

# INNOVATIVE PNEUMATIC FASTENERS

**I**t's no secret that pneumatic nail guns save time. Nailing chores that used to take hours can now be completed in minutes, and advances in gun design

have paved the way for a much broader range of nailing applications. The products mentioned here are worthy additions to a builder's pneumatic arsenal.

## CORROSION-RESISTANT FASTENERS

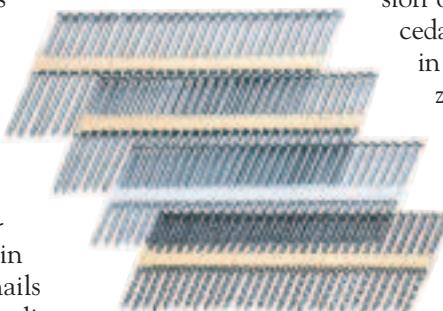
Maze Nails now offers 20-degree stick nails that have a galvanized coating 20% to 40% thicker than the .0025-inch coating found on a typical hot-dipped nail. Sizes range from 2 to 3 1/2 inches long, and shank styles include plain, ring, and spiral. All sizes and styles are available as common nails or as smaller-diameter box nails.

During the hot-dipped galvanization process, nails are submerged in molten zinc. Maze submerges its nails twice, claiming that the second dip, which fills voids or imperfections left after the first submersion, substantially increases the "life expectancy" of the nail. What's more, the plastic collation that binds the nails together is

designed to prevent "flagging" (pieces of plastic that stick under the nail head).

Maze also offers a stainless-steel version of these stick nails for use with cedar or redwood (the tannic acid in these species reacts with the zinc coating of galvanized nails, causing a black stain). The stainless nails are available in a 304 grade (for normal environments) and a 316 "high performance" grade (recommended when the fasteners will be exposed to a constant salt spray).

Contact: W. H. Maze Co., 100 Church St., Peru, IL 61354; 800/435-5949.



## CONCRETE NAILING MADE EASIER

Anyone who has ever spent a bone-jarring day driving concrete nails by hand appreciates the value of a powder-actuated fastening tool. But the cost of the fasteners (and the powder loads required to fire them) is high. By eliminating the need for powder loads, Hitachi's NC65AC pneumatic concrete nailer has taken the sting out of powder-driven concrete nails. The driver blade pounds each nail repeatedly until the operator releases the trigger. Nails typically take less than three seconds to drive, and the gun can be placed back over any partially driven nail to

continue the hammering action.

The nails are reportedly through-hardened to between 50 and 52 on the Rockwell scale, and will penetrate 5,000-psi concrete. They are available in lengths from 1 to 2 1/2 inches in 1/4-inch increments, and cost less than 7¢ each. The nails are suitable for fastening dimensional lumber (up to 1 1/2 inches thick) and 20-gauge (or thinner) sheet metal to concrete and other types of masonry.

Contact: Hitachi Power Tools, 3950 Steve Reynolds Blvd., Norcross, GA 30093; 800/706-7337.



## PLASTIC FASTENERS

There is no such thing as a corrosion-proof nail, right? Wrong. Pam Tucker, president of Utility Composites, reports that the company's Raptor plastic finish nails and brads are unaffected by water, ocean salts, chlorine, and smog, making them ideal for fastening exterior trim work.

The square-shanked nails are available in sizes equivalent to standard 14-, 15-, 16-, and 18-gauge nails and brads, and in lengths ranging from  $5/8$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. They are manufactured in straight collations, and fit most guns with straight magazines. Standard colors include natural (cream colored), redwood, brown, and gray.

Conscientious builders who are accustomed to using stainless-steel fasteners when working with redwood and cedar will like the price of these plastic

nails. A box of 2,500 nails retails for \$35 to \$45, depending on the size.

For those who think the idea of plastic nails seems a little "weak," Tucker explained that the Raptor nails have 20% higher pull-out values than galvanized steel nails. When a nail gun drives a composite nail into wood, the friction actually melts the outer surface of the nail, fusing it to the wood fibers.

Since carbide cutting tools are unaffected by composite fasteners, carpenters may find these nails useful as "clamps" when gluing up assemblies that will be ripped, planed, or otherwise machined. The composite material can also be sanded, and it accepts paint.

Contact: The Raptor Nail Division of Utility Composites Inc., 3925 W. Braker Lane, Suite 427, Austin, TX 78759; 800/460-6933.



## SHEATHING FASTENERS FOR STEEL STUDS

Switching from wood studs to steel studs can be frustrating for carpenters. Nail guns are traded in for screw guns, and plywood sheathing can no longer be rapidly nailed off.

Recently, Erico Tool & Fasteners developed a coil-collated steel pin for use in its ET500 pneumatic coil nailer that allows carpenters to air-nail plywood sheathing and

decking to steel studs and joists.

The high-carbon pins are manufactured with a helical knurl for holding power and a ballistic point for easy penetration. The fasteners come 300 to a coil, in lengths of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 inches, and can be used to fasten plywood panels to 16-, 18-, 20-, or 22-gauge steel studs, joists, and rafters. The steel pins sell for \$55 per thousand, and can be driven using a standard air compressor set at 75 to 90 psi.

Contact: Erico Tool & Fasteners Inc., 29019 Solon Rd., Solon, OH 44139; 800/248-2376.



## REMOVABLE STAPLES

Temporary battens have many uses on the job site, ranging from covering the felt paper overlaps on a newly covered roof deck to securing sheets of poly over door and window openings. If you've ever struggled to remove these temporary battens, you might be interested in Duo-Fast's new Temp-Fast removable staple. These 16-gauge staples have a unique M-shaped crown configuration that allows for easy removal.

A specially designed "strip fast" staple extractor (available through Duo-Fast) slips under the raised shoulders of the staple, making removal a snap. The Temp-Fast staples are manufactured without the adhesive coating found on conventional staples, making them much easier to remove.

Designed for use in Duo-Fast's RNS-TF stapler, the Temp-Fast staples are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and come in strips of 63. The staples are expected to become available later this year.

Contact: Duo-Fast Corp., 22 Tolland St., East Hartford, CT 06108; 800/752-5207.

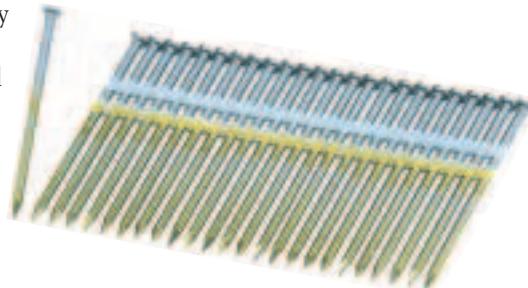


## NAILS FOR SEISMIC AND HIGH-WIND ZONES

Builders in seismic regions have to observe stringent codes governing nail specifications. Senco Products has introduced a full round-head common nail designed to meet local building codes in earthquake and tornado regions. With nail shank diameters of .165 inches, these nails qualify as "true" common nails. Builders can now take advantage of the speed of pneumatic nailing in situations where hand nailing used to be the only option.

According to a Senco representative, an adhesive coating applied to these nails doubles the withdrawal values when compared with uncoated or hand-driven nails. The plastic-collated 20-degree stick nails are manufactured for use in Senco's SN65C nailer and are available in 2 1/2-, 3-, and 3 1/2-inch lengths.

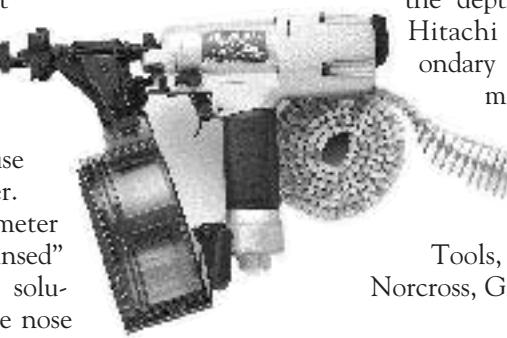
Contact: Senco Products Inc., 8485 Broadwell Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45244; 800/543-4596.



## PNEUMATIC DRYWALL NAILS

Imagine telling a drywall hanger that he had to give up his high-speed electric screw gun and start using nails again. You might come away unscathed if you show him a coil of Hitachi's drywall nails first. The ring-shanked nails come in 1 3/8-, 1 1/2-, and 1 5/8-inch lengths for use in Hitachi's NV50AG coil nailer.

The nails have a 1/4-inch-diameter dimple-shaped head, and are "rinsed" in a rust-inhibiting phosphate solution. A depth adjustment on the nose



of the gun allows for precise control over the set of the nail. Since variations in air pressure may affect the depth of set, a spokesperson at Hitachi recommended that a secondary in-line regulator be used to maintain 85 to 100 psi operating pressure at the gun. A carton of 4,000 nails costs about \$48.

Contact: Hitachi Power Tools, 3950 Steve Reynolds Blvd., Norcross, GA 30093; 800/706-7337.

## FASTENERS FOR FRAMING CONNECTORS

Framers accustomed to using pneumatic nail guns dread the tedious chore of nailing off framing connectors by hand. And in case you're tempted,

understand that building inspectors take a dim view of the production-oriented carpenter who uses a standard framing gun to "automate" the task.

Frustrated framers can find relief in Stanley Bostitch's MCN65 coil nailer, a nail gun that shoots specially designed

framing connector nails in an "inspector friendly" way. The gun's unique nose design allows the tip of the nail to extend beyond the holding jaws, enabling the operator to accurately place the nail in the hole of any standard connector. The plastic-collated coils come in 1 1/2- and 2 1/2-inch lengths, and can be ordered as plain steel or with an electroplated galvanized coating. Shank diameters of .131 and .148 inch are currently available.

Contact: Stanley Bostitch, One Briggs Dr., East Greenwich, RI 02818; 800/556-6696. ■

