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Review Of America's Next Top Model

By Edward Charkow

Supermodel Extraordinaire Tyra Banks created the concept for television's first professional model competition, America's Next Top Model (ANTM) in 2002. The show first aired in May of 2003 and has continued to be UPN's top rated show. The stakes are high for each season's all female contestant group as they vie for a \$100,000 modeling contract with the cosmetics giant Cover Girl, professional representation by the elite Ford Modeling Agency, and a career-changing spread in a leading fashion magazine such as Elle magazine or Vogue. America's Next Top Model just saw its 7th season (called cycles) and has featured a wide range of impressive judges including the famous 1960's model Twiggy, the world's first supermodel Janice Dickinson (who now has her own model competition show called Janice Dickinson's Modeling Agency), Nigel Barker (ex-model turned fashion photographer), runway coach J. Alexander and Tyra's friend and stylist Jay Manuel.

The number of contestants ranges from ten to fourteen females who are all between the ages of 18 and 26. Each contestant comes to the show featuring their own particular look and style, but Tyra quickly develops a radical new makeover for each contestant. The contestants are quickly made over and given brand new haircuts, hair color, and new makeup looks, oftentimes against their will. Each contestant is then moved into one house or apartment that has been designed and developed to look like a trendy model's residence. The girls are put together with roommates, and oftentimes explosive and dramatic fights develop.

Each episode of America's Next Top Model sets up the model hopefuls on a challenging photoshoot, many of which occur outside in extreme elements or feature terrifying stunts with animals or insects. It is the job of the contestants to look both beautiful and confident, and also to maintain a professional attitude no matter the stress of the situation. Other than the photoshoots, the contestants are also sent to "try out" for jobs and contracts in front of other powerful industry professionals including designers and agents. The competition for these jobs is severe, and part of the challenge is to see how strong the contestants remain under the bright lights of the fashion world. Audiences wait for the international component of each cycle when Tyra announces the girls have to pack immediately for an impromptu overseas trip to experience the modeling world in another fashion-forward city. Cities that the models have visited include Paris, London, Tokyo and Barcelona. The international competition is the most difficult as the models struggle to get jobs and complete photoshoots in a strange country having little

to no facility with the native language.

Generally one contestant is eliminated at the end of each episode, and the elimination is decided by the judging panel that is headed by Tyra Banks. Each judge views the best photos from each contestant's shoot and evaluates the head and body shots for poise, commercial and high-fashion appeal, as well as pure aesthetic value. During each elimination, Tyra Banks delivers the news with compassion and sometimes stern reminders about how difficult it is to stay in the modeling business. The last contestant remaining becomes America's Next Top Model and goes on to have numerous endorsements and take part in fashion industry events all over the world.

Find more out about America's Next Top Model and the entire reality t.v. world at

<http://www.star-reality.com>

Do You Need A Cordless Jigsaw?

By James Brown

If you are in the market for a new jigsaw, or are interested in adding to your collection, you are in luck. There are a lot of jigsaws on the market today that provide a great level of performance for a relatively low price tag. The most important thing to consider when buying a jigsaw is the level of features that you get for your money. Of course, the more money you pay the more features you are going to get. But at the same time, if you can find a less expensive model with a lot of features you are doing a good job.

The top rated cordless jigsaw on the market today is the 18 volt Bosch 52318. The number one drawing feature of this model is its smooth cutting power. When you are sawing with the Bosch 52318 you never have to worry about getting caught up. It offers the smoothest operation out of all of the jigsaws on the market today. Another great advantage of this unit is that the battery carries a two year warranty, and the jigsaw itself carries a three year warranty. This means that you will never have to worry about repair costs for the first two years of ownership. And even after the warranty runs up you should not have any problems; Bosch makes some of the most reliable and durable tools in the world. For all of these features you will have to pay approximately \$215.

If you are not enamored by all of the features of the Bosch, you may want to stick with the cordless jigsaws that are in the budget category. These tools will not be as powerful or precise as the top models, but they are still high quality products. If you are searching for a budget model look no further than the Ryobi P520. This model offers easy to use features, including an easy blade change system. It is ideal if you are in need of rough cutting, or if you do not use a jigsaw on a regular basis. This model can be yours for only \$50.

A cordless jigsaw is a great addition to any tool collection. When you are buying, you need to determine whether you are looking for top notch quality and design, or price. Either way, there are many models of cordless jigsaws on the market for you to choose from.

James brown writes about Power tools

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