Buy the Right Kitchen Aid p6
14 Hand Blenders Lab Tested

Choose the Right Food for Your Plate

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Buying a Hand Blender?  
We Can Tell You Which & Why

14 Hand Blenders Lab Tested

From making soup and fruit shake to chopping onions and whipping eggs, you’ll be surprised to know how much else it can do to help you make delicious and healthy food in a fraction of time. Yes, hand blender is one of the most versatile appliances that many kitchens just can’t do without.

In a user survey we found that a large number of homemakers and cooks preferred hand blenders to food processors or mixers. To help consumers make an informed choice, INSIGHT decided to do a comparative testing of hand blenders. We invested around 2,800 man-day-hours and Rs. 70 thousand (cost of samples) to test a total of 42 samples of 14 widely sold models of hand blenders. Approximately 3 kg of curd, 7 dozen eggs, 5.5 kg onions, 3 kg bananas and 3.5 litre milk were used to test the performance of blenders. A total of 23 tests were conducted on each sample of hand blenders.

**INSIGHT Quick Picks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price (Rs.)*</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Braun</strong> MR-120</td>
<td>3,182</td>
<td>Blending, whisking and chopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kenstar</strong> Champ KHC 30 W1B-HCF</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>Blending and whisking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prestige</strong> PHB 6.0</td>
<td>1,435</td>
<td>Blending, whisking and chopping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Price at Ahmedabad
Test Findings

INSIGHT recommends three ‘Best Buys’—Braun MR-120, Kenstar Champ KHC 30 W1B-HCF and Prestige PHB 6.0, as they were overall best in terms of performance, quality, convenience, general requirements and environmental criteria.

We don’t recommend five models—Jaipan Lassi Maker, Boss B-125, Anjali Silver Touch, Orpat HHB-137-E/WOB and Softel Turbo. The electric wires inside their external power supply cord were of poor quality, which may cause overheating and fire. Moreover, when using Softel and Orpat, their power cord may get strained or twisted at the point where it is connected to the blender. This may affect the insulation of conductors, resulting in short-circuit and fire.

Here are the other findings of our tests:

Performance
- All the 14 hand blenders took almost equal time (12-15 seconds) in making 6-7 glasses of buttermilk. However, for small quantities (1-2 glass using 50g of curd) Black & Decker and Maharaja took a little longer time (15-20sec.), as their blades were mounted deep in the blade guard not easily making contact with the small quantity of curd.
- Braun was the fastest in making banana shake. For equal quantities, Philips took the maximum time (21 sec.) which was almost double than that of Braun (10 sec).
- Maharaja and Black & Decker were the slowest in whisking eggs (both models took 10 sec. while the other models took 5-7 sec.)
- 5 models—Braun, Softel, Prestige, Philips and Croma—were provided with separate blade and bowl for chopping, they took only 10 seconds in chopping 100g of onions. Remaining models can also do chopping but they may take more time.

Convenience
It includes functions, cleaning and storage.
- 4 models—Anjali, Boss, Jaipan and Orpat—had removable blades, thus easy to clean, however, Orpat did not provide blade removal spoon.
- 3 models—Braun, Croma and Prestige, had a separate attachment for whisking and chopping.
- The switch operation in Croma and Philips was difficult. You will need to press and hold a button continuously during entire operation.
- 4 models—Boss, Softel, Jaipan and Anjali—had non-detachable stem. They needed an extra precaution while cleaning under running water, as water may seep into their electrical parts or wirings.
- At one stretch, Orpat can be used for the longest time (6 minute); Black & Decker, Kenstar, Croma and Philips had the minimum operating time of 30 seconds only.
- Philips had the longest stem (21.2cm) followed by Black & Decker (19.8cm) and Braun (19cm). Jaipan had the shortest stem (12.8cm).
- Philips and Orpat had the longest power cord (1.9m approx.); Kenstar had the shortest (1.09m). The length of cords of most of the models was approximately between 1.0 and 1.7m.
- In Morphy Richards, it was a little difficult to understand how to separate and fix the stem from the blender.

Environment Criteria
- Though the rated wattage of Braun (i.e. 300 w) was greater than 9 other models, it consumed the least energy. Philips (rated wattage- 250 w) consumed almost four times that of Braun. (For annual energy cost, see results on eco-friendly criteria)
- In the ‘user test’ Maharaja, Boss and Anjali produced the most acceptable sound compared to other models.
- 3 models—Kenstar, Braun and Black & Decker—provided information on recycling/disposal.
- The manual of Bajaj said that the company dedicates itself to the cause of environmental protection, however, information on recycling/disposal was missing.
- None of the models provided any information on packaging material used.

General Findings
- Kenstar was the lightest among the 14 models tested by us; it weighed 498g. Boss was the heaviest (853g).
- The power indicator—which helps the user to know the availability of power supply—was provided only in Anjali.
- The speed was not marked on the push buttons in Maharaja and Morphy Richards. Hence, it was difficult to select between the two speeds.
- None of the hand blenders tested by us carried the ISI mark. Hand blenders are covered neither under the mandatory certification by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) nor the Quality Control Order 2003.

Markings
- Only Braun and Philips had legible and durable markings.
- Rated operating time was marked only on samples of Boss, Softel, Orpat, Anjali and Jaipan.
- Softel, Anjali, Kenstar and Maharaja did not mention the country of origin.
## Hand Blenders: Test Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Overall Weighted Score</th>
<th>Price (Rs.)</th>
<th>Overall Quality</th>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>General requirements</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Convenience</th>
<th>Attachments (Refer to Key)</th>
<th>Performance Time (Seconds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Braun MR-120</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3182</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>A, B, C</td>
<td>12 5 10 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kenstar Champ KHC 30W1B-HCF</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12 5 15 NA</td>
<td>1y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prestige PHB 6.0</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1435</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A, B, C</td>
<td>12 5 17 10</td>
<td>1y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bajaj Majesty HB-06</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>13 7 11 NA</td>
<td>2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Croma CRK-4094</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1590</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A, B, C</td>
<td>12 5 15 10</td>
<td>2y</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morphy Richards HB-05</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>13 7 12 NA</td>
<td>2y</td>
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<td><strong>Phillips HR-1350-51/9C</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1475</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A, B</td>
<td>12 5 21 10</td>
<td>2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black &amp; Decker SB-2000</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>15 10 17 NA</td>
<td>2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maharaja Whiteline Elegance 2504</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>15 10 17 NA</td>
<td>1y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jaipan Lassi Maker</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>12 5 12 NA 6m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boss Type B-125</strong></td>
<td>68</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>12 5 14 NA</td>
<td>2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anjali Silver Touch</strong></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>12 5 16 NA</td>
<td>2y</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Orpat HHS-137-E /WOB</strong></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>12 5 17 NA</td>
<td>1y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Softel Turbo</strong></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>A, B</td>
<td>12 5 13 10 1y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

- **A** = 1 fixed multipurpose blade
- **B** = Chopping bowl and blade
- **C** = Whisking attachment
- **D** = 3 removable blades for blending/mincing, whipping and beating
- **E** = 3 removable blades for blending/mincing, whipping and cutting
- **#** = Provided by a stamp on warranty card
- **y** = year
- **m** = month

**Best Buys:** Based on the overall score, **Braun MR-120**, **Kenstar Champ KHC 30W1B-HCF**, and **Prestige PHB 6.0** are our Best Buys.
### Choose Your Model

**Braun MR-120**
- Wattage Rating: 300W
- Price: Rs. 3,182
- Overall Score: 97%
- **Good:**
  - Excellent overall performance
  - Separate chopper bowl and blade provided
  - Most convenient; easy to handle and clean
  - Lowest energy cost
  - Information on disposal/recycling provided
  - 2-yr guarantee; list of service centres provided with guarantee card
- **Bad:**
  - High price

**Kenstar Champ KHC 30 W1B-HCF**
- Wattage Rating: 300W
- Price: Rs. 850
- Overall Score: 93%
- **Good:**
  - Excellent performance in blending and whisking
  - Easy to handle and clean
  - Low energy cost
  - Information on disposal/recycling provided
  - Contact numbers of Kenstar branch offices provided
- **Bad:**
  - Length of power cord is short
  - Chopper attachment is not provided

**Prestige PFB 6.0**
- Wattage Rating: 200W
- Price: Rs. 1,435
- Overall Score: 83%
- **Good:**
  - Excellent overall performance
  - Most convenient chopper blade and bowl
  - Easy to clean
  - Contact details of regional service centres provided in the user’s manual
- **Bad:**
  - Storage stand is not convenient
  - All lifetime energy cost than other best buys
  - Disposal/recycling information not provided

**Orpat HHB-137 E/WOB**
- Wattage Rating: 250W
- Price: Rs. 700
- Overall Score: 63%
- **Good:**
  - Good blending and whisking performance
  - Length of power cord is good
- **Bad:**
  - High resistance of power cord may cause overheating and fire
  - Chopper attachment not provided
  - Weight is comparatively more

**Softel Turbo**
- Wattage Rating: 125W
- Price: Rs. 1,200
- Overall Score: 63%
- **Good:**
  - Good overall performance
  - Chopper attachment is provided
- **Bad:**
  - High resistance of power cord may cause overheating and fire
  - Weight is comparatively more

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### How to Use it Well

- **Clean properly:** Wash the attachments in warm soap water and dry well. Don’t use harsh and abrasive cleaning agents or solvents.
- **If you use the blender with oily food,** fill up the jar with lukewarm water, add a few drops of liquid detergent and run the blender for ten seconds. Repeat the operation with plain water and then wipe gently.
- **Use safely:** Keep the power cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges. Never use the blender in boiling hot liquid or with any vessel that is on the direct heat.

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**Not Recommended:** INSIGHT does not recommend brands which do not conform to the safety Standards. They are Jaipan, Boss, Anjali, Orpat and Softel.
10 Things You Need to Know to Buy the Right Hand Blender:

1. For mixing, preparing shakes, blending and pureeing, a basic model having a single multipurpose blade can be a good choice.
2. For chopping onions, ginger, tomatoes, garlic, etc. go for a blender with chopping attachment; it will do the task faster and more uniform than a basic model.
3. If you frequently make omelet, cake and desserts, prefer a hand blender with a separate whipping/whisking attachment.
4. Blender with big and clearly labeled control buttons will be easy to operate.
5. Detachable stem will be easy to clean under running water; no chance of water sipping into the electrical parts.

For people with disabilities: Choose a lightweight hand blender having single speed push button switch. A single multipurpose blade can be the best option.

How We Tested

INSIGHT tested 14 models of hand blenders for safety, as per Standards [IS: 302-2:14(1994) & IS: 302-1(2008)]. There are, however, no standards for performance, quality, durability, convenience, and environment criteria, i.e., energy consumption and sound. So our testers devised methods for testing those parameters from the consumer’s viewpoint.

Durability: Blenders were tested for regular use over an extended period, say 10 seconds daily for a year, by operating them at ±5 per cent of the rated voltage for 122 cycles of 30 seconds each, with a OFF time of 2 minutes between two consecutive cycles. Then we checked them for any damage and also whether they can be used further.

Performance: Their chopping performance was tested by taking 100g of onion pieces in the test bowl and chopping them with the blade provided for this purpose. The blending results were checked for consistency by sieving the buttermilk through 355-micron sieve and compared against the consistency of Amul Buttermilk.

We also prepared banana milkshake by blending 100g of banana pieces with one cup of milk with sugar in a test bowl. Using the blending blade a homogenous milkshake was prepared. The time taken and energy consumed by each model was noted to know which model is more environment friendly.

Safety: Several safety tests were conducted on each hand blender, as per the BIS Standard. They were tests for: protection against electric shock, starting of motor, input (wattage), and temperature rise during normal use, electrical insulation and leakage current, moisture resistance, electrical insulation and high voltage test, abnormal operation, overall construction and supply connections and external flexible cables and cords.

Eco-friendly Criteria: Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models</th>
<th>Rated Voltage (W)</th>
<th>Energy Efficiency (Wh)</th>
<th>Energy Cost (Rs.)</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Recyclability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braun</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.1755</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenstar</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.2051</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.3392</td>
<td>11.14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bajaj</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.3983</td>
<td>13.08</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croma</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>0.4208</td>
<td>13.82</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
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<td>Morphy</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.3620</td>
<td>11.99</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
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<td>Philips</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black &amp; Decker</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.5000</td>
<td>16.42</td>
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<td>P</td>
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<td>Maharaja</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.2650</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orpat</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0.3890</td>
<td>12.78</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softel</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>0.3280</td>
<td>10.77</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Considering preparation of ten glasses of banana milkshake (twice daily) throughout the year with a tariff of Rs. 4.50 per Kilo Wh.

* Results are based on a 'user test'

W: Watts (unit of power) Wn: Watt hour (unit of energy)
M - Moderate L - Low P - Provided NP - Not Provided
**After-Sales Service**

Information on after-sales service centres are normally provided in the manuals and/or guarantee/warranty cards of the products. We found that Anjali didn’t provide information on service centres, however, dealer from which you purchase this model can provide spare parts. Black & Decker provided only one contact address and number at Delhi. Contacting them over telephone was also difficult. Only Kenstar, Morphy Richards, Philips, Croma and Bajaj provide “Toll-free number” for consumers. For other brands consumers have to make calls at their own cost.

**Manufacturers’ Response**

As a policy, we convey the test results to all the manufacturers, irrespective of whether their brands have passed or failed. The results are posted to their registered offices by Registered A.D. / courier. All the manufacturers receive the results of their own products only and are given one week from the date of receipt to respond.

Softel Machines said that it will immediately take steps to rectify the non-conformity of the power supply cords.

Boss Electricals commented on the test result on eco-criteria that whenever a proper system is framed the company will give information on recycling procedure in their instruction manual.

Annapurna Manufacturers, said that they purchase the external flexible cable from standard manufacturers, however, if anything is lacking as per the norms the company will improve the quality of their product (Anjli Silver Touch).

Bajaj Electricals Limited said that the marking on its hand blender is durable and will not come off on its own. However, “in future, we will look at printing the information on the body itself”, it added. On providing recycling information, Bajaj said that it will look at this positively.

The manufacturers of Braun, Philips, Prestige, Kenstar, Croma, Orpat, Jaipan, Maharaja, Morphy-Richards and Black & Decker didn’t respond till the time of going to press.

**Warranty and Guarantee**

Warranty is a contract to perform a promise or discharge the liability of a third person in case he fails to do so. Warranty is a stipulation, the breach of which allows a party to recover damages on account of the said breach and consequent loss suffered.

In the world of consumer durables both these terms are used interchangeably and loosely. Check whether the manufacturer offers a guarantee or warranty and also its duration. Read and understand the terms and conditions; get the card/paper signed and stamped by the dealer and keep it for any future use.

**Areas of Action**

To ensure the performance and safety of hand blenders, CERS has:

- requested the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India, to cover hand blenders under Quality Control Order ‘2003’;
- represented to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to cover:
  • the provision of overload protection device under the scope of safety standard;
  • the environment criteria under the scope of IS 302-2-14 (1994);
  • the marking of ‘operating time’ on the models, and
  • develop norms for performance evaluations of hand blenders.

See page 38 for Manufacturers’ Addresses.

**INSIGHT Concludes**

Our tests revealed that though all the 14 models tested can perform the basic functions of mixing, blending, whisking and chopping, those provided with a separate chopping bowl and blade were faster in chopping hard materials like onions. You cannot correlate the rated wattage of hand blenders with their performance or energy consumption. Also, more number of blades does not mean a great performance; instead a hand blender with a single multipurpose blade can also perform very well. Don’t ignore your need and budget; they will help you in making a good buying decision.

This project was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a German agency that promotes consumer awareness for sustainable consumption through professionally conducted market surveys.

We thank the National Centre for Human Settlements & Environment (NCHSE), Madhya Pradesh, and Virudhunagar District Consumers Council, Tamil Nadu, for helping us in the market survey.