, Triton and AEG have been busy. AEG has given its tools a big facelift: by adding the word 'PRO', AEG wants to distinguish itself from the construction market tools.

Multi-head boss

AEG kicks off with the spectacular looking OmniPro 18 system, which has been available on the market for a while now. As many as seven attachments fit on the tool but is that going to work?

AEG offers an Omni 12C and 18C body and an OmniPro 3000 corded machine. Because of the bar battery, the 12V body is the lightest part of the machine. The 18V machine with sliding battery offers greater power. If you don't want to worry about battery life, the OmniPro 3000 is your choice. With seven attachments you change the machine into a multi-tool, screwdriver, nailer, reciprocating saw, jigsaw, angle drill driver and a wrench.



The AEG OmniPro offers versatility



The Omni 18C Li-152C KIT1 with the 18V body costs around 200 Euros, excluding VAT. For that price you get the body, two 18V 1.5Ah Li-Ion batteries, charger, a multi-head, a sanding pad and two saw blades in a carrying case. Would you rather have the 230V model? The Omni-300 KIT4X may be the right machine for you. For the same price you also receive the multi-head, drill driver head, jigsaw head and assorted saw blades, drill bits and screw bits. The heads are separately available (see AEG OmniPro table). If the machines really do deliver you've struck gold - it all seems almost too good to be true.



Reciprocating saw

The AEG as a reciprocating saw is very impressive. The machine matches 10.8V machines and stands out thanks to the good visibility to the workpiece. The AEG is not noticeably stronger than the lightweight competition, which says something about the currently available 10.8V machines.



Let's get to work

We're using the 18V corded model. Quickly we discover that the machine isn't stronger but definitely lighter and shorter than the battery model. Thanks to the flat (1.5Ah) energy source, the machine is ultra-light. The body is made out of quality plastic with a comfortable rubber soft-grip. **The heads are fine machines. No cheap and rattling stuff, but strong pieces of tool.** Attaching the heads is done quickly and easy. However, removing them requires a bit more effort.

Jigsaw

We start with the Jigsaw. The AEG catalogue shows that the machine uses the head from the 450W Palm Jigsaw. This confirms what we expected: the machine is suitable for quick tasks. We secure a metal blade in the head and cut a metal strip to size and the tool produces great results.



Multitool

People that haven't got a Multitool and are thinking of buying the AEG, definitely have to get this head. The blades are secured using a hex key. Different heads as a detail sanding-head are available and work fine. The machine works well with saw blades, although this combo makes the AEG very long.



Nailer

This head makes an awful lot of noise. If your hammer can't reach the nail, this head might be a solution, but it will never replace the hammer. This head is a fail.



Conclusion

AEGs sharply priced, versatile machine. The heads cost practically all the same. When you buy a basic model - 12 Volts (129€ excl. VAT), 18 Volts (199€) or 230 Volts (149€) - the Multi-Head is included. Is that the head the customer wants to have necessarily? Why not offer just the main body of the tool?

AEG also offers the corded machine for 199€, including a jigsaw, an angle drill driver and multi-tool attachment. Again, why not let the customer have the option of choosing?

MENULIJST AEG OMNIPRO	
Multitool-kop	55 euro
Slagschroefkop	55 euro
Nagelkop	55 euro
Haakse boor-schroefkop	55 euro
Ratelskop	55 euro
Decoupeerzaagkop	65 euro
Reciprozaagkop	75 euro
Prijzen zijn exclusief btw.	

TRITON Set T12TP

Conclusion

Triton's test results seem almost too good to be true when the promotional price is taken into account: both tools for €123,14 total, excluding VAT. That's a DIY price for professional tools. Triton products are normally a nice little extra, compared to heavier cordless machines, for smaller tasks. So this is a bargain deal that shouldn't be missed.

Set T12TP, 2013 price €123,14 excluding VAT via online shop www.toolstation.nl

Impact Screwdriver

The impact screwdriver lacks power and is only suitable for light tasks. We would rather use a cordless screwdriver which is more powerful and not so noisy.



Screwdriver

The screwdriver head lacks power as well and is only suitable for small-sized screws. The angled head makes the machine suitable for tasks in hard to reach areas. Together with a speed drill the machine drills quick and accurate holes.



A lot of power for little money

THE BUDGET SENSATION OF 2013

Bigger doesn't always mean better when it comes to power tools. But how much power can Triton squeeze out of their batteries?

For this test Triton lent us their 12V T12 Drill Driver and Impact Driver which make up the T12TP Triton Set. The voltage specification says something about the peak voltage only. When you add the voltage from the cells, you end up with 10.8 Volts. More manufacturers use this voltage. Why? To suggest more power? Professionals know that 10.8V machines offer enough power.

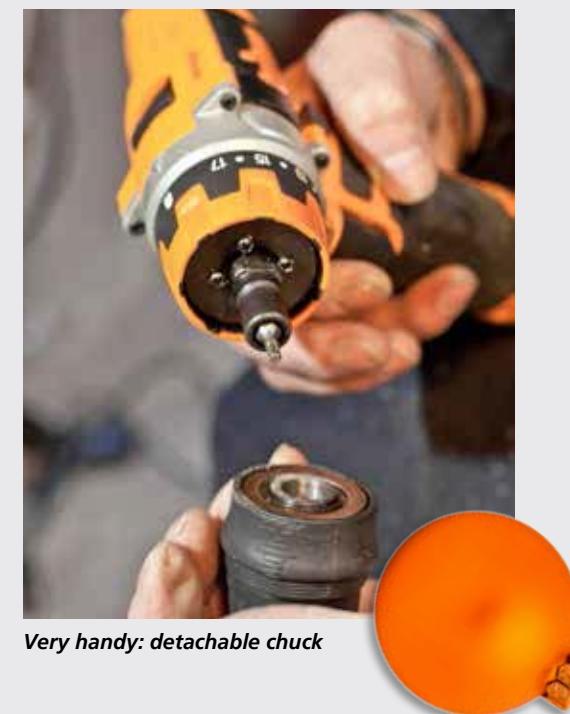
We start with the impact driver (which can also drill), driving 5.0 x 60mm decking screws in an old birch trunk, using a Trx bit. For fun we decided to make a bet. Because of the 1.5Ah battery we estimated it



Is that even possible: 5.0 x 60mm decking screws in Almendrillo wood...



...and M8 x 70 screwdriving with a 10.8V machine?



Very handy: detachable chuck