

**DEWALT**®

**XR LI-ION**

**[www.DEWALT.com](http://www.DEWALT.com)**

**DCS388**



Fig. A

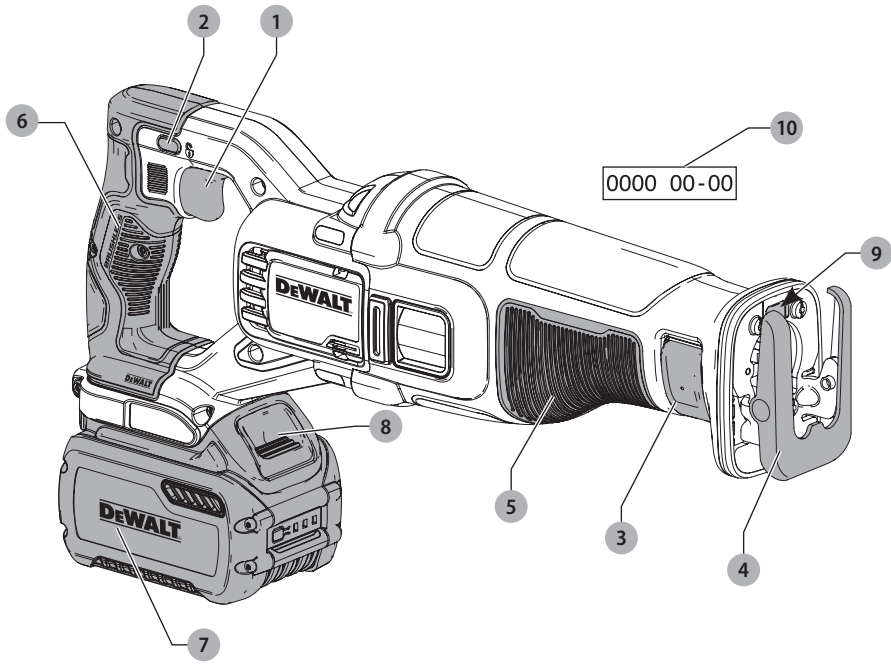


Fig. B

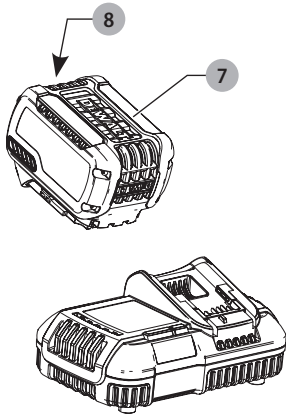


Fig. C

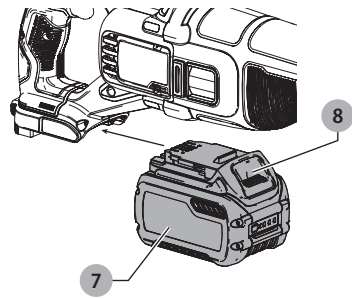


Fig. D

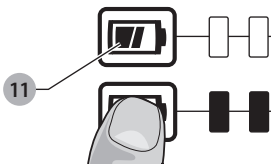


Fig. E

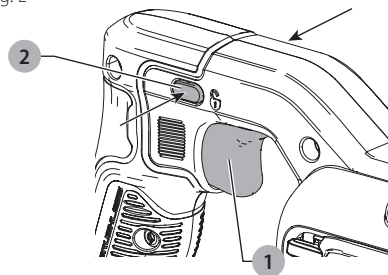


Fig. F

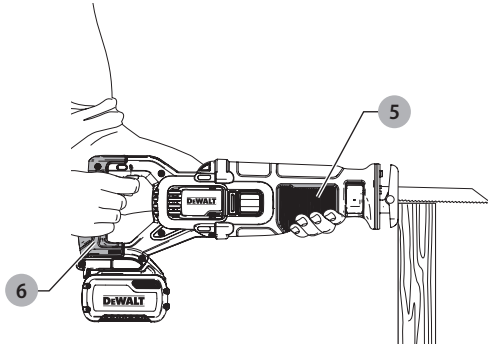


Fig. G

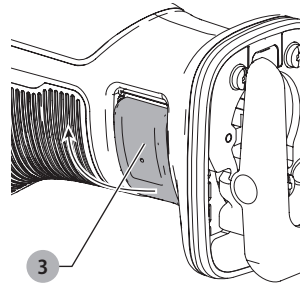


Fig. H

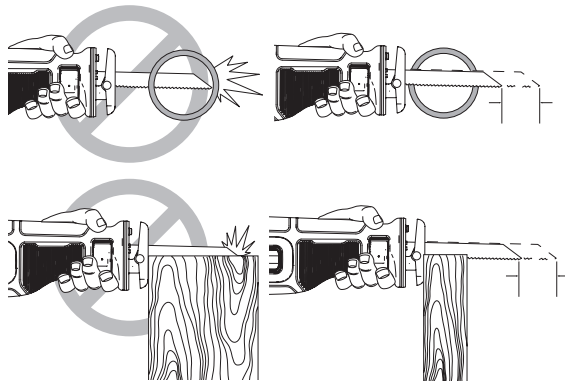


Fig. I

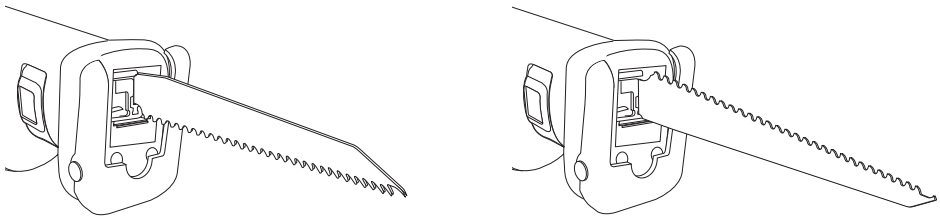


Fig. J

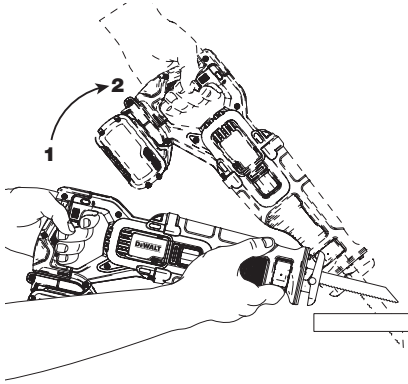
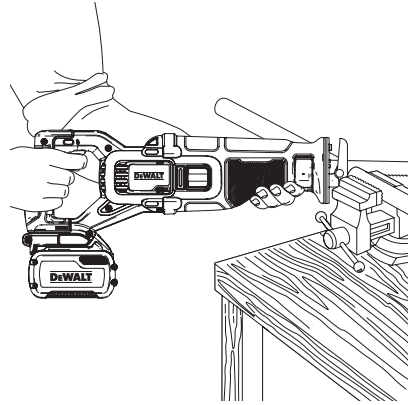


Fig. K



# CORDLESS RECIPROCATING SAW

## DCS388

### Congratulations!

You have chosen a DeWALT tool. Years of experience, thorough product development and innovation make DeWALT one of the most reliable partners for professional power tool users.

### Technical Data

		DCS388
Voltage	$V_{DC}$	54
Type		1
Battery type		Li-Ion
Max. power output	W	1550
No load speed	$\text{min}^{-1}$	0–3000
Stroke length	mm	28.6
Cutting capacity in wood/metal profiles/ plastic tubes	mm	300/130/160
Weight (without battery pack)	kg	3.54

Noise values and vibration values (triax vector sum) according to EN60745-2-11:

$L_{PA}$ (emission sound pressure level)	dB(A)	86
$L_{WA}$ (sound power level)	dB(A)	97
K (uncertainty for the given sound level)	dB(A)	3

While cutting boards		
Vibration emission value $a_{h,B} =$	$\text{m/s}^2$	12.5
Uncertainty K =	$\text{m/s}^2$	1.5
While cutting wood beams		
Vibration emission value $a_{h,WB} =$	$\text{m/s}^2$	12.0
Uncertainty K =	$\text{m/s}^2$	2.3

The vibration emission level given in this information sheet has been measured in accordance with a standardised test given in EN60745 and may be used to compare one tool with another. It may be used for a preliminary assessment of exposure.

**⚠ WARNING:** *The declared vibration emission level represents the main applications of the tool. However if the tool is used for different applications, with different accessories or poorly maintained, the vibration emission may differ. This may significantly increase the exposure level over the total working period.*

*An estimation of the level of exposure to vibration should also take into account the times when the tool is switched off or when it is running but not actually doing the job. This may significantly reduce the exposure level over the total working period.*

*Identify additional safety measures to protect the operator from the effects of vibration such as: maintain the tool and the accessories, keep the hands warm, organisation of work patterns.*

Battery pack		DCB546
Battery type		Li-Ion
Voltage	$V_{DC}$	18/54
Capacity	Ah	6.0/2.0
Weight	kg	1.05

		DCB118		
Mains voltage	$V_{AC}$	230		
Battery type		18/54 Li-Ion		
Approx. charging time of battery packs	min	22 (1.3 Ah)	22 (1.5 Ah)	30 (2.0 Ah)
		45 (3.0 Ah)	60 (4.0 Ah)	75 (5.0 Ah)
			60 (6.0 Ah)	
Weight	kg	0,66		

The DCB118 charger accepts 18V Li-Ion XR and XR FLEXVOLT™ battery packs (DCB181, DCB182, DCB183, DCB183B, DCB184, DCB184B, DCB185 and DCB546).

Fuses:		
Europe	230V tools	10 Amperes. mains
U.K. & Ireland	230V tools	3 Amperes. in plugs

### EC-Declaration of Conformity Machinery Directive



### Cordless Reciprocating Saw DCS388

DeWALT declares that these products described under **Technical Data** are in compliance with:

2006/42/EC, EN60745-1:2009+A11:2010, EN60745-2-11:2010.

These products also comply with Directive 2014/30/EU and 2011/65/EU. For more information, please contact DeWALT at the following address or refer to the back of the manual.

The undersigned is responsible for compilation of the technical file and makes this declaration on behalf of DeWALT.

Markus Rompel  
Director Engineering  
DeWALT, Richard-Klinger-Strasse 11,  
D-65510, Idstein, Germany  
09.05.16



**WARNING:** *To reduce the risk of injury, read the instruction manual.*

## Definitions: Safety Guidelines

The definitions below describe the level of severity for each signal word. Please read the manual and pay attention to these symbols.



**DANGER:** Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **will** result in **death or serious injury**.



**WARNING:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **could** result in **death or serious injury**.



**CAUTION:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **may** result in **minor or moderate injury**.

**NOTICE:** Indicates a practice **not related to personal injury** which, if not avoided, **may** result in **property damage**.



Denotes risk of electric shock.



Denotes risk of fire.

## General Power Tool Safety Warnings



**WARNING:** Read all safety warnings and all instructions. Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.

### SAVE ALL WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

The term "power tool" in the warnings refers to your mains-operated (corded) power tool or battery-operated (cordless) power tool.

#### 1) Work area safety

- Keep work area clean and well lit.** Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
- Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases or dust.** Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.
- Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool.** Distractions can cause you to lose control.

#### 2) Electrical safety

- Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools.**  
Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of electric shock.
- Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators.** There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.
- Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.**  
Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.

- Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts.** Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- When operating a power tool outdoors, use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use.** Use of a cord suitable for outdoor use reduces the risk of electric shock.
- If operating a power tool in a damp location is unavoidable, use a residual current device (RCD) protected supply.** Use of an RCD reduces the risk of electric shock.

#### 3) Personal safety

- Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.** A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.
- Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection.** Protective equipment such as dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.
- Prevent unintentional starting. Ensure the switch is in the off position before connecting to power source and/or battery pack, picking up or carrying the tool.** Carrying power tools with your finger on the switch or energising power tools that have the switch on invites accidents.
- Remove any adjusting key or wrench before turning the power tool on.** A wrench or a key left attached to a rotating part of the power tool may result in personal injury.
- Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.** This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations.
- Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair, clothing and gloves away from moving parts.** Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- If devices are provided for the connection of dust extraction and collection facilities, ensure these are connected and properly used.** Use of dust collection can reduce dust-related hazards.

#### 4) Power tool use and care

- Do not force the power tool. Use the correct power tool for your application.** The correct power tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
- Do not use the power tool if the switch does not turn it on and off.** Any power tool that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- Disconnect the plug from the power source and/or the battery pack from the power tool before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing**

**power tools.** Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the power tool accidentally.

- d) **Store idle power tools out of the reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the power tool or these instructions to operate the power tool.** Power tools are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- e) **Maintain power tools. Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the power tool's operation. If damaged, have the power tool repaired before use.** Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained power tools.
- f) **Keep cutting tools sharp and clean.** Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
- g) **Use the power tool, accessories and tool bits etc., in accordance with these instructions taking into account the working conditions and the work to be performed.** Use of the power tool for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.

## 5) Battery tool use and care

- a) **Recharge only with the charger specified by the manufacturer.** A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another battery pack.
- b) **Use power tools only with specifically designated battery packs.** Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire.
- c) **When battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws or other small metal objects that can make a connection from one terminal to another.** Shorting the battery terminals together may cause burns or a fire.
- d) **Under abusive conditions, liquid may be ejected from the battery; avoid contact. If contact accidentally occurs, flush with water. If liquid contacts eyes, additionally seek medical help.** Liquid ejected from the battery may cause irritation or burns.

## 6) Service

- a) **Have your power tool serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts.** This will ensure that the safety of the power tool is maintained.

## Additional Safety Instructions for Reciprocating Saws

- **Hold power tool by insulated gripping surfaces when performing an operation where the cutting accessory may contact hidden wiring.** Cutting accessory contacting a "live" wire will make exposed metal parts of the power tool "live" and could give the operator an electric shock.
- **ALWAYS wear a dust mask.** Exposure to dust particles can cause breathing difficulty and possible injury.
- **Never switch on the tool when the saw blade is jammed in the workpiece or in contact with the material.**

- **Keep hands away from moving parts.** Never place your hands near the cutting area.
- **Use extra caution when cutting overhead and pay particular attention to overhead wires which may be hidden from view.** Anticipate the path of falling branches and debris ahead of time.
- **Do not operate this tool for long periods of time.** Vibration caused by the operating action of this tool may cause permanent injury to fingers, hands, and arms. Use gloves to provide extra cushion, take frequent rest periods, and limit daily time of use.

## Switching On and Off

- After switching off, never attempt to stop the saw blade with your fingers.
- Never put the saw down on a table or work bench unless switched off. The saw blade will keep running briefly after the tool has been switched off.

## When Sawing

- When using saw blades specially designed for cutting wood remove all nails and metal objects from the workpiece before starting work.
- Wherever possible, use clamps and vices to fasten the workpiece securely.
- Do not attempt to saw extremely small workpieces.
- Do not bend too far forward. Make sure that you always stand firmly, particularly on scaffolding and ladders.
- Always hold the saw with both hands.
- For cutting curves and pockets, use an adapted saw blade.

## Checking and Changing the Saw Blade

- Only use saw blades conforming to the specifications contained in these operating instructions.
- Only sharp saw blades in perfect working condition should be used; cracked or bent saw blades should be discarded and replaced at once.
- Ensure that the saw blade is securely fixed.

## Residual Risks

In spite of the application of the relevant safety regulations and the implementation of safety devices, certain residual risks cannot be avoided. These are:

- Impairment of hearing.
- Risk of personal injury due to flying particles.
- Risk of burns due to accessories becoming hot during operation.
- Risk of personal injury due to prolonged use.

## Electrical Safety

The electric motor has been designed for one voltage only. Always check that the battery pack voltage corresponds to the voltage on the rating plate. Also make sure that the voltage of your charger corresponds to that of your mains.



Your DEWALT charger is double insulated in accordance with EN60335; therefore no earth wire is required.



**WARNING:** 115 V units have to be operated via a fail-safe isolating transformer with an earth screen between the primary and secondary winding.

If the supply cord is damaged, it must be replaced by a specially prepared cord available through the DEWALT service organisation.

## Mains Plug Replacement (U.K. & Ireland Only)

If a new mains plug needs to be fitted:

- Safely dispose of the old plug.
- Connect the brown lead to the live terminal in the plug.
- Connect the blue lead to the neutral terminal.

**WARNING:** No connection is to be made to the earth terminal.

Follow the fitting instructions supplied with good quality plugs. Recommended fuse: 3 A.

## Using an Extension Cable

An extension cord should not be used unless absolutely necessary. Use an approved extension cable suitable for the power input of your charger (see **Technical Data**). The minimum conductor size is 1 mm<sup>2</sup>; the maximum length is 30 m.

When using a cable reel, always unwind the cable completely.

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

## Chargers

DEWALT chargers require no adjustment and are designed to be as easy as possible to operate.

## Important Safety Instructions for All Battery Chargers

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS:** This manual contains important safety and operating instructions for compatible battery chargers (refer to **Technical Data**).

- Before using charger, read all instructions and cautionary markings on charger, battery pack, and product using battery pack.

**WARNING:** Shock hazard. Do not allow any liquid to get inside charger. Electric shock may result.

**WARNING:** We recommend the use of a residual current device with a residual current rating of 30mA or less.

**CAUTION:** Burn hazard. To reduce the risk of injury, charge only DEWALT rechargeable batteries. Other types of batteries may burst causing personal injury and damage.


**CAUTION:** Children should be supervised to ensure that they do not play with the appliance.

**NOTICE:** Under certain conditions, with the charger plugged into the power supply, the exposed charging contacts inside the charger can be shorted by foreign material. Foreign materials of a conductive nature such as, but not limited to, steel wool, aluminum foil or any buildup of metallic particles should be kept away from charger cavities. Always unplug the charger from the

power supply when there is no battery pack in the cavity. Unplug charger before attempting to clean

- **DO NOT attempt to charge the battery pack with any chargers other than the ones in this manual.** The charger and battery pack are specifically designed to work together.
- **These chargers are not intended for any uses other than charging DEWALT rechargeable batteries.** Any other uses may result in risk of fire, electric shock or electrocution.
- **Do not expose charger to rain or snow.**
- **Pull by plug rather than cord when disconnecting charger.** This will reduce risk of damage to electric plug and cord.
- **Make sure that cord is located so that it will not be stepped on, tripped over, or otherwise subjected to damage or stress.**
- **Do not use an extension cord unless it is absolutely necessary.** Use of improper extension cord could result in risk of fire, electric shock, or electrocution.
- **Do not place any object on top of charger or place the charger on a soft surface that might block the ventilation slots and result in excessive internal heat.** Place the charger in a position away from any heat source. The charger is ventilated through slots in the top and the bottom of the housing.
- **Do not operate charger with damaged cord or plug—** have them replaced immediately.
- **Do not operate charger if it has received a sharp blow, been dropped, or otherwise damaged in any way.** Take it to an authorised service centre.
- **Do not disassemble charger; take it to an authorised service centre when service or repair is required.** Incorrect reassembly may result in a risk of electric shock, electrocution or fire.
- In case of damaged power supply cord the supply cord must be replaced immediately by the manufacturer, its service agent or similar qualified person to prevent any hazard.
- **Disconnect the charger from the outlet before attempting any cleaning. This will reduce the risk of electric shock.** Removing the battery pack will not reduce this risk.
- **NEVER attempt to connect two chargers together.**
- **The charger is designed to operate on standard 230V household electrical power. Do not attempt to use it on any other voltage.** This does not apply to the vehicular charger.

## Charging a Battery (Fig. B)







1. Plug the charger into an appropriate outlet before inserting battery pack.
2. Insert the battery pack  into the charger, making sure the battery pack is fully seated in the charger. The red (charging) light will blink repeatedly indicating that the charging process has started.
3. The completion of charge will be indicated by the red light remaining ON continuously. The battery pack is fully charged and may be used at this time or left in the charger.

To remove the battery pack from the charger, push the battery release button **8** on the battery pack.

**NOTE:** To ensure maximum performance and life of lithium-ion battery packs, charge the battery pack fully before first use.

## Charger Operation

Refer to the indicators below for the charge status of the battery pack.

Charge Indicators	
 Charging	
 Fully Charged	
 Hot/Cold Pack Delay*	

\*The red light will continue to blink, but a yellow indicator light will be illuminated during this operation. Once the battery pack has reached an appropriate temperature, the yellow light will turn off and the charger will resume the charging procedure.

The compatible charger(s) will not charge a faulty battery pack. The charger will indicate faulty battery by refusing to light or by displaying problem pack or charger blink pattern.

**NOTE:** This could also mean a problem with a charger.

If the charger indicates a problem, take the charger and battery pack to be tested at an authorised service centre.

### Hot/Cold Pack Delay

When the charger detects a battery pack that is too hot or too cold, it automatically starts a Hot/Cold Pack Delay, suspending charging until the battery pack has reached an appropriate temperature. The charger then automatically switches to the pack charging mode. This feature ensures maximum battery pack life.

A cold battery pack will charge at a slower rate than a warm battery pack. The battery pack will charge at that slower rate throughout the entire charging cycle and will not return to maximum charge rate even if the battery pack warms.

The DCB118 charger is equipped with an internal fan designed to cool the battery pack. The fan will turn on automatically when the battery pack needs to be cooled. Never operate the charger if the fan does not operate properly or if ventilation slots are blocked. Do not permit foreign objects to enter the interior of the charger.

### Electronic Protection System

XR Li-Ion tools are designed with an Electronic Protection System that will protect the battery pack against overloading, overheating or deep discharge.

The tool will automatically turn off if the Electronic Protection System engages. If this occurs, place the lithium-ion battery pack on the charger until it is fully charged.

## Wall Mounting

These chargers are designed to be wall mountable or to sit upright on a table or work surface. If wall mounting, locate the charger within reach of an electrical outlet, and away from a corner or other obstructions which may impede air flow. Use the back of the charger as a template for the location of the

mounting screws on the wall. Mount the charger securely using drywall screws (purchased separately) at least 25.4 mm long with a screw head diameter of 7–9 mm, screwed into wood to an optimal depth leaving approximately 5.5 mm of the screw exposed. Align the slots on the back of the charger with the exposed screws and fully engage them in the slots.

## Charger Cleaning Instructions



**WARNING: Shock hazard. Disconnect the charger from the AC outlet before cleaning.** Dirt and grease may be removed from the exterior of the charger using a cloth or soft non-metallic brush. Do not use water or any cleaning solutions. Never let any liquid get inside the tool; never immerse any part of the tool into a liquid.

## Battery Packs

### Important Safety Instructions for All Battery Packs

When ordering replacement battery packs, be sure to include catalog number and voltage.

The battery pack is not fully charged out of the carton. Before using the battery pack and charger, read the safety instructions below. Then follow charging procedures outlined.

#### READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Do not charge or use battery in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases or dust.** Inserting or removing the battery from the charger may ignite the dust or fumes.
- **Never force battery pack into charger. Do not modify battery pack in any way to fit into a non-compatible charger as battery pack may rupture causing serious personal injury.**
- Charge the battery packs only in DEWALT chargers.
- **DO NOT splash or immerse in water or other liquids.**
- **Do not store or use the tool and battery pack in locations where the temperature may reach or exceed 40 °C (104 °F) (such as outside sheds or metal buildings in summer).**
- **Do not incinerate the battery pack even if it is severely damaged or is completely worn out.** The battery pack can explode in a fire. Toxic fumes and materials are created when lithium-ion battery packs are burned.
- **If battery contents come into contact with the skin, immediately wash area with mild soap and water.** If battery liquid gets into the eye, rinse water over the open eye for 15 minutes or until irritation ceases. If medical attention is needed, the battery electrolyte is composed of a mixture of liquid organic carbonates and lithium salts.
- **Contents of opened battery cells may cause respiratory irritation.** Provide fresh air. If symptoms persists, seek medical attention.





**WARNING: Burn hazard.** Battery liquid may be flammable if exposed to spark or flame.




**WARNING: Never attempt to open the battery pack for any reason.** If battery pack case is cracked or damaged,

do not insert into charger. Do not crush, drop or damage battery pack. Do not use a battery pack or charger that has received a sharp blow, been dropped, run over or damaged in any way (i.e., pierced with a nail, hit with a hammer, stepped on). Electric shock or electrocution may result. Damaged battery packs should be returned to service centre for recycling.

 **WARNING: Fire hazard. Do not store or carry the battery pack so that metal objects can contact exposed battery terminals.** For example, do not place the battery pack in aprons, pockets, tool boxes, product kit boxes, drawers, etc., with loose nails, screws, keys, etc.

 **CAUTION: When not in use, place tool on its side on a stable surface where it will not cause a tripping or falling hazard.** Some tools with large battery packs will stand upright on the battery pack but may be easily knocked over.

### Transportation

 **WARNING: Fire hazard.** Transporting batteries can possibly cause fire if the battery terminals inadvertently come in contact with conductive materials. When transporting batteries, make sure that the battery terminals are protected and well insulated from materials that could contact them and cause a short circuit.

DeWALT batteries comply with all applicable shipping regulations as prescribed by industry and legal standards which include UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations, International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Regulations, and the European Agreement Concerning The International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR). Lithium-ion cells and batteries have been tested to section 38.3 of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Manual of Tests and Criteria.

In most instances, shipping a DeWALT battery pack will be excepted from being classified as a fully regulated Class 9 Hazardous Material. In general, only shipments containing a lithium-ion battery with an energy rating greater than 100 Watt Hours (Wh) will require being shipped as fully regulated Class 9. All lithium-ion batteries have the Watt Hour rating marked on the pack. Furthermore, due to regulation complexities, DeWALT does not recommend air shipping lithium-ion battery packs alone regardless of Watt Hour rating. Shipments of tools with batteries (combo kits) can be air shipped as excepted if the Watt Hour rating of the battery pack is no greater than 100 Whr. Regardless of whether a shipment is considered excepted or fully regulated, it is the shipper's responsibility to consult the latest regulations for packaging, labeling/marketing and documentation requirements.

The information provided in this section of the manual is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at the time the document was created. However, no warranty, expressed or implied, is given. It is the buyer's responsibility to ensure that its activities comply with the applicable regulations.

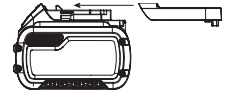
### Transporting the FLEXVOLT™ Battery

The DeWALT FLEXVOLT™ battery has two modes: **Use** and **Transport**.

**Use Mode:** When the FLEXVOLT™ battery stands alone or is in a DeWALT 18V product, it will operate as an 18V battery. When the FLEXVOLT™ battery is in a 54V or a 108V (two 54V batteries) product, it will operate as a 54V battery.

**Transport Mode:** When the cap is attached to the FLEXVOLT™ battery, the battery is in transport mode. Keep the cap for shipping.

When in Transport mode, strings of cells are electrically disconnected within the pack resulting in 3 batteries with a lower Watt hour (Wh) rating as compared to 1 battery with a higher Watt hour rating. This increased quantity of 3 batteries with the lower Watt hour rating can exempt the pack from certain shipping regulations that are imposed upon the higher Watt hour batteries.



For example, the Transport Wh rating might indicate 3 x 36 Wh, meaning 3 batteries of 36 Wh each. The Use Wh rating might indicate 108 Wh (1 battery implied).

Example of Use and Transport Label Marking



### Storage Recommendations

1. The best storage place is one that is cool and dry away from direct sunlight and excess heat or cold. For optimum battery performance and life, store battery packs at room temperature when not in use.
2. For long storage, it is recommended to store a fully charged battery pack in a cool, dry place out of the charger for optimal results.

**NOTE:** Battery packs should not be stored completely depleted of charge. The battery pack will need to be recharged before use.

### Labels on Charger and Battery Pack

In addition to the pictographs used in this manual, the labels on the charger and the battery pack may show the following pictographs:



Read instruction manual before use.



See **Technical Data** for charging time.



Do not probe with conductive objects.



Do not charge damaged battery packs.



Do not expose to water.



Have defective cords replaced immediately.



Charge only between 4 °C and 40 °C.



Only for indoor use.



Discard the battery pack with due care for the environment.

LI-ION



Charge DeWALT battery packs only with designated DeWALT chargers. Charging battery packs other than the designated DeWALT batteries with a DeWALT charger may make them burst or lead to other dangerous situations.



Do not incinerate the battery pack.



USE (without transport cap). Example: Wh rating indicates 108 Wh (1 battery with 108 Wh).



TRANSPORT (with built-in transport cap). Example: Wh rating indicates 3 x 36 Wh (3 batteries of 36 Wh).

### Battery Type

The DCS388 operates on a 54 volt battery pack.

This battery pack may be used:DCB546. Refer to **Technical Data** for more information.

### Package Contents

The package contains:

- 1 Cordless reciprocating saw
- 1 Li-Ion battery pack (T1 models)
- 2 Li-Ion battery packs (T2 models)
- 1 Charger
- 1 Instruction manual
- Check for damage to the tool, parts or accessories which may have occurred during transport.
- Take the time to thoroughly read and understand this manual prior to operation.

### Markings on Tool

The following pictograms are shown on the tool:



Read instruction manual before use.



Wear ear protection.



Wear eye protection.

### Date Code Position (Fig. A)

The date code **10**, which also includes the year of manufacture, is printed into the housing.

Example:

2016 XX XX  
Year of Manufacture

### Description (Fig. A)



**WARNING:** Never modify the power tool or any part of it. Damage or personal injury could result.

- 1 Trigger switch
- 2 Lock-off button
- 3 Blade clamp release lever
- 4 Shoe
- 5 Hand grip
- 6 Main handle
- 7 Battery pack
- 8 Battery release button
- 9 Worklight

### Intended Use

Your DCS388 cordless reciprocating saws have been designed for professional sawing of wood, metal and tubes. The compact design permits cutting extremely close to the edge of difficult areas.

**DO NOT** use under wet conditions or in presence of flammable liquids or gases.

These reciprocating saws are professional power tools.

**DO NOT** let children come into contact with the tool.

Supervision is required when inexperienced operators use this tool.

- **Young children and the infirm.** This appliance is not intended for use by young children or infirm persons without supervision.
- This product is not intended for use by persons (including children) suffering from diminished physical, sensory or mental abilities; lack of experience, knowledge or skills unless they are supervised by a person responsible for their safety. Children should never be left alone with this product.

### ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENTS



**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of serious personal injury, turn tool off and disconnect battery pack before making any adjustments or removing/ installing attachments or accessories. An accidental start-up can cause injury.



**WARNING:** Use only DeWALT battery packs and chargers.

### Inserting and Removing the Battery Pack from the Tool (Fig. C, D)

**NOTE:** Make sure your battery pack is fully charged.

## To Install the Battery Pack into the Tool Handle

1. Align the battery pack **7** with the rails inside the tool's handle (Fig. C).
2. Slide it into the handle until the battery pack is firmly seated in the tool and ensure that you hear the lock snap into place.

## To Remove the Battery Pack from the Tool

1. Press the release button **8** and firmly pull the battery pack out of the tool handle.
2. Insert battery pack into the charger as described in the charger section of this manual.

## Fuel Gauge Battery Packs (Fig. D)

Some DEWALT battery packs include a fuel gauge which consists of three green LED lights that indicate the level of charge remaining in the battery pack.

To actuate the fuel gauge, press and hold the fuel gauge button **11**. A combination of the three green LED lights will illuminate designating the level of charge left. When the level of charge in the battery is below the usable limit, the fuel gauge will not illuminate and the battery will need to be recharged.

**NOTE:** The fuel gauge is only an indication of the charge left on the battery pack. It does not indicate tool functionality and is subject to variation based on product components, temperature and end-user application.


## Variable Speed Trigger Switch (Fig. E)

### Lock-off Button and Trigger switch


Your saw is equipped with a lock-off button **2**.

**To lock the trigger switch**, press the lock-off button as shown in Figure E. Always lock the trigger switch **1** when carrying or storing the tool to eliminate unintentional starting. The lock-off button is colored **red** to indicate when the switch is in its **unlocked** position.

**To unlock the trigger switch**, press the lock-off button as shown in Figure E. Pull the trigger switch to turn the motor ON. Releasing the trigger switch turns the motor OFF.

 **WARNING:** This tool has no provision to lock the switch in the ON position, and should never be locked ON by any other means.

The variable speed trigger switch will give you added versatility. The further the trigger is depressed the higher the speed of the saw.

 **CAUTION:** Use of very slow speed is recommended only for beginning a cut. Prolonged use at very slow speed may damage your saw.

## Worklight (Fig. A)

There is a worklight **9** located on the end of the tool near the shoe. The worklight is activated when the trigger switch is depressed and will remain on for a short time after the trigger switch is released. If the trigger switch remains depressed, the worklight will remain on.


**NOTE:** The worklight is for lighting the immediate work surface and is not intended to be used as a flashlight.


## Battery Indicator

As the battery nears a fully discharged state, the flashlight will blink twice and then the brightness of the light will drop below the normal level. This cycle will repeat until the battery is fully discharged.


## OPERATION


### Instructions for Use

 **WARNING:** Always observe the safety instructions and applicable regulations.

 **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of serious personal injury, turn tool off and disconnect battery pack before making any adjustments or removing/installing attachments or accessories. An accidental start-up can cause injury.

### Proper Hand Position (Fig. F)


 **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of serious personal injury, ALWAYS use proper hand position as shown.

 **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of serious personal injury, ALWAYS hold securely in anticipation of a sudden reaction.

Proper hand position requires one hand on the hand grip **5**, with the other hand on the main handle **6**.

## Blade Installation and Removal (Fig. A, G–I)

Different blade lengths are available. Use the appropriate blade for the application. The blade should be longer than 90 mm and should extend past the shoe and the thickness of the workpiece during the cut. Do not use jigsaw blades with this tool.


 **WARNING:** Cut hazard. Blade breakage may occur if the blade does not extend past the shoe and the workpiece during the cut (Fig. H). Increased risk of personal injury, as well as damage to the shoe and workpiece may result.

### To Install Blade into Saw

1. Pull blade clamp release lever **3** up (Fig. G).
2. Insert blade shank from the front.
3. Push blade clamp release lever down.

**NOTE:** The blade can be installed in two positions as shown in Figure I.


### To Remove Blade from Saw

 **CAUTION:** Burn hazard. Do not touch the blade immediately after use. Contact with the blade may result in personal injury.


1. Open up blade clamp release lever.
2. Remove blade.


## Cutting (Fig. J–K)

 **WARNING:** Always use eye protection. All users and bystanders must wear approved eye protection.

 **WARNING:** Exercise extra caution when cutting towards operator. Always hold saw firmly with both hands while cutting.

Before cutting any type of material, be sure it is firmly anchored or clamped to prevent slipping. Place blade lightly against work to be cut, switch on saw motor and allow it to obtain maximum speed before applying pressure. Whenever possible, the saw shoe must be held firmly against the material being cut (Fig. K). This will prevent the saw from jumping or vibrating and minimise blade breakage. Any cuts that put pressure on the blade such as angle or scroll cuts increase potential for vibration, kickback, and blade breakage.

 **WARNING:** Use extra caution when cutting overhead and pay particular attention to overhead wires that may be hidden from view. Anticipate the path of falling branches and debris ahead of time.

 **WARNING:** Inspect work site for hidden gas pipes, water pipes, or electrical wires before making blind or plunge cuts. Failure to do so may result in explosion, property damage, electric shock, and/or serious personal injury.

### Pocket/Plunge Cutting – Wood Only (Fig. J)

The initial step in pocket cutting is to measure the surface area to be cut and mark clearly with a pencil, chalk or scribe. Use the appropriate blade for the application. The blade should be longer than 90 mm and should extend past the shoe and the thickness of the workpiece during the cut. Insert blade in blade clamp.

Next, tip the saw backward until the back edge of the shoe is resting on the work surface and the blade clears the work surface (position 1, Fig. J). Now switch motor on, and allow saw to come up to speed. Grip saw firmly with both hands and begin a slow, deliberate upward swing with the handle of the saw, keeping the bottom of the shoe firmly in contact with the workpiece (position 2, Fig. J). Blade will begin to feed into material. Always be sure blade is completely through material before continuing with pocket cut.

**NOTE:** In areas where blade visibility is limited, use the edge of the saw shoe as a guide. Lines for any given cut should be extended beyond edge of cut to be made.

### Metal Cutting (Fig. K)


Your saw has different metal cutting capacities depending upon type of blade used and the metal to be cut. Use a finer blade for ferrous metals and a coarse blade for non-ferrous materials. In thin gauge sheet metals it is best to clamp wood to both sides of sheet. This will ensure a clean cut without excess vibration or tearing of metal. Always remember not to force cutting blade as this reduces blade life and causes costly blade breakage.

**NOTE:** It is generally recommended that when cutting metals you should spread a thin film of oil or other lubricant along the line ahead of the saw cut for easier operation and longer blade life.

## MAINTENANCE

Your DEWALT power tool has been designed to operate over a long period of time with a minimum of maintenance.

Continuous satisfactory operation depends upon proper tool care and regular cleaning.

 **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of serious personal injury, turn tool off and disconnect battery pack before making any adjustments or removing/installing attachments or accessories. An accidental start-up can cause injury.

The charger and battery pack are not serviceable.





### Lubrication

Your power tool requires no additional lubrication.




### Cleaning

 **WARNING:** Blow dirt and dust out of the main housing with dry air as often as dirt is seen collecting in and around the air vents. Wear approved eye protection and approved dust mask when performing this procedure.

 **WARNING:** Never use solvents or other harsh chemicals for cleaning the non-metallic parts of the tool. These chemicals may weaken the materials used in these parts. Use a cloth dampened only with water and mild soap. Never let any liquid get inside the tool; never immerse any part of the tool into a liquid.

### Optional Accessories


 **WARNING:** Since accessories, other than those offered by DEWALT, have not been tested with this product, use of such accessories with this tool could be hazardous. To reduce the risk of injury, only DEWALT recommended accessories should be used with this product.

Consult your dealer for further information on the appropriate accessories.

### Protecting the Environment



Separate collection. Products and batteries marked with this symbol must not be disposed of with normal household waste.

 Products and batteries contain materials that can be recovered or recycled reducing the demand for raw materials. Please recycle electrical products and batteries according to local provisions. Further information is available at [www.2helpU.com](http://www.2helpU.com).

### Rechargeable Battery Pack

This long life battery pack must be recharged when it fails to produce sufficient power on jobs which were easily done before. At the end of its technical life, discard it with due care for our environment:

- Run the battery pack down completely, then remove it from the tool.
- Li-Ion cells are recyclable. Take them to your dealer or a local recycling station. The collected battery packs will be recycled or disposed of properly.



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