New Self-Drilling Drywall Fastening Device

... installs quickly and easily, with just a screwdriver:

If you've ever had to hang a cabinet on drywall or install a ceiling fan or shelving unit, you know you can buy any number of molly bolts, toggles and plastic plugs to help do it. The problem is that these fasteners usually require at least four pieces of equipment—including a drill—and, or so it seems, three hands to get the job done.

What millions of American tradespeople and do-it-yourselfers saw as a big problem, ITW Buildex viewed as a big opportunity. There definitely was a need for a modern, easy-to-use drywall fastener. So a team of designers and engineers was assembled and charged with taking advantage of the situation, i.e. designing an entirely new toggle. They started with the following parameters:

--It had to install with only one tool: a screwdriver
--It had to work equally well in 3/8", 1/2" and 5/8" drywall
--It had to self-drill into drywall—there could be no pre-drilling
--It had to work with cordless tools

The result of their combined efforts is the first self-drilling, self-clamping toggle bolt for heavy-duty fastening to drywall. This unique device installs faster and easier than anything else previously available. ITW Buildex calls it the E-Z Toggle™.

Installing the E-Z Toggle is really quite simple, and takes a matter of only a few seconds. Using a Phillips screwdriver (cordless), you just self-drill the fastener body directly into the drywall. Next, you place the fixture on the wall (over the installed fastener body) and insert the sheet metal screw. Now it's simply a matter of tightening the screw.

Unlike conventional wing toggles, the screw doesn't need any tension to thread it into the device. So one hand can hold the fixture in place while the other hand screws the fastener into the E-Z Toggle.

As the screw is turned, it engages the clamp and allows it to rotate and move toward the interior of the drywall. When the screw is completely tightened, the fixture is securely anchored to the wall.
clamped or anchored to the drywall. That’s all there is to it!

An added feature is a pair of arrows on the face of the fastener head. These allow the user to position the clamp within the drywall. So if a stud or other object behind the wall interferes with the toggle, you just give the toggle clamp a quarter turn with the screwdriver and it will rotate 90 degrees. End of problem.

The E-Z Toggle has still another advantage over conventional winged toggles. The E-Z Toggle’s screw can be removed and re-installed. (Conventional toggles will fall in back of the wall when the screw is removed from the clamp.) Obviously, the E-Z Toggle is a real time and money saver should you have to remove a fixture and put it back.

**Designed With Three Components**

The E-Z Toggle is actually made up of three components:

--- A 2-1/2” zinc fastener body
--- A 1-1/2” carbon steel clamp with an electro-zinc plating
--- A 38-18 sheet metal screw with special point

Each of these three pieces plays a key role in the installation and clamping, or holding ability, of the toggle.

At the tip of the fastener body is a sharp center point which acts as a guide to center the toggle when drilling the hole. To either side of the point are dual radius cutting edges. These cut a 3/8” concentric hole in the drywall without damaging the paper on either side of the wall.

Why worry about the back of the drywall when nobody will ever see it? Easy. A majority of the holding strength is from the paper on the back of the drywall, so it’s important that the paper not be damaged. Self-piercing anchors that are hammered into drywall damage the back of the drywall and considerably decrease the holding power.

At the head of the fastener body is a #2 Phillips impression which is used to drill, or install the E-Z Toggle. The use of a Phillips driver makes drilling the toggle more stable and provides a clean, smooth hole.

Below the head of the fastener is a high helix thread (9/16” diameter) which taps into the drywall and prevents the toggle from spinning in the wall. Additionally, the thread seals the fastener body to the wall and adds to the pullout strength of the toggle.

The toggle clamp itself performs three separate functions. A pivotal axis allows the clamp to rotate freely. A helix which is formed to accommodate a standard #8-18 thread. Lastly, a screw ramp enables the rotation of the clamp during screw penetration.

The final component of the toggle is a sheet metal screw which is available in 2-1/8”, 3” and 4” lengths. The screw has a special point that engages the clamp, and a pan head with a #2 Phillips penetration. A large washer face head is also available for certain applications.