You would think that an industry that has been around as long as walls and ceilings would have all its procedures down pat by now. But it does not work that way. There are always new challenges and new tools devised to meet those challenges. And there is always someone around who’s

By Thomas G. Dolan
coming up with new ideas to get things done in a way that will heighten quality and lower costs. That is one of the many things that makes this industry so interesting.

Here’s our latest new product roundup, which, as always, contains a great variety, everything from a product to hide tiny cracks to one that will lift huge loads, a new exterior board and a new interior wall system, low-tech tape and a high-tech laser, innovative improvements on tool attachments and a universal kickout flashing.

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Crack Protection

The Lincoln, Ill.-based Trim-Tex, Inc. has come out with a new kit called Magic Corner, for crack protection in those vulnerable vaulted ceilings and off-angle walls. The new set contains a 120-foot roll of Magic Corner Bead, a can of #847 spray adhesive and an installation tool. Actually, the installation tool, which is somewhat new, is the only one of these three components that hasn’t been around before.

What is really new about this offering, explains President Joe Koenig is the packaging, which matches up the Magic Corner and the spray adhesive. “It simplifies the life of the installer if he does not have to worry about whether he has enough adhesive,” Koenig says. “It also helps to make sure that the product is applied correctly, that there is the right amount of each ingredient.” Magic Corner is still available in the larger 250-foot rolls and the spray adhesive is available by the case.

What’s unique about his patented system, Koenig maintains, is that “other products can give a straight line, but no other has the co-extruded feature that gives the true half-inch of crack protection.”

Wallboard Fork

A new wallboard forklift has been announced in crane attachments. Kinshofer, through its distributor, Eurotech Corpora-
tion. Pittsburgh, offers the wallboard fork KM 461 with a 4,400-pound capacity matched for heavy-duty loads, whether the stack is 19 inches or 25 inches.

Five configurations are available: 48” x 63”, 48” x 72”, 54” x 63”, 54” x 72” and 54” x 84”.

National Marketing and Sales Manager James V. DiFrancesco explains that in both the 19-Pinch and 25-inch stacks, the hinged lower section allows horizontally stored wallboards to be lifted into a vertical position and clamped between the tines and crossbeam. This prevents the wallboard from sliding during handling. In case of a sudden, hydraulic failure, a counterbalance valve prevents the fork from opening.

**Exterior Building Board**

Usually a board is attached to a frame, on top of which is put a stucco or other finish coating.

What’s unique about the new Excel Board, introduced by Excel Manufacturing Group, Inc., Springfield, Mo.,
explains marketing spokeswoman Susan Kump, is that its design combines into one what is typically a two-step process.

Excel Board, a structural foam sheathing material reinforced with a wood fiber mat, can be applied directly to masonry, wood or metal framing with staples, nails or other fasteners. But it works in complete conjunction with the company’s TPlus System, synthetic stucco wall cladding. Thus, the wall system design offers the look of stucco, but with increased durability, improved insulation value and a greatly reduced cost. By combining these two separate processes into a single system, “We’ve created a tough exterior synthetic cladding with the beauty of detailed stucco, at or below the cost of conventional siding,” says President Richard France. This system is designed for the residential, manufactured housing, modular building, mobile office exteriors and light commercial market.
“We’ve tapped into the trend of using colored plaster finishes,” says Marty Duffy, spokesman for the Chicago-based United States Gypsum Compa-
ny, speaking of the new USG Decorative Interior Finish System.

The drawback to colored plaster finishes per say, explains Duffy, is that they are expensive. But, whereas other products require a joint compound going over the entire surface — a labor-intensive process — this product does not. Moreover, the product is designed for applicators who have only basic trowel skills. The major benefit,” Duffy says, “is it delivers the aesthetics of colored plaster but with really cost-effective installation.” He adds that this system is also
harder and more durable than others, which means reduced maintenance for the owner.

The system is offered as an alternative to other upscale decorative finishes like Venetian-style plaster, colored-texture plaster, high-end wallcoverings, and specialty paint finishing and marbleizing, and it is designed for a variety of design styles. It also lends itself to a warm, timeless appearance for restaurants, hotels and other public spaces. The system can be applied to finished drywall, gypsum plaster base coats or other existing walls systems, in virtually any color in semi-smooth or textured finishes.

**Tape**

The Nathan Kimmel Company, Los Angeles, has been making tape for about 40 years. But it’s primarily been known for its plastering tape. Now, explains Marketing Manager Dennis J. Mills, it is making a big move into drywall tape. Three types of tape are being offered.

The first is a masking tape. This is a new product, and Mills
maintains it is thinner yet has a higher tensile strength than other brands. It is designed to stick aggressively to drywall or paint, yet releases clean and easy, allowing sharp, clean paint lines without harming the surface.

The second is a mesh tape. This is not a new product—it has actually been around for a while—but, since the company had been focusing on its plastering tape, it has sold this product only sporadically.

The third is a paper joint tape, new to Kimmel, but not really different from other tapes on the market, Mills acknowledges.

What is significant in this combination of the new and old, the innovative and the standard, is the that all three tapes are packaged into one for drywall applicators. The company is offering these tapes by the roll, the case or even the pallet. “We’re offering high volumes so we can pass along discounts,” Mills says.

Laser

There are a lot of lasers on the market, but two unique features of the new offering from Spectra Precision, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, are maximum beam visibility and superior stability, says Product Manager Mike Yowler.

Called the LaserLevel 1485HP and 1470HP, these systems are the first equipped with a 5mW beam, the most powerful in the industry; it gets just about as bright as is legally allowed.

“We took what was already a highly versatile, advanced laser system and improved it by creating what we believe is now the most accurate, beam bounce-free laser in the industry,” Yowler says.

The 1485HP also comes with the newly developed Digital Beam Stabilizer, which uses advanced technology similar to high-end video equipment, that automatically monitors jobsite vibrations and then calculates and makes corrections in real time to produce an unwavering beam, ensuring accuracy on the job. “DBS allows the user to rely on the stability of the laser, making jobs more efficient by reducing the time required to interpret the position of an unstable beam, thus decreasing rework,” Yowler says.

Attachment Systems

Getting the thingamajig on the blankety-blank tool is one of the applicator’s daily headaches that Johnson Abrasives, Jaffrey, N.H., is devoted to solving. As a result, it has come out with two new attachments, explains Sales Manager Matt Keenan, and they’re both called E-Z Grip™. The first is for fastening abrasives to
need the nut and washer,” Keenan says. “The E-Z Grip™ just fastens on.” This technique also utilizes a modified Velcro hook and loop.

Universal Kickout Flashing

What is unique about the new Universal Kickout Flashing from the Raintek division of Demand Products is that it is molded and in one piece,” says David Young, marketing director, Demand Products, Inc., Alpharetta, Ga

“Traditional kickout flashing is cut out of aluminum or galvanized metal. You make several bends in it, you caulk it, and put it in place,” Young says. The drywall sanding tools. Usually you have to wrap the abrasive around or fold it back and then clamp it down, But the E-Z Grip™ technique, which uses the Velcro hook-and-loop technology, though in a different way, allows a quick and easy direct attachment of an abrasive screen to the pole.
device is supposed to work where a roof deck meets a straight vertical wall, so you can keep the water away from the wall, and it goes down the gutter. Yet often the flashing is not where it’s supposed to be, and it can easily be improperly fabricated or caulked in the field.

With its exclusive Vortex Relief™, Demand’s flashing eliminates these problems, Young says. His product is a molded, one-piece, very flexible and durable flashing. “There are no flat returns to create a dam,” he explains.

“The curved outboard edge of the kickout gently swirls water away from the wall and into the gutter.”

It’s made with High Molecular Weight Polyethylene with UV inhibitors, and is designed to be used with any type of exterior cladding as well as 1-inch through 2-inch EIFS. This 6” x 6” x 12” flashing is designed to meet all builder specs.