



NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW Above left: Tivoly USA's Marc Tivoly (L)

SAVE THE BBQ GRILLS FOR LATER, HEAD FOR THE **NEW TOOLS**

rade show promoters have a tough row to hoe. On the one hand, depending on the number and quality of exhibitors they can attract, trade shows can offer terrific value to the professional public in hands-on time with the newest products and personal access to key manufacturer con-

However, the other side is that they require attendees to take days away from their businesses and budget funds for travel, hotels, meals and extras. That can add up.

This year's National Hardware Show claimed more than 2,600 exhibitors across 15 product categories, including a reported 700-plus new exhibitors. That said, Contractor Supply focused exclusively on Hardware & Tools category exhibitors, which range from such STAFDAchannel household names as Channellock, Louisville Ladder, Generac and Hyde Tool to "newer" brands such as Fiskars/Gerber, Rockwell Tools and Tivoly USA.

and Tom Fallon (R) are building the leading European drill bit

brand's presence in the USA with imported and

domestic products and a new warehouse in

Memphis.

The show activity followed the same model both days we attended, with brisk morning traffic thinning considerably in the afternoon. The "gut-feeling" estimates of many exhibitors said attendance this year was about the same or somewhat lighter than last year's ballpark of

19,000. Here again, the question arises, "How do you get them off to gay Paree when they are so busy down on the farm?" Well, show them lots of great new products.

Everybody loves a nifty tool and there's not much niftier than a great multi tool. Gerber Gear's newest is called the CenterDrive. Like the earlier MP 600 tool, the Center Drive flips open with one hand. Named for its center-axis screwdriver, the tool's alignment delivers maximum torque and rotation — and a long reach.

"In developing this tool, we interviewed contractors, DIYers and sports enthusiasts and they all said CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



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TARPS & SHEETINGS

the same thing — that the pliers, the driver and the knife are the most important, most-heavily used parts of a multitool," said Natasha Braunwart, Gerber trade marketing coordinator. "We made all three of those things accessible with one finger."

The CenterDrive accepts standard 1/4-inch hex bits. The tool also features a full-sized 3.25-inch safety-locking blade, a sturdy pry bar (to save the blade!) and replaceable carbide inserts on the pliers' cutting faces. To top it all off, the entire tool is 100 percent made in Oregon.

At the Tivoly booth, company general director Marc Tivoly and North American president Tom Fallon were spreading word of Tivoly's new push into the American market. Celebrating 100 years of business in 2017, Tivoly is one of Europe's leading tool manufacturers and produces more than 12,000 products in France, Germany, Spain and here in the USA in Vermont.

"Tivoly is the market share leader in Europe's big box and professional tool stores with products that very few Americans know about," Fallon explains. "For example, we produce the number one ranked wood drilling bit in Germany. Another one of our



Below: New from Bucket Boss, the model 65180-HV Hi-Viz Tech Pack is made with durable 1680 poly material and has comfortable padded and ventilated straps and back. It has interior pockets for tools and separate sleeves for tablets, laptops, phones and

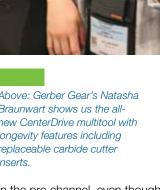


products creates clean holes in both wood and metal, with no blow-out as it exits wood and no burrs in drilled metal pipe."

To support its new emphasis on the U.S. market, Tivoly is importing European product into a warehouse in Memphis for fast delivery to STAFDA houses and other professional retailers.

Rockwell is a familiar name to many professionals but its sister company WORX is less well known

Left: Rockwell Tool's Mike Mangan shows off the WORX SideKick worktable. It has a 300-pound capacity and has a design that enables multiple tables to lock together to create large work surfaces.



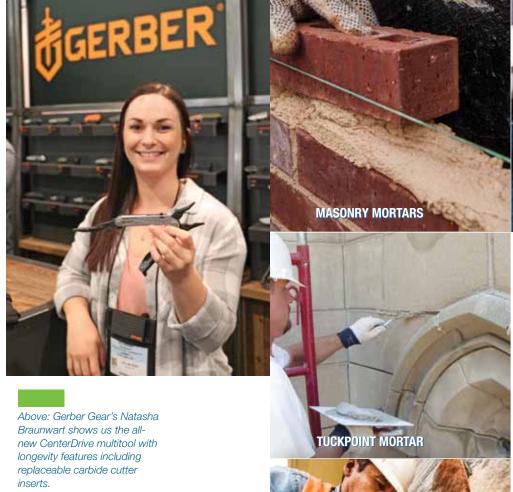
in the pro channel, even though some of its products deserve a good look. After producing a low-vibration palm sander for Craftsman for years, Rockwell is now marketing the technology under its own name as the model RK4248 Vibrafree random orbit sander. Its concentric pads rotate counter to each other to significantly reduce vibration.

Rockwell's Mike Mangan also showed us the WORX Sidekick, a clever 300-pound capacity, 23-inchwide worktable in a briefcase that weighs just 8 pounds.

VERDICT: WORTH A LOOK

The 2018 National Hardware Show is set for May 8 to 10 in Las Vegas. It may be worth a look. Visit www.nationalhardwareshow.com. cs

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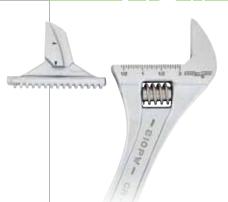
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NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW Products



CHANNELLOCK

>> CHANNELLOCK's new Reversible Jaw Adjustable Wrenches are strong, reliable and more versatile than ever for use on bolts and round stock. The angled teeth on the reversible jaw grip are tight on pipes and rounded fasteners. They are offered in 6-, 8-, 10- and 12-inch lengths and a 4-inch extra slim jaw version.

www.channellock.com

O'KEEFFE'S

» O'Keeffe's Lip Repair was a Top 10 brand in the first six months of its launch. The lip balm is clinically proven to heal, relieve and restore dry, cracked lips. O'Keeffe's combines intense hydration with transfer-resistant ingredients to keep dry, cracked lips moisturized all day after a single application, even while eating and drinking. It is available in stick and tube forms. Users can choose unscented or cooling Lip Repair relief balm, which includes a peppermint oil extract.

www.OKeeffescompany.com



>> The new Rockwell model RK4248K 5-inch random orbit sander with Vibrafree technology makes a huge difference in vibration reduction. In independent lab tests, the RK4248K had 50 percent less vibration and outperformed major competitors with a 50 percent greater dust removal rate. A bagless, filter-less CDS Cyclonic Dust/Air Separator system has an advanced cyclonic air flow design that separates dust from the air, while maintaining constant suction. The variable-speed (6,000 to 13,500 opm) sander is powered by a 3.3-amp motor. Its random 1/8-inch orbital action helps achieve smooth, swirl-free finishes.

www.rockwelltools.com



GERBER GEAR

» The new Center-Drive multitool from Gerber offers uncompromising performace by design. Its innovative center-axis driver opens to align like a real screw driver for maximum torque and rotation. Its three key features of driver, knife and pliers all open with just one hand. It also features a 3.25-inch knife and one-thumb opening sliding jaws on the pliers. Its rotatable carbide wire cutters can be easily replaced for extreme tool life. The Center-Drive also contains a pry bar, bottle opener, a serrated blade, awl and a file. A fabric sheath is included.

www.gerbergear.com



LEGACY/FLEXZILLA

>> Legacy's new all-in-one 20V cordless grease gun kit, model L1388LFZ, offers Flexzilla's legendary flexibility under pressure. Rapid reload enables users to switch out cartridges in seconds. It comes with two 20-volt rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries, a one-hour quick charger, four-jaw coupler, a 42-inch Flexzilla grease hose, shoulder strap and a carrying case.

www.legacymfg.com



COAST PORTLAND

>> Coast's new POLYSTEEL 600R rechargeable LED flashlight delivers up to 710 lumens and includes an array of waterproof and durable features. Built to perform dependably in the most demanding environments, the POLYSTEEL 600R includes the high-quality lithium rechargeable battery pack; however, standard alkaline batteries can also power the light.

www.coastportland.com



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NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW Products



CATERPILLAR

>> The new Caterpillar Cat RP Series model RP12000 E generator delivers 12kW of running power. Designed by Caterpillar engineers in Illinois and the United Kingdom, the RP12000 E has a powerful 670cc V-Twin engine with a fully pressurized oil system that can deliver up to 15kW of surge power with less than 5 percent THD. It can run for more than 11 hours at 50 percent load.

www.cat.com/homeandoutdoorpower

ZIPPKOOL

>> ZippKool director Jiro Wayama models the company's Hi-Viz Helmet Cooler which adds a feather-weight cooling fan to a hard hat neck shade. It fills a hard hat with cooling, circulating air for hours of relief in hot environments. It is powered by a small rechargeable Lithiumion battery pack that straps onto the helmet itself. Just launched in January, ZippKool has sold so many that it is already on back-order.





SURFACE SHIELDS

>> The star of the show for Surface Shields was its new Builder Board Seamer, an upright tape applicator that is perfect for quickly seaming sheets of surface protection together. it has an allmetal frame, a construction grade plastic tape spindle, a durable rubber bottom roller and a soft grip handle. It stands just short of four feet tall, weighs about 10 pounds and reduces installation time by more than 60 percent.

www.surfaceshields.com



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HYDE TOOLS

>> The Hyde Group has added three new utility knives. including two heavy-duty snap-blade knives for rugged jobs and a fine-blade, angled knife for more detailed work. The model 42051 25mm retractable utility knife cuts carpet, linoleum, drywall and much more. The heavy-duty, model 42050 18mm knife's screw lock withstands 44 pounds of force. The 9mm model 42046 detail knife is specifically designed for precision detail work.

www.hydetools.com



NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW NEW Products



ARROW FASTENERS

» Arrow Fastener's new T50DCD cordless electric staple gun features a new breakthrough design that allows maximum power per shot and more shots per charge. The T50DCD is the first to tack an extraordinary 500 full-power staples on every full charge with its 3.6-volt Lithium-ion battery. It shoots up to 1/2-inch staples and has a soft over-molded grip, an oversized trigger and a clear fastener viewing window.

www.arrowfastener.com

BRIGGS & STRATTON

>>> Briggs & Stratton's new model S2000P electric pressure washer delivers 2,000 maximum psi at 1.1 gpm. Its POWERflow+ Technology includes high flow, which is ideal for washing because it delivers up to 3.5 gallons per minute to rinse away soap, dirt and debris. Features include a tough, welded steel frame, a quickrelease folding handle, an onboard detergent tank and instant start/stop.





SIMPSON STRONG-TIE

» As decking season kicks in, Simpson's new EB-TY Premium Hidden Deck-Fastening System provides professional builders and DIYers a unique method of fastening deck boards that leaves the fasteners virtually invisible. The biscuit-shaped fastener installs inside a slot cut in the narrow side of the deck boards, and is reinforced with a stainless-steel plate for holding power.

www.strongtie.com







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