

CORDLESS TOOLS

THE BEAT STILL GOES ON — LIGHTER, SMALLER, MORE POWERFUL TOOLS

Not long ago, siding a house was a three-man job. As I write this, one worker is doing my whole house. As contractors face such productivity demands, cordless reliability and runtime are essential. These top manufacturers are leading the way to higher productivity.

DEWALT

Cordless tools continue to encroach on applications formerly the sole domain of coded tools. Witness the new DEWALT cordless 20V MAX* Lithium-ion 7 1/4-inch Sliding Miter Saw, model DCS361. The DCS361 offers portability and convenience, optimized for general contractors and remodelers for various applications including trim installation, flooring work and cutting 2x material.



"The 7 1/4-inch Sliding Miter Saw model DCS361 features a single bevel which ranges from -3° to 48° left," says Jeff Beck, group product manager. "With a 3 1/2-inch maximum vertical, 3 5/8-inch crown nested, and 2x8-inch horizontal cut capacity, the DCS361 will handle most of the common cuts users need."

The DCS361 spins at 3,750 rpm and makes, on average 183 cuts of 2x4 pine or 275 cuts of 3 1/4-inch pine base molding on a single battery charge with a 4.0-Ah battery. The DCS361 with a battery weighs just 31.6 pounds, and with integrated cast-in side handles, is easy to carry.

In the rotary hammer category, DEWALT announces four new SDS rotary hammers; the 1 1/8-inch model D25263K, the 1-inch model D25262K, 1-inch Pistol Grip model D25133K and the 7/8-inch model D25260K.

Leading the new line, the 1 1/8-inch D25263K claims 15 percent faster drilling speed on average than the Bosch Bulldog Extreme Max (RH228VC) when drilling

DEWALT's 20V MAX 7 1/4-inch DCS361 cordless miter saw makes up to 183 cuts in pine 2x4 on a single charge. At just 6.8 pounds, the 1 1/8-inch model D25263K SDS rotary hammer features SHOCKS vibration control and a vibration-reducing side handle.

5/8- by 3-inch holes. An 8.5 amp high performance motor delivers 0-1450 rpm and a 0-5350 bpm with 3.0 joules of impact energy.

"At 6.8 pounds, with SHOCKS vibration control and a vibration-reducing side handle, this unit reduces vibration at the handle to 9.8 m/s² for user comfort," states Richard Cacchiotti, product manager. "The 1 1/8-inch D25263K features three operation modes; hammer drill, drill only and chipping. Each hammer also delivers full power in reverse mode for bit jam incidents."

MAKITA USA

"New Makita motor technology is setting standards in speed, torque and ergonomics never seen before in 18-volt cordless drills and impact drivers, all powered by the fastest-charging 18-volt Lithium-ion batteries in the industry," begins Adam Livingston, senior product manager, cordless tools, Makita U.S.A.



The 18V LXT Brushless Impact Driver, model XDT09M/Z, is more powerful and more compact than any other in the

The new 18V LXT Lithium-ion Brushless Quick-Shift Mode 3-Speed Impact Driver (XDT09M) gives contractors more torque, more speed, and superior ergonomics for the best power-to-weight ratio in the 18V impact driver category.



18V LXT line-up and with 3,600 rpm it has 28 percent more speed than the previous model.

"Increasing speed without a sacrifice in torque is a true challenge in motor engineering, and Makita raised the bar with a versatile impact driver that is more compact with the most speed in the 18-volt impact driver category," Livingston says. "It's also loaded with features, with three speed settings and Makita's exclusive Quick-Shift Mode selector for unmatched fastening control."

New motor technology is also setting new benchmarks in the 18-volt drill category. Makita says its XPH07M/Z

CONTINUED ON PAGE 204

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power of a 2,400-watt corded tool," Derché adds. "Such endeavors are simply not thinkable without our unique technology, protected by eight additional new patents."

"And because it is built on our original Ultra-M platform, LiHD is 100 percent compatible with all existing Metabo cordless tools, offering the ultimate power and runtime experience for the toughest applications — corded power anywhere you need it!"

RIDGID

The trends influencing cordless drill, driver and screw gun design and applications are wide-ranging. Although applications have remained consistent in the industry, newer motors and advanced battery chemistries have paved the way for design changes and improved tools.

"Every new or redesigned product goes through an evaluation in which every user need is considered," explains Christopher Burton, RIDGID global director, brand man-



BURTON

agement. "For instance, the new RIDGID Gen5X 18-volt cordless tools are designed to exceed the needs and expectations of today's contractors, both in performance and budget.

New products, such as the hammer drill, impact driver, circular saw and reciprocating saw, have product enhancements and improved performance to ensure that contractors get more done per charge and experience less downtime.

"You will continue to see battery chemistry enhancements and tool expansion for system-related products," Burton adds. "Customers are buying into platforms and expect to have several options that run off the same battery and charger. RIDGID has provided full compatibility with its 18-volt products since it first launched in 2004." **CS**



RIDGID's Gen5X family of 18-volt cordless tools includes a full complement of hammer drills, impact drivers, circular and reciprocating saws and worklights, with more to come.



Metabo's best-selling SB18 LXT BL Quick Hammer Drill now offers the new 6.2-Ah LiHD Lithium High Density battery, which delivers 67 percent more power and 87 percent more runtime than a 5.2-Ah pack.

(sold without batteries and charger) that together deliver unmatched value."

The lifetime tool warranty is available for all tools in the 18-volt Lithium-ion platform except for grinders and rotary hammers. Lithium-ion batteries have a two-year warranty and chargers come with a one-year warranty.

"With the ever-expanding innovations coming from our R&D team in Japan, plus the new items coming to market in 18-volt cordless, the possibilities are endless. We are excited to unveil these advancements very soon!"

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METABO

"At Metabo, we see two major trends in the cordless segment: a desire for longer running, more powerful tools and a need for more compact tools," observes product manager Antoine Derché. "Our



R&D efforts in battery and motor technology have enabled us to successfully meet these divergent challenges head-on. We are very excited to introduce our new LiHD (Lithium High Density) battery technology."

Thanks to a totally re-engineered battery pack and cell, the Metabo 6.2-Ah LiHD pack delivers 67 percent more power and 87 percent more runtime than its 5.2-Ah pack. This opens the doors to totally new industrial applications that were formerly corded only.

"Combined with the power and efficiency of our second-generation brushless motor, we can now produce a cordless grinder that outperforms competing 11-amp corded angle grinders in cutting speed," Derché says.

LiHD also features a 3.1-Ah slim pack, offering power and runtime equivalent to most industry-standard full-size packs. This allows tradesmen to work all day long with compact and lightweight systems.

"Coming early next year, the LiHD 36-volt platform opens the door to a large cordless angle grinder with the

The battery and charger are in constant communication during the charge process to ensure maximum efficiency.

The charger also has Foreign Object Detection (FOD), which detects when an object besides a compatible battery is on the charging pad. If an object is identified, the charger will not turn on — which prevents items like nails or screws from heating up and causing damage.

"Power tool users need increasingly innovative solutions to meet the many applications they face every day," Bohn adds. "Advanced technology can deliver the solution if it incorporates elements of user understanding and ease of use. The best solution is sometimes simplicity itself."

HITACHI POWER TOOLS

Brushless motor technology keeps increasing in popularity. The high torque outputs, increased runtime and reduced tool weight are well-received in the market.

"As end-users become more aware of brushless motor benefits, Hitachi plans to launch new high-end brushless models over the next year to complement our current brushless tools," says Brett Bishop, product manager.



BISHOP

"Battery technology is also grabbing the attention of many. Hitachi is exploring a new technology that allows more power in a smaller package. We are planning a strong launch to market soon."

Hitachi's most recent development in the 18-volt driver drill market, however, has taken a different approach.

"Hitachi's DS18DGL offers Lithium-ion battery technology with an ergonomic and well-balanced design at an amazing value," Bishop continues. "We have put together the 'DGL' series of tools and a solid line of bare tools



Hitachi's DS18DGL 1/2-inch Lithium-ion driver drill features a brushed motor to deliver a terrific combination of performance and price. And it still carries Hitachi's lifetime tool warranty.



The much-anticipated Bosch Power Ready Wireless Charging System has arrived. Its induction charging system lets users charge a battery with the tool installed, even if the unit is wall- or self-mounted.

and XFD07M/Z are the first 18-volt drills to exceed 1,000 inch-pounds of torque.

"With Makita's efficient brushless motor and the industry's most advanced 18-volt Lithium-ion battery technology, contractors have a true cordless solution for corded drilling and driving applications."

In 2005, Makita created the 18-volt compact Lithium-ion category. In 2015, Makita aims to change the game again with new 18-volt compact tools that deliver longer run time, superior ergonomics and up to 25 percent more speed than previous models.

Once again, Makita engineers have increased rpm's without sacrificing torque with the new 18V Compact Impact Driver, model XDT11Z. It features an innovative four-pole, four-brush motor and a new fan design and ventilating window for improved cooling under load.

"The new 18V Compact Driver-Drill, model XFD10Z, is also faster than the previous model, without sacrificing torque," Livingston adds. "Both tools give users superior ergonomics with class-leading power-to-weight ratios."

BOSCH

"The best solution is sometimes the one that's easiest to implement," begins Jim Bohn, director, strategic development, Bosch Tool Corporation, Power Tool Division. "A case in point is the Bosch Power Ready Wireless Charging System, where charging simplicity means convenience, ease of use and the ability to charge in locations where other systems cannot. Whether in a vehicle, on the job site or in a stationary workshop or production environment, with the Bosch Power Ready Wireless Charging System the battery is always charged."



BOHN

The system is simple: With the inductive charger plugged in, it transmits an alternating magnetic field to the compatible battery. The user can just set the drill/driver — with battery installed — on the charger pad to top off the charge, even if the unit is wall- or shelf-mounted.