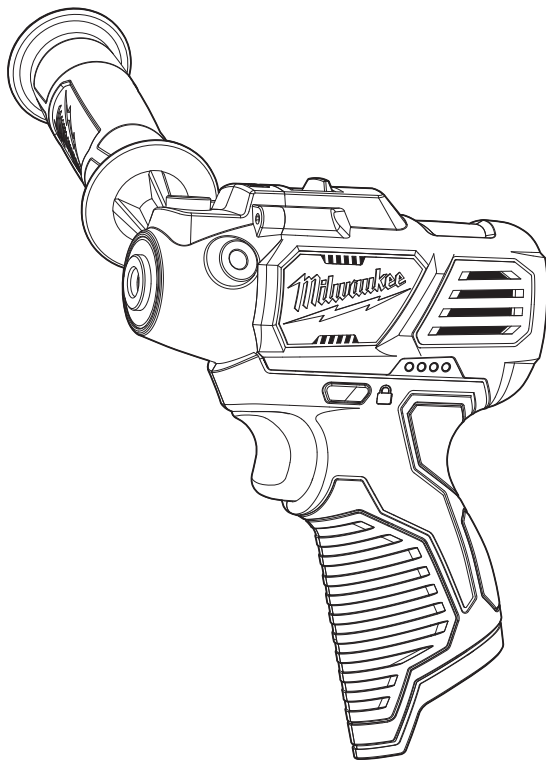




# OPERATOR'S MANUAL



Cat. No.  
2438-20

## M12™ 2" SANDER / 3" POLISHER



**WARNING** To reduce the risk of injury, user must read and understand operator's manual.

## GENERAL POWER TOOL SAFETY WARNINGS

**⚠WARNING** Read all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below 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.

### 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.

### 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 ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected supply.** Use of an GFCI reduces the risk of electric shock.

### 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 a 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 energizing 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 jewelry. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts.** Loose clothes, jewelry 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.
- **Do not let familiarity gained from frequent use of tools allow you to become complacent and ignore tool safety principles.** A careless action can cause severe injury within a fraction of a second.

### 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 remove the battery pack, if detachable, 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.
  - **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.
  - **Maintain power tools and accessories. 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.
  - **Keep cutting tools sharp and clean.** Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
  - **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.
  - **Keep handles and grasping surfaces dry, clean and free from oil and grease.** Slippery handles and grasping surfaces do not allow for safe handling and control of the tool in unexpected situations.
- ### BATTERY TOOL USE AND CARE
- **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.
  - **Use power tools only with specifically designated battery packs.** Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire.
  - **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.

- **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.
- **Do not use a battery pack or tool that is damaged or modified.** Damaged or modified batteries may exhibit unpredictable behavior resulting in fire, explosion or risk of injury.
- **Do not expose a battery pack or tool to fire or excessive temperature.** Exposure to fire or temperature above 265°F (130°C) may cause explosion.
- **Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or tool outside the temperature range specified in the instructions.** Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

## SERVICE

- **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.
- **Never service damaged battery packs.** Service of battery packs should only be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service providers.

## SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES FOR SANDER/POLISHER

Safety Warnings Common for Sanding and Polishing Operations:

- **This power tool is intended to function as a sander or polisher. Read all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations and specifications provided with this power tool.** Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.
- **Operations such as grinding, wire brushing or cutting-off are not recommended to be performed with this power tool.** Operations for which the power tool was not designed may create a hazard and cause personal injury.
- **Do not use accessories which are not specifically designed and recommended by the tool manufacturer.** Just because the accessory can be attached to your power tool, it does not assure safe operation.
- **The rated speed of the accessory must be at least equal to the maximum speed marked on the power tool.** Accessories running faster than their rated speed can break and fly apart.
- **The outside diameter and the thickness of your accessory must be within the capacity rating of your power tool.** Incorrectly sized accessories cannot be adequately guarded or controlled.
- **Threaded mounting of accessories must match the grinder spindle thread. For accessories mounted by flanges, the arbour hole of the accessory must fit the locating diameter of the flange.** Accessories that do not match the mounting hardware of the power tool will run out of balance, vibrate excessively and may cause loss of control.
- **Do not use a damaged accessory. Before each use inspect the accessory such as abrasive wheels for chips and cracks, backing pad for cracks, tear or excess wear, wire brush for loose or cracked wires. If power tool or accessory is dropped, inspect for damage or install an undamaged accessory. After inspecting and installing an accessory, position yourself and bystanders away from the plane of the rotating accessory and run the power tool at maximum no-load speed for one minute.**

Damaged accessories will normally break apart during this test time.

- **Wear personal protective equipment. Depending on application, use face shield, safety goggles or safety glasses. As appropriate, wear dust mask, hearing protectors, gloves and workshop apron capable of stopping small abrasive or workpiece fragments.** The eye protection must be capable of stopping flying debris generated by various operations. The dust mask or respirator must be capable of filtering particles generated by your operation. Prolonged exposure to high intensity noise may cause hearing loss.
  - **Keep bystanders a safe distance away from work area. Anyone entering the work area must wear personal protective equipment.** Fragments of workpiece or of a broken accessory may fly away and cause injury beyond immediate area of operation.
  - **Hold the power tool by insulated gripping surfaces only, when performing an operation where the cutting tool may contact hidden wiring.** Contact with a "live" wire may also make exposed metal parts of the power tool "live" and could give the operator an electric shock.
  - **Never lay the power tool down until the accessory has come to a complete stop.** The spinning accessory may grab the surface and pull the power tool out of your control.
  - **Do not run the power tool while carrying it at your side.** Accidental contact with the spinning accessory could snag your clothing, pulling the accessory into your body.
  - **Regularly clean the power tool's air vents.** The motor's fan will draw the dust inside the housing and excessive accumulation of powdered metal may cause electrical hazards.
  - **Do not operate the power tool near flammable materials.** Sparks could ignite these materials.
  - **Do not use accessories that require liquid coolants.** Using water or other liquid coolants may result in electrocution or shock.
- ### Kickback and Related Warnings
- Kickback is a sudden reaction to a pinched or snagged rotating wheel, backing pad, brush or any other accessory. Pinching or snagging causes rapid stalling of the rotating accessory which in turn causes the uncontrolled power tool to be forced in the direction opposite of the accessory's rotation at the point of the binding. For example, if an abrasive wheel is snagged or pinched by the workpiece, the edge of the wheel that is entering into the pinch point can dig into the surface of the material causing the wheel to climb out or kick out. The wheel may either jump toward or away from the operator, depending on direction of the wheel's movement at the point of pinching. Abrasive wheels may also break under these conditions.
- Kickback is the result of power tool misuse and/or incorrect operating procedures or conditions and can be avoided by taking proper precautions as given below.
- **Maintain a firm grip on the power tool and position your body and arm to allow you to resist kickback forces. Always use auxiliary handle, if provided, for maximum control over kickback or torque reaction during start-up.** The operator can control torque reactions or kickback forces, if proper precautions are taken.
  - **Never place your hand near the rotating accessory.** Accessory may kickback over your hand.
  - **Do not position your body in the area where power tool will move if kickback occurs.** Kickback will

propel the tool in direction opposite to the wheel's movement at the point of snagging.

• **Use special care when working corners, sharp edges etc. Avoid bouncing and snagging the accessory.** Corners, sharp edges or bouncing have a tendency to snag the rotating accessory and cause loss of control or kickback.

• **Do not attach a saw chain woodcarving blade or toothed saw blade.** Such blades create frequent kickback and loss of control.

**Safety Warnings Specific for Sanding Operations:**

• **Do not use excessively oversized sanding disc paper. Follow manufacturers recommendations, when selecting sanding paper.** Larger sanding paper extending beyond the sanding pad presents a laceration hazard and may cause snagging, tearing of the disc or kickback.

**Safety Warnings Specific for Polishing Operations:**

• **Do not allow any loose portion of the polishing bonnet or its attachment strings to spin freely. Tuck away or trim any loose attachment strings.** Loose and spinning attachment strings can entangle your fingers or snag on the workpiece.

**Additional Safety Warnings**

• **Maintain labels and nameplates.** These carry important information. If unreadable or missing, contact a MILWAUKEE service facility for a free replacement.

• **AWARNING** Some dust created by power sanding, sawing, grinding, drilling, and other construction activities contains chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals are:

- lead from lead-based paint
  - crystalline silica from bricks and cement and other masonry products, and
  - arsenic and chromium from chemically-treated lumber.
- Your risk from these exposures varies, depending on how often you do this type of work. To reduce your exposure to these chemicals: work in a well ventilated area, and work with approved safety equipment, such as those dust masks that are specially designed to filter out microscopic particles.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Cat. No.....	2438-20
Volts.....	12 DC
Battery Type.....	M12™
Charger Type.....	M12™
Rated RPM.....	High 0 - 8 300 Low 0 - 2 800
Spindle Thread Size.....	M9 x 0.75
Sanding Disc Diameter.....	2"
Polishing Pad Diameter.....	3"

**SYMBOLGY**



Volts



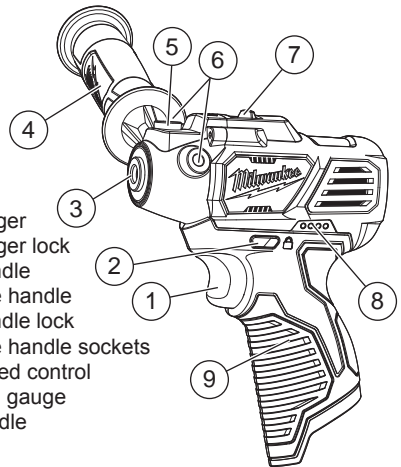
Direct Current

n XXXX min<sup>-1</sup> Rated Revolutions per Minute (RPM)



UL Listing Mark for Canada and the U.S.

**FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION**



1. Trigger
2. Trigger lock
3. Spindle
4. Side handle
5. Spindle lock
6. Side handle sockets
7. Speed control
8. Fuel gauge
9. Handle

## ASSEMBLY

**⚠WARNING** Recharge only with the charger specified for the battery. For specific charging instructions, read the operator's manual supplied with your charger and battery.

### Removing/Inserting the Battery

To remove the battery, push in the release buttons and pull the battery pack away from the tool.

**⚠WARNING** Always remove battery pack before changing or removing accessories.

To insert the battery, slide the pack into the body of the tool. Make sure it latches securely into place.

**⚠WARNING** To reduce the risk of injury, always use a side handle when using this tool. Hold securely.

### Installing Side Handle

The side handle may be installed on either side of the gear case. Position the side handle in the location which offers best control and guard protection. To install, thread side handle into side handle socket and tighten securely.

### Sanding Disc Selection

Use sanding discs and accessories that are:

- correct size as written on tool's nameplate.
- rated at or above the RPM listed on the tool's nameplate.
- correct accessory, wheel type and grit for the job. Select the correct type of sanding disc for your job. Generally, use 24 or 36 grit for heavy stock removal; 50, 60, or 80 grit for medium stock removal and 120 grit for finishing. Always begin with a coarse grit, using successively finer grits to obtain the desired finish.
- **Aluminum Oxide:** For fast cutting, general purpose discs for most metal jobs. Best for cold-rolled steel, stainless steel or metals requiring tough, fast cutting, long lasting abrasives.
- **Aluminum Zirconia Bi-Cut:** Unique grit pattern is arranged in clusters for faster stock removal and cleaning. Ideal for removing paint from cars, boats, etc. without clogging.
- **Ceramic:** Lasts up to 3 times longer than Aluminum Oxide Discs. For general metal working. Ideal for tough jobs.

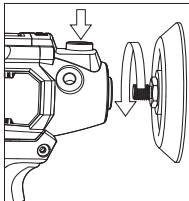
### Installing/Removing Sanding Discs

Use Roloc™ type sanding discs.

1. Remove the battery pack. **⚠WARNING!** Always remove battery pack before changing or removing accessories.
2. Press in the spindle lock and thread sanding disc onto the backing pad. Hand tighten securely.
3. To remove, reverse the procedure.

### Installing Backing Pads

1. Remove the battery pack. **⚠WARNING!** Always remove battery pack before changing or removing accessories.
2. Wipe the accessories and spindle to remove dust and debris. Inspect the parts for damage. Replace if needed. Use only MILWAUKEE mounting hardware designed for your tool.
3. Press in the spindle lock and thread the backing pad into the spindle. Hand tighten securely.



4. To remove backing pad, remove the battery pack and reverse the procedure.

### Installing/Removing Hook and Loop Polishing Pads

1. Remove the battery pack. **⚠WARNING!** Always remove battery pack before changing or removing accessories.
2. To install, line up the polishing pad with the backing pad and press firmly onto the tool.
3. To remove, pull the polishing pad off of the backing pad.

**NOTE:** Use side handles for better control.

## OPERATION

**⚠WARNING** To reduce the risk of injury, always wear safety goggles or glasses with side shields.

### Fuel Gauge

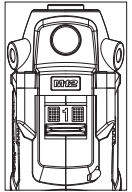
To determine the amount of charge left in the battery, pull the trigger. The Fuel Gauge will light up for 2-3 seconds.

To signal the end of charge, 1 light on the fuel gauge will flash for 2-3 seconds.

### Selecting Speed

Allow the tool to come to a complete stop before changing speeds.

1. For **Low** speed, push the speed selector to display "1".
2. For **High** speed, push the speed selector to display "2".



### Locking the Trigger

Always allow the motor to come to a complete stop before locking the trigger. Always lock the trigger or remove the battery pack before performing maintenance, changing accessories, storing the tool and any time the tool is not in use.

To **lock** the trigger, push the trigger lock from the **LOCK** side of the tool. To **unlock**, push the trigger lock to the **UNLOCK** side of the tool.

### General Operation

1. After installing an accessory or beginning a period of work, test the wheel by letting it spin for one minute before applying it to the workpiece. **⚠WARNING!** Never use an accessory that has been dropped. Out-of-balance or damaged accessories can mar workpiece, damage the tool, and cause stress that may cause accessory failure.
2. Use a clamp, vise or other practical means to hold your work, freeing both hands to control the tool.
3. **⚠WARNING!** Hold tool securely with both hands. Start the tool.  
**NOTE:** If the battery is inserted when the tool is ON, the tool will not run. Turn the tool OFF, then back ON to begin work.
4. Allow accessory to come to full speed before beginning work.
5. Control pressure and surface contact between accessory and workpiece. **⚠WARNING!** Never bang accessory onto work. Too much pressure causes accessory failure or slows speed.
6. When finished, turn off the tool and make sure it comes to a complete stop before laying it down.

## **MAINTENANCE**

**⚠WARNING** To reduce the risk of injury, always unplug the charger and remove the battery pack from the charger or tool before performing any maintenance. Never disassemble the tool, battery pack or charger. Contact a MILWAUKEE service facility for ALL repairs.

### **Maintaining Tool**

Keep your tool, battery pack and charger in good repair by adopting a regular maintenance program. Inspect your tool for issues such as undue noise, misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, or any other condition that may affect the tool operation. Return the tool, battery pack, and charger to a MILWAUKEE service facility for repair. After six months to one year, depending on use, return the tool, battery pack and charger to a MILWAUKEE service facility for inspection.

If the tool does not start or operate at full power with a fully charged battery pack, clean the contacts on the battery pack. If the tool still does not work properly, return the tool, charger and battery pack, to a MILWAUKEE service facility for repairs.

**⚠WARNING** To reduce the risk of personal injury and damage, never immerse your tool, battery pack or charger in liquid or allow a liquid to flow inside them.

### **Cleaning**

Clean dust and debris from vents. Keep handles clean, dry and free of oil or grease. Use only mild soap and a damp cloth to clean, since certain cleaning agents and solvents are harmful to plastics and other insulated parts. Some of these include gasoline, turpentine, lacquer thinner, paint thinner, chlorinated cleaning solvents, ammonia and household detergents containing ammonia. Never use flammable or combustible solvents around tools.

### **Repairs**

For repairs, return the tool, battery pack and charger to the nearest service center.

## **ACCESSORIES**

**⚠WARNING** Use only recommended accessories. Others may be hazardous.