

Hand Blenders

A useful kitchen gadget



Hand Blenders

A hand blender is an easy timesaver. It is also called “immersion blender” as it blends purée thick soups right in the pot, without transferring them into a countertop blender. As an added bonus, it save time on clean up, too. Most hand blenders have removable blending wands that can be easily cleaned in the sink.

To help you find the best hand blenders, 14 hand blenders at prices ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 4,500 and wattages ranging from 250 to 500 watts were tested. The brands were **Philips HR 160, Braun Multiquick MR 120, Bajaj Silencio HB 500, Morphy Richards HBCD, Kenwood HB665, Inalsa Premium Blend 400, Black and Decker SB 3120-B5, Oster FPSTHB 2617-049, Havells Super-Blend, Orient Actus HBSSO1P, Reconnect RHHBB1001, Croma AK4135 Oroat HHB-107E/WOB and Prestige PHB 6.0.**

How blenders tested

To test how these hand blenders work efficiently, two different kinds of lassi were blended. Although this does not represent the job what a hand blender can do but it gives an idea of how the hand blender can possibly do at every other task throw at it.

Bananas, yoghurt, honey and milk blended for 15 seconds to make banana lassi. It passed through three sieves with holes of diameters 1.4mm, 1mm and 0.5 mm respectively. How much of the mixture was left in each of the three sieves was then weighed.

If a lassi made by hand blender was uneven in consistency and lumpy, there will be a lot more of it left in the 1.4mm sieve and a hand blender will score less because of that. The specific model gets better score in comparison with other models if lassi made by it goes through each sieve. The banana lassi gives an idea of how the work blender does with softer ingredients and how with harder ingredients while making masala lassi. Ginger, yoghurt and cardamom are ingredients for masala lassi. The lassi made by a particular brand was then scored using the same process followed with banana lassi.

These blenders are subjectively rated in 1-5 scale on their performance of blending, the instruction manual, ease of use, level of noise and how convenient to clean and store.

Key Findings

Three of the models (Philips, Braun and Bajaj) scored higher than other brands.

Best Buy

Philips HR 160



Hand blender with 500 watt is the least expensive of the three brands which scored high. Around 50% of the banana lassi passed through all the sieves (1.4mm, 1mm and 0.5 mm), which was above average for the models tested, while around 63% passed through all the sieves for the masala lassi test.

Other features: The body is made up of plastic with detachable arm. There is no additional attachment like wall mounting bracket or chopper bowl. It is with a single speed and the single attachment is easy to remove and fix. Maintenance is also easy.

Pros: Inexpensive and comfortable to use.

Cons: No chopper bowl, no extra attachment, noisy.

Braun Multiquick MR 120



With 300W, it does an excel job at blending. Both types of lassis were made smooth and consistent. Around 50% of the banana lassi and 63% of masala lassi had passed through all the sieves.

Other Features: The attachments are easy to fix and remove. This model and its detachable arm are plastic. Its chopper bowl can be fixed to the body to do chopping and also a separate whisk attachment is available. It is easy to hold and suction does not cause too much of a downward pull on the blender. This is easy to operate, clean and maintain.

Pros: Great performance and less power needed.

Cons: No measuring cup, no adaptor for its flat three-pin plug to use in Indian sockets.

Bajaj Silencio HB 500



It did well in blending tests. Both lassis were smooth and consistent. Rated at 500W, both lassis passed through all the sieves – 62% of banana lassi and 72% masala lassi.

Other Features: This model has a detachable metallic arm, an affix able chopper bowl, a whisking attachment and a separate measuring cup. It has two speeds unlike other brands have one. Easy to fix and remove the various attachments. Handle is comfortable to hold though the push button requires a little effort to operate. It is little noisy during operation.

Pros: Two speed settings present.

Cons: Push Button is hard to use, not easy to store the unit and attachments.

Worth Considering

Morphy Richards HBCD



This 300W model was admirable at blending. 69% of the banana lassi has passed through all the sieves while 75% of masala lassi has passed through three sieves. 11% of the masala lassi was left in the 1.4mm sieve, meaning that lassi has lumpy texture.

Other features

It has plastic body with a detachable metal arm, a whisk attachment, an affixable plastic chopper bowl and a plastic beaker. The attachments are easy to clean and body is comfortable to hold. It is with two speeds but the push button is a little hard to use. It is found that there was a strong pull downwards because of the suction created during blending and is also noisy to operate. However it is easy to store.

Pros: Easy to store and clean.

Cons: Push Button is tough to use, noisy while operating.

Kenwood HB665



It did well in blending banana lassi with 65% of the mixture passing through the sieves while 51% of masala lassi has passed through.

Other features

The 400W model has a plastic body with detachable metal arm, an affixable plastic chopper bowl, a plastic beaker and a whisking attachment. The attachments are easy to fix and remove and easy to hold. The position of push button is not convenient. It has two speeds. There is not much of a pull downward because of the suction created during blending. It is easy to clean. It does not come with a wall mounting bracket but with a base to hold the beaker and the chopper bowl.

Pros: two selectable speeds.

Cons: No wall mounting bracket, noisy while operating.

One good reason to buy an immersion blender is less mess. Since blending everything right in the bowl, there's less to clean up. But be aware immersion blenders can't match the speed or power of countertop models.

TEST AND RATING									
BRAND	SPECIFICATION					TEST PERFORMANCE			TEST SCORE (%)
	Price (₹)	Wattage(W)	Weight(g)	Height(cm)	Width(cm)	Blending a banana lassi	Blending a masala lassi	Overall ease of use	
PHILIPS HR 1600	1,995	500	710	37.4	8.8	5 star	5 star	5 star	87
BRAUN Multiquick MR 120	3,850	300	590	34	7.2	5 star	4 star	5 star	85
BAJAJ Silencio HB 500	2,995	500	790	38.8	6.6	5 star	4 star	5 star	77
MORPHY RICHARDS HBCD	3,195	300	680	36.9	7.5	5 star	3 star	4 star	72
KENWOOD HB665	3,600	400	750	36.6	6.8	4 star	2 star	5 star	71
INALSA premium Blend 400	3,295	400	760	36.7	9.2	5 star	3 star	3 star	64
BLACK AND DECKER SB3120-B5	4,575	300	740	41	8.5	3 star	3 star	5 star	61
OSTER FPSTHB 2617-049	1,500	450	680	38.7	6.4	4 star	2 star	4 star	60
HAVELLS Super-Blend	2,595	400	710	37.6	6.8	3 star	2 star	4 star	50
ORIENT Actus HBSS01P	1,995	300	750	36.3	6.6	2 star	2 star	4 star	47
RECONNECT RHHBB1001	1,000	200	650	36.4	6.6	2 star	2 star	4 star	46
CROMA AK4135	2,190	600	830	39.1	7.5	1 star	2 star	4 star	41
ORPAT HHB-107E/WOB	1,040	250	780	33.3	9	2 star	2 star	4 star	40
PRESTIGE PHB 6.0	2,495	200	640	36.7	8.2	1 star	2 star	4 star	40

Using the table

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price -Guide Price as of April 11, 2014

Wattage: the power consumption of each brand in watts as stated by manufacturer

Weight The weight of appliance in grams with metal blade attached

Height Height of the body of appliances in centimeters

Width Circular width of body of appliance in centimeters

Test Performance

Blending a banana lassi The evenness and consistency of a mixture of bananas and yoghurt blended together by the hand blender

Blending a masala lassi The evenness and consistency of a mixture of ginger, cardamom and yoghurt blended together by the hand blender

Overall ease of use How convenient the hand blender is to use, clean and store

Scores

Ignores price and is based on

Overall ease of use 40%

Blending a banana lassi 35%

Blending a masala lassi 25%

Source: Right Choice, June 2014