

# **EstimatorXpress v.7.0**

*Stephen Woodhams review*

*Rating*



*Review by:*

*Stephen Woodhams*

*Profession:*

*Bricklayer and Software Support Advisor*

*System Requirements:*

1GHz Processor, 300MB Hard Drive, 64MB RAM  
OS – Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP/Vista  
Microsoft Word and Excel 2000 SR1/XP/2003/2007

## ***Install and Setup***

I found the installation of EstimatorXpress 7 quick and easy, with clear instructions to guide me through the process. The installation screens look crisp and frankly what I'd expect from a specialist software package.

The software arrived in a box along with a book to get you started. At first glance the manual looks a bit daunting, but a closer look reveals that it is broken down into small bite size exercise that guide you through step by step, screen by screen.

The product registration and macro security tweaks were straightforward and painless and I soon found myself downloading the latest price book, which again was straightforward and quite pleasing to do in a way. Overall I would say the whole process of set-up, registration were error free, relatively quick and very easy to follow.

## ***Getting started***

Reading further into the manual it becomes apparent that the package has a lot of functionality, so I decided to follow the manual step by step. Each section of the book is broken down into manageable exercises with an estimated time to complete each exercise.

The first exercise takes me into editing the price book and all the steps seem logical and the whole concept seems fine. The price book itself is a long list of details which is slightly intimidating, but the software does give you the tools to manipulate and search the data catalogued.

It also becomes plain that there's a wealth of help available within the package that is well presented, clear and easy to navigate. It is pleasing to see that inside the application the help format mirrors that of Microsoft applications.

## ***Specification and Versatility***

When you follow the tutorials through to creating an estimate and using the job setup wizard you really begin to see what you get with this package. It takes you a couple of minutes to define the job specification, profit margins and address and then you can start estimating the job you've defined using the wizards.

The wizards in EstimatorXpress are the best feature of the application from an end user perspective. They enable the user to enter data into the engine of the application while providing excellent graphical representations of what you're estimating. The wizards break the estimating process into logical steps that provide clear, quality images that are backed up with tips and useful information. In addition to providing good visualisation, the wizards make the data entry easy, logical and present the user with the finer details involved that may be overlooked.

The software will also provide reports and charts which can be easily printed and/or exported into other applications such as Word. When I imported diagrams from wizards into Word the transition was seamless and I found manipulating the diagram undemanding.

## **Output**

The quote that EstimatorXpress produces allows you to turn images on or off and gives you the option to provide a basic or detailed quote without the need for any typing. Simply drop in your company logo and click print.

## **Performance and Speed**

The performance and speed of the application is a dry subject. I ran the software on a 1GHz processor with 512MB RAM and I found the performance satisfactory even when I had multiple applications open. The performance didn't dazzle me, but then again nor did it need to as it ran smoothly without any complications.

## **Pros and Cons**

EstimatorXpress is a robust, well developed application.

It is also an application in its own right, rather than just a Microsoft Excel add-on. The package is backed up with a well written manual with clear succinct instructions and exercises to reference real estimates to.

As a bricklayer that has only worked on new builds, I can genuinely say that I would be far more confident in costing a private job with the aid of this software.

The only problem I can identify with this package is that it might seem a bit intimidating if you're not prepared to take 30 minutes to learn the basics from the first few exercises in the manual. I suspect that once you have got past the 30min brick and block cavity wall exercise, you will have built up the momentum and interest to get a great deal more out of this package.

The access to live prices is also another great feature which must cut down the time it takes to get hold of your prices by huge amounts of time.