New Products Roundup

There is a wealth of new products designed to make your job easier and more efficient

By Michael J. Major

There is nothing new under the sun—or so the saying goes. But that saying is belied by an abundance of new products that industry manufacturers are creating designed to save the contractor both time and labor costs. Here’s a brief overview of what is new under the sun:

Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems

Here are three additions to traditional EIFS. Barbara Catlow, manager, marketing services, Dryvit Systems, Inc., West Warwick, R.I., reports the introduction of Backstop, a highly flexible, fiber reinforced membrane and air barrier for gypsum sheeting. It meets the standards for the highest air barrier classification set by the National Research Council of Canada. The United States does not have an applicable air barrier standard. “EIFS has not had an air barrier in the past,” explains Catlow. “This product will maximize heating and cooling performance, and also keep moisture from reaching the gypsum sheathing.”

Aesthetics is the new addition provided to EIFS by Senergy Inc., Cranston, R.I. National Marketing Manager Kent Stumpe explains that its new Aurora TC-100 provides a classic appearance of rough or smooth-finished granite, marble, or other natural stone. The finishes can be applied directly over poured concrete, unit masonry or gypsum wallboard, and applied over EIFS to create such architectural details as quoins, columns and cor-
nices. The product comes in eight colors or can be custom-mixed and contains 100 percent acrylic polymers. It is trowel applied.

Western Manufacturing, a division of the Valori Sand and Gravel Company of Fontana, Calif., has designed a new plaster mixer that does not have many brand new features but instead takes the best out previous models, many of which are no longer made. It is designed for a 92 Wisconsin motor, a Turner unidrive transmission and Rockford clutch. The 12-cubic-foot heavy-duty mixer has a low profile to make it easier for the hod carrier.

Says Robert Merritt, general manager, “Rather than try to reinvent the wheel, we aimed for a quality durable product with maximum capability.”

**Drywall Supplies**

A drywall sander and vacuum system that collects dust is the innovative offering from Porter Cable Corp., Jackson, Tenn. Called the Model 7810 Power Tool Wet/Dry Vacuum, the sander accomplishes tasks three to four times faster, says public relations spokesman Todd Langston. The work itself does not go that much faster, he explains; the time saved rather comes from the time of clean up. The pole sander has a swiveling head on it, disk abrasive and foam backed, so the contours shape to the wall. The lightweight nine-pound unit is easy to use.

The unit’s dual filtration system is 99.85 percent efficient in filtering out dust, All but about 2-microns of dust is filtered out, the equivalent of 1/500th of a human hair. The biggest plus for this tool is safety. “Drywall sanders have always been at a safety disadvantage,” Langston says. “The work is hot, and workers tend not to wear uncomfortable face masks, so they’re breathing that dust all the time. Not with this unit.”

The Offset T™ Drywall taping knife is the offering from Warner Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis. Joyce Pals, special markets manager, explains that this is the first taping knife that combines an offset handle like a trowel with the flexible blade of a taping knife. The two advantages are that the drywaller’s hands are kept away from the wall so he doesn’t
scrape his knuckles, and the flexible blade puts more mud on the tape and less at the edges.

A second Warner product, Versa-Trowel™, is an adjustable inside angle trowel with two blades that adjust from 89 to 150 degrees so they fit in side angles from bay windows to vaulted ceilings. A patented hinge eliminates the mud lines that would require extra sanding. The unit comes apart for complete cleaning.

Tools

Bosch Power Tools, a division of S-B Power Tool Company, Chicago, is offering what marketing communications manager, Sil Argenti, calls "the industry's largest, most powerful electric rotary hammer designed to handle major concrete drilling jobs and a variety of other applications." The Bosch 11223EVS rotary hammer has a powerful 13.6-amp motor and features a 2-inch spiral hit capacity and 1-inch core bit capacity.

This model offers an SDS-Max drive system to provide efficient power transmission and vario-lock chisel positioning for demolition work. Other features include variable speed control to match the speed to the task, electronic feedback circuitry to provide smoother starting and constant speed, and a heat shield.

From Skil Power Tools, also a part of S-B, comes a complete line of lightweight pistol-grip screwdrivers offering high torque performance for a variety of applications. Each of the drivers features the company's rotating brush reverse system to deliver increased power equally on either forward or reverse. Brush life is extended more than 33 percent. The units feature a two-piece nosepiece for quick removal of the contact unit without disturbing the depth adjustment.

The Bucket Badger, from Hyde Tools, Southbridge, Mass., is a power-driven mixer with distinctive, non-stick high performance polypropylene impeller blades that enable contractors to mix a variety of heavy solids more easily and quickly.

The 5-inch impellers provide several advantages. Dried debris drops off when the impellers are twisted and flexed. The cluster of five impellers-two clusters of five each on, the double-set model-are easily cleaned. And the blades don't damage the bucket that contains the mixed material.

Hitachi Power Tools U.S.A, Ltd, of Norcross, Ga., has announced its portable heavy-duty CC14SB high-speed cut-off saw. This unit features a
14-inch blade and a powerful 15-amp motor that allows for greater cutting efficiency. Its quick-release vise permits cutting angles of zero to 90 degrees, and its spindle lock makes for quick and easy blade changes. It weighs only 37 pounds.

Lasers

Here are three new laser products designed to help you with your alignments. Dr. Joseph F. Rando, president, LeveLite Technology, Inc., Mountain View, Calif., explains that his new Levelite SLX is the first self-leveling pocket laser. It is waterproof, shock resistant, and
can be worn on the belt. It produces a level and plumb beam of light for alignment, and can be used to produce a 90 degree angle that is more accurate than most builder’s transits. Rando maintains it is six times more accurate than a bubble level.

Spectra-Physics Laserplane, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, has recently introduced its newest portable visible beam laser, the MinuteMarker 1062GC. The unit provides a visible rotating reference plane of laser light that acts as a guide for precise, self-leveled horizontal or manual vertical construction alignment tasks. It is cordless, portable and lightweight, and mounts on many types of tripods. Marketing Manager Rich D’Alessandro maintains this unit generally improves productivity by 20 percent to 50 percent over traditional methods, for it enables one person to take accurate alignments up to 300 feet away with an electronic receiver.

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Topcon

From Topcon Laser Systems, Inc., Livermore, Calif., comes its most current RL-25, a dual beam laser that has a vertical plumb beam, a horizontal rotating light, and an auto-scanning feature, which can freeze a beam in a small 3- to 4-inch path. Marketing Service Manager Daniel Hand says the high-powered, very visible beam is about eight times stronger than industry standards.

Firestopping

The Kimball, Minn.-based Fire Trak Corporation has come up with a deflection track and fire stopping system, also called Fire Trak. It has UL approval for all walls of one hour and three to four hours for gypsum. It has the approval of California state and the city of Los Angeles. The product also provides seismic...
control. Says President Duane Becker, “Fire Trak eliminates the need for caulking.”

Firesafe FS 1900, from International Protective Coatings Corporation, Oakhurst, N.J., is a high performance intumescent sealant in a high solids, water-based compound engineered to provide adhesive and elastomeric properties to meet a variety of demanding firestop requirements. The product expands 10 times its original volume to fill the void created by the melting and burning of PVC and other plastics. It is water-based and contains no toxic solvents.

A new product that fills an important place in the spectrum of sprayed fire protection offerings from Isolatek International, Stanhope, N.J., is CAFCO® 400 medium-density wet-spray fire protection. Isolatek now offers a choice of dry-spray and wet-spray products in both light and medium densities. CAFCO 400 promises higher density at less...
thickness than other medium-density products, which minimizes the amount of material needed to achieve specified fire ratings. Isolatek National Sales Marketing Manager Kurt Neff reports that the non-combustible, asbestos-free product is formulated without polystyrene, easy to use and does not require acid-forming additives.

**Steel Framing**

Kevin Reinhard, national sales manager, Clark Steel Framing Systems, Cincinnati, reports that his commercial product is now arriving at the residential scene. The new manufactured steel members now include 3 1/2, 5 1/2 and 7 1/4 inches to match residential needs. “As our natural resources are becoming more challenged, steel is becoming a building material of choice,” says Reinhard. “Steel can be cut to length, is recyclable, and is of higher quality and stronger than wood, not subject to rot or decay.”

Jim Schuster, vice president, Arizona Metal Processing Services, Inc.,

**Arizona Metal**

Goodyear, Ariz., says his company has introduced three-way plastic caps, plastic flexbullnose, and plastic bullnose. “We’re one of the few metal manufacturers who provide both steel and plastic alternatives so they both look the same in the house.”

**Acoustics**

Anzo Nobel Geosynthetics Company, Asheville, N.C., presents its Enkasonic sound control matting, which is used between floors to mitigate transmitted and ambient sounds. Public Relations Manager Lee Dancy reports that the product is especially effective in multiple story dwellings and offices. The 0.4-inch thick composite of nylon film forms a three-dimensional geomatrix with a non-woven fabric heat bonded to the upper surface. It’s suitable for use between floors with a variety of coverings.

John Flood, vice president, Eckel Industries, Inc., Cambridge, Mass., announces a new product supplanting its previous Eckoustic Functional Panel. This is a modular panel system that is not

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intended to provide 100 percent coverage, rather, it can be strategi-
cally placed in highly rever-

tant areas to re-

e n o i s e , a n d

soften the room

speech can be

made under-

standable. Pan-

els have been

offered in vari-

ous materials

from light to heavy duty, and have

been typically used in swimming

pools, gyms, multi-purpose school

and recreation centers. The newer,

heavy-duty version has been engi-

neered for correctional and other

facilities, and is designed to with-

stand vandalism and abuse.

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About the Author

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Wash, is a free-lance writer for the

construction industry.

Correction

In the February 1995 edition of Construc-
tion Dimensions, “Why Bond with Drywall Adhesives?” (page 18)

contained some errors of a technical

nature that we would like to clarify.

First, the author refers to ASTM

C-557-73 as the standard for drywall

adhesive. The article should have

read ASTM C-557-93a. ASTM

revises or reissues its standards

every five years, and C-557-93 is

quite different from C-557-73 in its

testing methodology.

C-557 applies to “adhesives

intended for bonding the back sur-

face of gypsum wallboard to wood

framing members.” It is not a uni-

versal drywall adhesive specification

and would not cover, for instance,

the application of gypsum to metal

studs or gypsum to gypsum board.

ASTM D-3498 applies to adhe-

sives used for “Field-Gluing Ply-

wood to Lumber Framing for Floor

Systems.” It is not a universal sub-

floor specification, as there are sub-

floor systems other than plywood

and framing systems other than

wood.

Finally, ASTM stands for the

American Society for Testing and

Materials.