A Practical Classroom Upgrade

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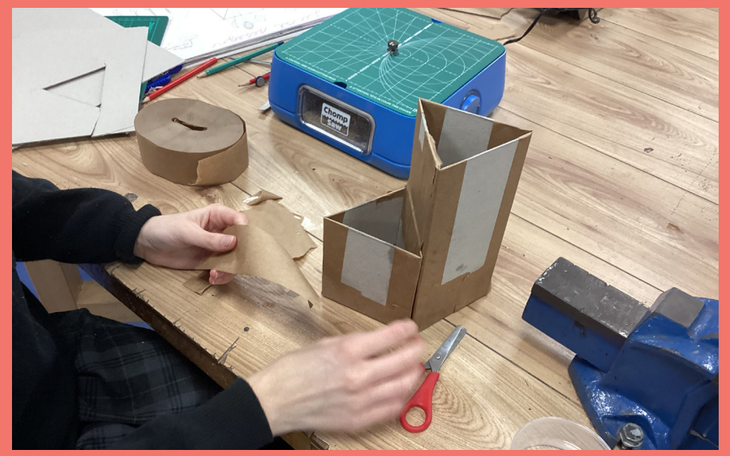
At The Costello School, pupils are encouraged to prototype quickly and accurately, especially at KS4 where time pressures make precision essential. Introducing the Chomp Saw has transformed modelling and prototyping across the department, improving efficiency and accuracy.



At the Costello School, part of the Bohunt Education Trust, Design and Technology is a subject where pupils are encouraged to think creatively, work practically and develop confidence through making. As with many departments, supporting pupils to prototype quickly and accurately is an important part of the design process, particularly at KS4 where time is limited and outcomes need to be precise.

The introduction of the Chomp Saw has had a noticeable impact on how pupils approach modelling and prototyping. It has helped students work more efficiently, improve accuracy and, importantly, take greater pride in the quality of their prototypes.

First Impressions

When I first saw the Chomp Saw being advertised, it immediately caught my attention. I started imagining all the ways it could be used, particularly for GCSE NEA coursework prototypes, where modelling with corrugated cardboard and craft knives often doesn't produce the neatest or most precise results.

As someone who has spent countless hours guiding students through messy, tricky cutting tasks, the thought of a reliable, classroom-friendly solution felt like a game-changer. I attended the Chomp Saw online session by the D&T Association and was more impressed by how simple, intuitive, and user-friendly the machines are.

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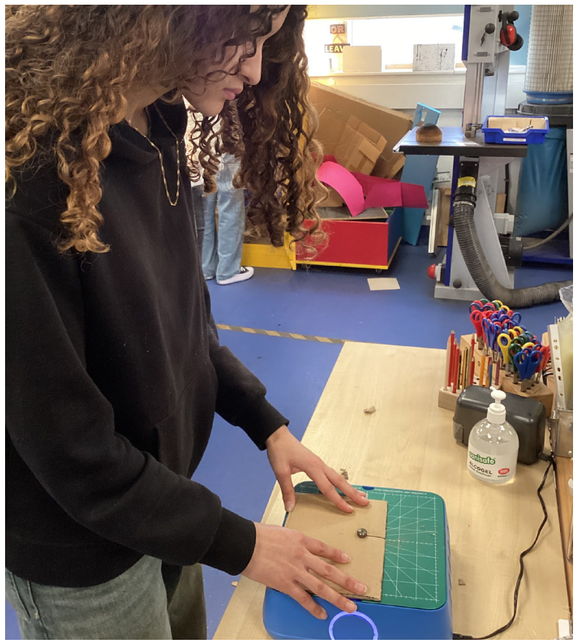

The demonstration highlighted how much precision can be achieved with minimal effort, and it became clear that this tool would not only save time but also improve the quality of students' work.

'Classroom-proof' Equipment

When I looked at the price, I'll admit I was apprehensive, especially compared to similar-looking tools online that are far cheaper. But realistically, those alternatives would never survive in a classroom environment. Reliability and durability are essential in a school setting, where multiple students will be using equipment repeatedly, often under tight deadlines. The Chomp Saw feels solid, robust, and ready for this kind of everyday use.

Impact with Year 11

My Year 11s were just beginning their development modelling when the saws arrived, delivered within two days of ordering. We unpacked them, plugged them in, and the students were using them almost immediately. The machines are so straightforward that the learning curve is minimal. The students quickly gained confidence, and it has been a real pleasure to see them enjoying the modelling process. They are experimenting, problem-solving, and learning through doing, which is exactly what practical lessons should be about.

Precision Cuts

The Chomp Saws themselves are solid, stable, and don't slip during use. The metal top plate feels extremely sturdy, and the built-in guidelines genuinely help with accurate and clean cuts. I was initially concerned about the cut line and potential burn marks, but there were none. The saw removes around 2–3 mm of material, so it's important to cut slightly on the waste side of the line, but this is easy to manage and quickly becomes second nature. Straight lines, gentle curves, and intricate shapes are all incredibly easy to achieve. Year 9 have been using the saws to cut card stock for their perfume packaging ideas. It has been really encouraging to see the pride they take in producing cleaner, more professional-looking outcomes.

Expanding Material Choice

So far, we've successfully cut corrugated card and grey board, and we plan to experiment with more materials in the coming weeks, including foam core and denim. The Chomp Saw is opening up new opportunities for creativity, iteration, and hands-on learning that were previously limited by time and skill constraints.

I'm also exploring how we can integrate the Chomp Saws into KS3 classes. Currently, our Year 7s complete a desk-tidy project using grey board, with pieces pre-cut on the laser cutter. Using the Chomp Saws alongside the laser cutter increase students' sense of ownership over their work whilst also helping them develop practical, hands-on skills and introduce another form of manufacturing into the curriculum.

Final Reflections

I would love to get more of these saws so that each classroom can have its own set. The Chomp Saw has made a remarkable difference in the quality of modelling in my lessons. Students are proud of their work, and the speed, efficiency, and consistency of rapid prototyping have transformed the way we approach practical projects.

Beyond simply creating models, these machines help students develop precision, skill, confidence, and a real sense of accomplishment all while making the experience enjoyable and engaging. I fully recommend this tool for any school looking to improve hands-on learning, student engagement, and the quality of practical outcomes.