

## Festool Dust Extractors



Front



Side



Rear

# THE NEW FESTOOL CT 17E DUST EXTRACTOR



*The CT 17E is shown here in the Australian configuration with the 36mm standard hose and shows the Hose adapter (768135) being used to connect the CT17E to the ETS 150.*

## Small but powerful

Fresh from the factory is one of the latest Protocol to Festool conversions the CT17E dust extractor. Converted from a Protocol VCP 170 the CT 17E offers surprisingly good suction balanced with

a compact, easily stored size. The CT17E slots into the Festool extractor range in between the CT Midi and the CT 26 and with its 17 litre capacity offers a good, cost effective solution for the home handyman or light to medium trade user.

I'd heard these were coming since late 2013 so with holidays booked for Jan 2014 and a lot of home Reno jobs to do I bit the bullet and bought a Ct17 to see how it performed.

## Form, Feel and Function.

The Australian version comes, at this stage, with a 36mm non anti static hose, ( the grey one), and a bonus cleaning kit. The prospect of a 36mm hose was one of the main reasons I bought this extractor as one of the projects I'm working on will have over 100 router cut spline joints and I've found that a 27mm hose tends to clog when doing a lot of router work.

There were no surprises when I got the extractor back to my workshop and unpacked it. The hose, dust bag,( one is supplied) and paperwork were all stored inside the extractor with the bonus cleaning kit supplied in an additional box. The bag supplied is a standard paper bag as were the additional box of bags that I purchased with the machine. I had hoped that they would be of the same style as the self clean bags supplied with the CT 26 and 36, but can imagine that Festool Germany has a mountain of Protool bags to clear before they move over to what is now the Festool standard.



The first task in setting up the CT for use is to insert the dust bag and this was easily accomplished by hooking the bottom of the cardboard flange on the dust bag into the slot below the port in the dust tray, easing the dust port over the rubber seal in the dust bag, then locking the dust baby in place by closing the green clip above the dust port.

*It should end up looking like this*

Now that the bag is installed the next stage in the initial set up is to check the filter. This is to make sure that the filter hasn't been damaged in transit and will work efficiently.

The filter that is supplied as standard with the CT 17e is a paper filter and not HEPA grade. Whilst there is a wet filter available for the extractor at the time of writing this article there is no information available as to whether a HEPA grade filter will be available in the future.

With the motor head upside down, unscrew the locking flange holding the cover plate over the filter, remove it and put aside then carefully remove the filter. Give it a quick once over to check that there are no cracks and make sure that the lamellas, ( the fins inside the filter) are not

### Accessories for the CT 17E Extractor



HF FILTER -769134



WET FILTER -769134



FILTER BAGS -769136



HOSE ADAPTER 36 TO 27MM

768135





FILTER COMPARTMENT  
(COVER REMOVED)



CT 17E CONTROL  
PANEL



THE PROTOOL  
VCP 170E

dented or creased. If all is okay, reverse the process and put it all back together again. If there is damage to the filter take it back to your dealer. A damaged filter can retard the performance of the machine and allow dust to enter the turbine.

Place the machine head back onto the dust tub and lock the clips in place.

### *The Control Panel:*

The control panel on the CT17 is much the same as on all Festool extractors with the exception that the tool port sits above the controls rather than beside them. The suction control sits to the left and the mode selection is to the right.

### *Suction:*

As a general rule of thumb have the suction set to full power for virtually all sanding and dust collection applications. The main reasons you'll alter the suction level is if you're cleaning something fragile, or if you're sanding with a fine grade of paper on a fairly dense board.

### *Mode Selection:*

The mode selection is what's used to set how the extractor will operate. Turn to "Auto" for tool actuated use and to "Man" for manual on and off so you can use the extractor as a standard vacuum cleaner.

### *Power port:*

When using the CT with a tool, plug the tools power lead into the power port on the control panel, turn the mode selection lever to auto and the CT is now ready for tool actuated operation.

### *In operation:*

The CT 17 is a little sweetheart to use. It's not too big and bulky for a small workshop, ( like mine), and tends to follow easily when you pull the hose. I've been using it connected to my OF1010 and with the 36mm hose I've had no issues

with clogging. When connected to my ETS 150/5 it performs extremely well and keeps the workpieces clean and dust free. The supplied cleaning kit comes in handy to tidy up and excess dust on the floor. The CT 17 has been so well accepted in my household that my lovely wife, ( who recently bought herself a Dyson vac) has been pinching it to vac up the dog hair in our house.

In conclusion, it's a great little machine for the home workshop or tradesman who needs a powerful compact machine.

As always, thanks for reading, and remember, be safe and have fun!