

# DEWALT

## High Performance Industrial Tools & Accessories



DC981K  
DC984K  
DC988K

www.DEWALT.com

This manual is applicable for -A9, -B1 & -KR

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## Heavy Duty 13mm VSR Cordless Hammer / Drill / Driver DC981K / DC984K / DC988K

Technical Data				
Drill	DC981	DC984	DC988	
Voltage	V	12.0	14.4	18.0
No Load Speed				
1st gear	RPM	0-450	0-450	0-450
2nd gear	RPM	0-1,400	0-1,400	0-1,450
3rd gear	RPM	0-1,800	0-1,800	0-2,000
Impact				
1st gear	BPM	0-7,650	0-7,650	0-7,650
2nd gear	BPM	0-23,800	0-23,800	0-24,650
3rd gear	BPM	0-30,600	0-30,600	0-34,000
Max. Torque	Nm	45	47	52
Power Output	W	300	350	420
Chuck Capacity	mm	13	13	13
Max. Drilling Capacity in Steel / Wood / Masonry	mm	13/38/12	13/45/14	13/50/16
Weight (without battery pack)	kg	2.3	2.40	2.75

### Safety Instructions

When using Power Tools, always observe the safety regulations applicable in your country to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock and personal injury. Read the following safety instructions before attempting to operate this product. Keep these instructions in a safe place.

The following symbols are used throughout this manual:  
⚠️ Denotes risk of personal injury, loss of life or damage to the tool in case of non-observance of the instructions in this manual.  
⚡ Denotes risk of electric shock.  
🔥 Fire hazard.

### WORK AREA

• Keep your work area clean and well lit. Cluttered benches and 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 bystanders, children, and visitors away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

• Do not use the cord. Never use the cord to carry the tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Replace damaged cords immediately. Damaged cords may create a fire.  
• A battery operated tool with integral batteries or a separate battery pack must be recharged only with the specified charger for the battery. A charger that may be suitable for one type of battery may create a risk of fire when used with another battery.  
• Use battery operated tool only with the specifically designated battery pack. Use of any other batteries may create a risk of fire.

### PERSONAL SAFETY

• Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use tool while tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication. A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.  
• Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Contain long hair. Keep your feet firmly planted away from moving parts. Loose clothing, jewelry, or long hair can be caught in moving parts.  
• Avoid accidental starting. Be sure switch is in the locked or off position before inserting battery pack. Carrying tools with your finger on the switch or inserting the battery pack into a tool with the switch on invites accidents.  
• Remove adjusting keys or wrenches before turning the tool on. A wrench or a key that is left attached to a rotating part of the tool may result in personal injury.  
• Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. Proper footing and balance enables better control of the tool in unexpected situations.  
• Use safety equipment. Always wear eye protection. Everyday eyeglasses often have impact resistant lenses, they are not safety glasses. Dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection must be used for appropriate conditions.

### TOOL USE AND CARE

• Use clamps or other practical way to secure and support the workpiece to a stable platform. Holding the work by hand or against your body is unstable and may lead to loss of control.  
• Do not force tool. Use the correct tool for your application. The correct tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it is designed.  
• Do not use tool if switch does not turn on or off. A tool that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.  
• Disconnect battery pack from tool or place the switch in the locked or off position before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing the tool. Such preventative safety measures reduce the risk of injury to the user.  
• Store idle tools out of reach of children and other untrained persons. Tools are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.  
• When battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects like paper clips, 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 sparks, burns, or a fire.  
• Maintain tools with care. Keep cutting tools sharp and clean. Properly maintained tools, with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.  
• Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, and any other condition that may affect the tools operation. If damaged, have the tool serviced before using. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained tools.  
• Use only accessories that are recommended by the manufacturer for your model. Accessories that may be suitable for one tool, may create a risk of injury when used on another tool.

### SERVICE

• Tool service must be performed only by qualified repair personnel. Service or maintenance performed by unqualified persons may result in a risk of injury.  
• When servicing a tool, use only identical replacement parts. Follow instructions in the Identification section of this manual. Use of unauthorized parts or failure to follow Maintenance Instructions may create a risk of shock or injury.

### Additional Safety Rules

• Hold tool by insulated gripping surfaces when performing an operation where the tool may contact hidden wiring. Contact with a "live" wire will also make exposed metal parts of the tool "live" and shock the operator.  
• When working on a ladder or on scaffolding be sure to lay the tool down on its side when not in use. Some tools with large battery packs will stand upright but may be easily knocked over.  
• The label on your tool may include the following symbols:  
V volts  
A amperes  
Hz hertz  
W watts  
min. minutes  
direct current  
Class II Construction  
no load speed  
rev./min. revolutions or reciprocation per minute  
safety alert symbol  
BPM beats per minute

• WARNING: Some dust created by power sanding, sawing, grinding, drilling, and other construction activities contains chemicals known to cause lung disease, such as crystalline silica from bricks and cement and other masonry products, and arsenic and chromium from chemically-treated lumber (CCA). 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.

### Electrical safety

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

### Double Insulation

The tool is double insulated. This means that all the external metal parts are electrically insulated from the mains power supply. This is done by placing insulated barriers between the electrical and mechanical components so as to making unnecessary for the tool to be earthed. NOTE: Double insulation does not take the place of normal safety precautions when operating this tool. The insulation system is for added protection against injury resulting from a possible electrical insulation failure within the tool.

• Never connect the live (L) or neutral (N) wires to the earth pin marked with the symbol ⚡.

### Using an Extension Cable

An extension cable should not be used unless absolutely necessary. Use of an improper extension cable could result in a risk of fire and electric shock. If an extension cable must be used, use only those that are approved by the country's Electrical Authority. Make sure that extension cord is used in accordance with the instructions on the cord that is suitable for the power input of your charger (see technical data on name plate). The minimum conductor size is 1mm<sup>2</sup>, the maximum length is 30 meters.

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

### Assembly and adjustment

• Prior to assembly and adjustment, always remove the battery pack.

• Always switch off the tool before inserting or removing the battery pack.

• Use only DeWalt battery packs and charger.

### Important Safety Instructions for Battery Packs

The battery pack is not fully charged out of the carton!

• Do not carry extra battery packs in aprons, pockets, or tool boxes along with other metal objects. Battery pack could be short circuited, causing damage to the battery pack and possibly causing severe burns or fire.  
• 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.  
• A small leakage of liquid from the battery pack cells may occur under extreme usage conditions. This leakage is not dangerous and does not indicate a failure. However, if the outer seal is broken and this leakage gets into your eyes, flush them with clean water for a minimum of 10 minutes and seek immediate medical attention. NOTE: The liquid is 25-35% solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH).  
• Charge the battery packs only in DeWalt chargers.  
• NOTE: The batteries in your battery pack are the nickel-cadmium type. Cadmium is considered to be a toxic material by the Environmental Protection Agency. Before disposing of damaged or worn out Nickel-Cadmium battery packs, check with your local environmental authorities for disposal and avoid special restrictions on the disposal of these battery packs.  
• DO NOT store or use the tool and battery pack in locations where the temperature may reach or exceed 50°C (105°F) such as outside sheds or metal buildings in summer.  
• DANGER: Never attempt to open the battery pack for any reason. If battery pack case is cracked or damaged, do not touch the positive or negative of electric shock or electrocution.

A. Wash quickly with soap and water.  
B. Neutralize with a weak acid such as lemon juice or vinegar.  
C. If battery liquid gets into your eyes, flush them with clean water for a minimum of 10 minutes and seek immediate medical attention. NOTE: The liquid is 25-35% solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH).  
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### Important Safety Instructions for Battery Chargers

• Before using battery charger, read all instructions and cautionary material.  
• CAUTION: To reduce the risk of injury, charge only DeWalt nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries. Other types of batteries may cause personal injury.  
• CAUTION: Under certain conditions, with the charger plugged in to the power supply, the exposed charging contacts inside the charger can be shorted by foreign material. Foreign material of a conductive nature such as, but not limited to, steel wool, aluminum foil, or any bulkhead of metallic particles should be kept away from charger cavities. Always unplug the charger from the power supply before cleaning the charger.  
• DANGER: High voltage present at charging terminals. Do not touch conductive objects. Danger of electric shock or electrocution.  
• WARNING: Don't allow any liquid to get inside charger.  
• The charger and battery pack are specifically designed to work together. DO NOT attempt to charge the battery pack with any chargers other than the ones in this manual.  
• The chargers are not intended for uses other than charging DeWalt rechargeable batteries. Any other uses may result in risk of fire, electric shock or electrocution.  
• To reduce risk of damage to electric plug and cord, pull by plug rather than cord when removing charger.  
• Make sure cord is located so that it will not be stepped on, tripped over, or otherwise subjected to damaged or stress.  
• An extension cord should not be used unless absolutely necessary. Use of improper extension cord could result in risk of fire, electric shock, or electrocution.  
• An extension cord must have adequate wire size (AWG) or American Wire Gauge (AWG) to make the gauge number of the wire, the greater the capacity of the cable, that is a 16 gauge has more capacity than 18 gauge. When using more than one extension cord, make sure the total length string is fully released. The variable speed switch enables you to start the application at a slow speed. The farther you squeeze the trigger, the faster the tool will operate. For maximum tool life, use variable speed only for starting holes or fasteners.  
• NOTE: Continuous use in variable speed range is not recommended. It may damage the switch and should be avoided.

### Forward/Reverse Slider (Fig. C)

A forward/reverse slider (C) determines the direction the chuck will grip and also serves as a lock-off button. The center position of the control button locks the tool in the off position. When changing the position of the control button, be sure the trigger is released.  
• NOTE: The time the tool is in the "off" position while changing the direction of rotation, you may hear a click on start up. This is normal and does not indicate a problem.  
• Torque Adjustment Collar (Fig. D)  
Your tool has an adjustable torque screwdriver mechanism for drilling and removing a wide array of fastener shapes and sizes and in some models, a hammer mechanism for drilling into masonry. Cracking the collar (C) are numbers, a drill bit symbol, and in some models, a hammer symbol. These numbers are used to set the chuck to a desired torque range. The higher the number on the collar, the higher the torque and the larger the fastener which can be driven. To select any of the numbers, rotate until the desired number aligns with the arrow.  
• Three Speed Gearing (Fig. D)  
The three speed feature of your tool allows you to shift gears for greater versatility. To select speed 1 (highest torque setting), turn the tool off and permit it to stop. Slide the gear shifter (4) all the way to the left. Speed 2 (middle torque and speed setting) is in the middle position. Speed 3 (highest speed setting) is to the right.  
• NOTE: Do not change gears when the tool is running. Always allow the tool to come to a complete stop before changing gears. This allows you to open and close the chuck with one hand.  
• To release the accessory, repeat step 2 above.  
• WARNING: Do not attempt to tighten drill bits for one-handed operation of the chuck. To insert a drill bit or other accessory, follow these steps:  
1. Lock the trigger in the OFF position as described on "Forward/Reverse Slider" section above.  
2. Grasp the black sleeve of the chuck with one hand and use the other hand to secure the tool as shown in Figure E. Rotate the sleeve (8) counter-clockwise far enough to accept the desired accessory.  
3. Insert the accessory about 10 mm (5/8") into the chuck and tighten securely by rotating the chuck sleeve clockwise with one hand while holding the tool with the other. Your tool is equipped with an automatic spindle lock mechanism. This allows you to open and close the chuck with one hand.  
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