



# ABRASIVE DISCS AND BLADES

ACCESSORIES KEEP ADVANCING, ESPECIALLY FOR CORDLESS GRINDING

At only .032 inches thick, Makita ultra-thin cut-off wheels have reduced material waste and require less energy than standard wheels, making them ideal for use with cordless grinders.



STOVER

The sweet spot for abrasives users, that magical point between high quality and low price, continues to spur manufacturers to develop ever faster, more durable grinding and cutting products, especially for cordless tools. These products are right on the grinder's edge.

## MAKITA

Makita is offering more innovation in the abrasives category with new solutions that address the increased use of cordless grinders on job sites. These new solutions include cut-off wheels and abrasives engineered for increased cutting efficiency, lower noise and less vibration.

"The new Makita ultra-thin cut-off wheels are engineered to cut faster with reduced material waste," says Brandon Stover, product manager, Accessories. "At only .032 inches thick (20 percent thinner than most competitor cut-off wheels) they are designed for fast cutting and will quickly slice through channel, pipe, rebar, angle iron and stainless steel. The ultra-thin design with

60-grit abrasive not only cuts faster, but also reduces the load on the motor, making them ideal for use with cordless grinders including Makita's new 18V LXT brushless angle grinders. These premium cut-off wheels are constructed with zirconia aluminum and are available in both standard Type 1 flat and Type 27 depressed center designs."

Makita's new INOX grinding wheels are designed for efficient grinding on steel and stainless steel, but with an innovative design engineered for less noise and vibration. The wheels feature an aggressive composition with white aluminum oxide abrasive and 36-grit abrasive for efficient material removal. Makita engineers applied a new formulation that results in less vibration and lower noise under load, which means increased comfort for users.

"In 2016, Makita will offer new INOX flex wheels with a bonded adhesive construction so they flex for better contact on flat or irregular surfaces," Stover says. "These

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new flex wheels are engineered for up to 56 percent less vibration than standard wheels, with less weight than standard wheels, so cordless grinder users can get up to 70 percent more grinding per battery charge.

They are ideal for grinding stainless steel and mild steel, as well as irregular surfaces like steel pipes. These new INOX flex wheels will be available in spring 2016."

### DEWALT

DEWALT sees changes in both the power tools and materials used in metal working applications. New angle grinders feature more powerful and durable motors, and upgrades are allowing end-users to grind longer and with more power. This power is needed because contractors and manufacturers are using harder materials, including inconel and Hastelloy, which require stronger wheels to complete applications. Most major manufacturers offer silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, zirconia and ceramic grain bonded abrasive wheels.

"We have spent countless hours with professional end-users researching these harder material trends in the market and we have launched our new XP Ceramic cutting and flap disc products as a solution to these needs," says Maurice LaPointe, DEWALT product manager. "The new 1/16-inch-thick XP Ceramic cutting discs are built with high-performance ceramic grain to give end-users over 80 percent longer life, compared to the DW8725 in 1/4-inch 1018 steel. Similarly, the new DEWALT XP Ceramic flap discs offer smooth, fast grinding, with the added benefit of long life."

DEWALT's Premium XP Ceramic cloth provides fast material removal and DEWALT's proprietary flap disc design ensures long life and a fine finish.

"The new DEWALT XP Ceramic flap discs deliver an average of 30 percent longer life compared to the 3M Cubitron II 967A in 1018 steel," LaPointe says. "Both of these great new product ranges will allow end-users to work longer and be more productive on the job site."

### GEMTEX ABRASIVES

More users are demanding unique products that perform multiple functions, are adaptable for various applications, and are available in a multitude of specifications to accommodate a large spectrum of potential uses. With a strong and growing emphasis on safety, end-users



DEWALT XP Ceramic cutting discs are made with a high-performance ceramic grain that gives users a claimed 80-percent longer life than a DEWALT's DW8725 metal cutting wheel in 1/4-inch 1080 steel.

Patented Trim Kut discs from Gemtex have a plastic backing that can be trimmed to adapt to diameter restrictions. They come in grits from 24 to 120 and diameters from three to five inches.



also have a need for abrasives with "attachment flexibility."

"At Gemtex Abrasives, we address these issues with several product options," begins Frank Prenda, Gemtex Abrasives' vice president of sales and marketing.



The Trim Kut Disc is a patented abrasive disc with a plastic backing that is able to be trimmed to optimize disc life and adapt to diameter restrictions. The discs are available in 24-120 grits in all materials (aluminum oxide, zirconia, silicon carbide, ceramic and PMD Supreme Plus for aluminum grinding). The sizes available are 3-, 4 1/2- and 5-inch diameters with multiple spindle and attachment options depending on the desired tool.

"Our Grind R product is a safe alternative to the standard mini resin fibre and cloth discs thanks to its one-piece, type R, plastic-back design," Prenda continues. "With the grain fused directly on to the backing, there is no plastic button that could separate from the disc in use. Product durability is increased and it can be used in wet and dry applications."

To accommodate the variety of tools used for metal finishing, Gemtex offers the Brite Prep Strip Away product line in many attachment options. The offering includes Type 1 (in 2- to 8-inch diameters), Type 27 (in 4- to 7-inch diameters), Type R (in 2- to 4-inch diameters) and single- and double-mount with 1/4-inch spindle (in 2- to 5-inch diameters). In addition, the line is available in three grades: General Purpose (black), Ultra (blue) and Supreme (purple).

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Metabo's new 5- by 1/4-inch Professional tuck pointing blade features a sandwich design that requires less power from the grinder to perform its work.

**METABO**

Hearing the call of masonry contractors, Metabo has introduced the new professional tuck pointing blade. The professional's unique blade design cuts fast, even in hard mortars, saving users time and money.

"The professional tuck point blade (5- x 1/4- x 7/8-inches) utilizes two turbo cutting discs in a sandwich configuration," explains Terry Tuerk, senior product manager for Metabo. "The sandwich configuration requires less power from the angle grinder than traditional, full 1/4-inch segment tuck point blades, which increases the speed of cut and allows the angle grinder to run cooler."



TUERK

"The professional's diamond matrix design has been optimized for longest life allowing for a quick evacuation of abrasive dust," Tuerk continues. "The unique turbo design is safer by eliminating the possible loss of segments from undercutting. The wheel is rated at 12,200 rpm, for dry use only."

**PEARL ABRASIVE**

Two of the key trends Pearl Abrasive is seeing in the marketplace are the continual focus on productivity — striving to do more with less — along with a demand for specialized tools for specific applications. Pearl's product development team works closely with reps across the U.S. and Canada to find unique solutions that cost-effectively meet the demands for productivity improvement and specialization.

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Mercer's Ceraflame line, with ceramic grain technology that outlasts zirconia by up to 50 percent, is designed for aggressive removal in steel, cast iron, ceramic, stainless steel and other non-ferrous metals.

**MERCER ABRASIVES**

"Abrasive users are becoming smarter and they have very defined ideas of the products they want," says Ryan Trimble, product manager for Mercer Abrasives.

"As a manufacturer, it's important for us to listen to our customers' needs and help them choose the right product for their application and budget. You may think this means just moving up in quality. Quite surprisingly, we're seeing growth on opposite ends of the spectrum. Customers with small budgets expect an economical price but they don't want to sacrifice quality. Big-budget customers have more



TRIMBLE

dollars to spend but they have the same quality desires. There is no longer a 'one size fits all' mentality covering the professionals in this industry. In order to compete, you need to recognize the signs of what levels are needed in the market. As a manufacturer, Mercer keeps its finger on the pulse of the industry."

On the high end, Mercer's recently introduced Ceraflame line features ceramic technology that lasts up to 50 percent longer than zirconia. Premium cut-off wheels for gas-saw blades are also strong and efficient with the ability to cut all metal types. On the other end of the price spectrum, Mercer is developing several items that offer industrial quality but at an aggressive price point.

"Serving a broad spectrum of customers is a responsibility that Mercer takes very seriously and we will continue to bring a multitude of options to our customers."

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"Distributors and end-users were asking for a longer lasting abrasive disc for metal cutting applications," says Oscar Checa, Pearl product development manager. "Pearl recognized that a diamond blade could be developed for this application, but it would need to have an extremely high concentration of diamonds in an extremely strong bond. The result is our Pearl Xtreme blade."

*Pearl's new 4.5-, 5- and 6-inch Slimcut aluminum thin cut-off wheels are specifically designed for cutting aluminum, copper, brass, bronze and other soft metals without loading.*

The Pearl Xtreme PX-4000 cuts metal, stainless steel and a variety of ferrous metals with less odor and debris compared to conventional abrasives, and is ideal for cutting rebar, angle iron and more. It can cut as much as 50 to 100 conventional disks, decreasing down time for disk changes and significantly increasing productivity.



CHECA

Pearl has also focused on developing specialized products for unique applications, including a recently released line of abrasives specifically for working with aluminum.

"With the use of aluminum rising, we recognized the increased challenges for our customers to serve metal workers handling aluminum," Checa says. "We tested many options before introducing our new tools for cutting and grinding aluminum."

Pearl's latest aluminum-specific thin cut-off wheel, the Slimcut Aluminum, is specifically engineered for cutting soft metals without loading. Pearl's other aluminum-specific products include carbide burs, an aluminum oxide MaxiDisc flap disc and a titanium-carbide blade that cuts clean and cool through aluminum, copper, brass, bronze and other soft nonferrous metals.

**PFERD USA**

Safety and cost are two key issues influencing abrasives design and application today. Reducing operator fatigue means reducing lost time. That translates into overall reduction in risk and saves real dollars. Successful contractors not only look at per-piece cost, they also measure total cost of the material finishing process and ensure that their supplier meets high safety ratings and addresses overall operational health of its product users. That results in total cost reduction and risk mitigation.

"PFERD has long had a reputation for innovation which translates into premium, high-quality products and advancements in operator health and safety," begins John Thompson, technical sales manager. "PFERD's latest innovation in grinding wheels is the PSF 'R' series for steel and stainless steel. This series of grinding wheels gives double the material removal over the same time period as most of our competitors. The PSF 'R' requires less pressure, which translates into reduced operator fatigue. This lowers the risk of errors which can be costly to both the operator and the business."



THOMPSON

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Continuing to improve on performance, safety and total cost reduction are important considerations in future product development of abrasives. For PFERD, human factors and impact on user ergonomics are key factors considered in the design of new products.

"Technology enhancements to reduce vibration and fatigue, lower noise and reducing risk of injury are at the forefront of abrasives and power tool developments at PFERD," Thompson states. "Our aim is to make the jobs of those in the construction, welding and industrial markets safer and more efficient."

*PFERD's A24 R PSF general-purpose grinding wheel is optimized for long service life on steel, stainless steel and cast iron and achieves high removal rates with minimal contract pressure.*

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An end-user's priorities change in relation to their job function. A buyer focuses on price and product life, whereas a foreman will be interested mainly in removal rate, product life and safety. The worker who actually uses the tool cares about removal rate, product life, safety and comfort.

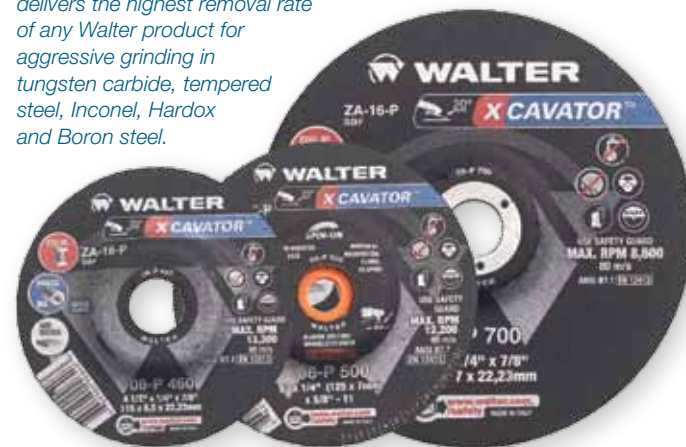


"Customer needs influence how we design our abrasive products and bring them to market," says Marc Brunet-Gagné, abrasives product manager for Walter Surface Technologies. "The choice of grit and configurations depends on what we want to achieve. We spend months, sometimes years, researching and developing our abrasives. In the end, our goal is to maximise our customer's priorities, so our product development strategy focuses on four priorities: removal rate, product life, safety and comfort."

"Labor cost represents 90 percent of the total annual amount of money invested in cutting, grinding and blending operations," Brunet-Gagné adds. "That said, we prefer to provide quality products that might be higher priced,

but that maximize productivity and, per wheel, save money in the long run. We are confident in the value of quality and have published a white paper on the subject, entitled *Documented Cost Savings for Abrasives*. Readers may download it at [www.walter.com](http://www.walter.com) in the Supports section under Technical Bulletins." **CS**

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