



Framing Hardware for Nail Guns

by Don Dunkley

During the framing of a house, the chore of nailing off the shear paneling, roof and floor decks, and metal hangers and straps can be pure drudgery. This is especially true when you have a whole house full of joist hangers, strap ties, post anchors, and rafter clips, since pneumatic nailers aren't normally employed for this task. On my sites, an apprentice carpenter usually gets this job. Armed with several boxes of hangers and a bag of tiny Teco nails, this hapless worker is off on a mission to pound his nail-holding fingers into a bloody pulp.

I recently learned that it doesn't have to be that way. Advanced Connector Systems (3335 E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040; 602/243-5161) has developed Boss metal framing hardware that

can be installed with pneumatic nailers. This specially designed hardware has raised dome-like areas around each nail hole. Each dome mates with an attachment that bolts on the nose of your framing nailer, allowing for a precise alignment between the hole and gun. As a result, you can rapidly fire all those nasty little nails into every hole in each piece of hardware. It's true that some areas are too tight for a nailer to fit, so there will always be some hardware that must be hand-nailed. However, since I've tried them, these anchors and the nose attachment have saved considerable time (and finger bashing) on my framing jobs.

Advanced Connector offers nose attachments for most framing nailers,

including Atro, Hitachi, Bostitch, Senco, Duofast, and Paslode framers. Collated short nails are also available in the correct diameters, as required by code.

I've been able to find most of the strap ties, hangers, and plate connectors that are routinely called for on framing sites in my locale. Here on the West Coast, every seismic hiccup results in a rainstorm of required hardware from the building department. And so far, I haven't had any problem getting this hardware approved by inspectors, as the Boss system has met approval through the ICBO Evaluation Service (report No. 4531P).

The Boss connectors are competitively priced. Some pieces, like the coil straps and single hangers, cost about the same as Simpson connectors. However, the collated versions of the small 10d and 16d nails required for some single hangers will cost a bit more than bulk nails. Even so, these babies are definitely worth trying out. These connectors not only speed up the job, but have also given me the extra satisfaction of extending my nail gun investment beyond just nailing off sheeting. ■

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These specially designed metal connectors can be nailed off using an air nailer (left). To align the nail gun with the holes, the connectors have a small raised dome around every nail hole that mates with an adapter on the nose of the nail gun (right).