

GRINDING, SANDING AND POLISHING

POWER, ERGONOMICS AND DUST COLLECTION KEEP GETTING BETTER

Grinding, sanding and polishing applications have benefitted immensely from the recent drive toward zero tolerance for errant dust. While these products may not yet be pure joy to use, the manufacturers in this roundup are making great strides.

BOSCH

For concrete construction pros, managing dust and dangerous crystalline silica particles is a growing priority. This industry focus, backed by both construction crews and the Occupation Health & Safety Administration (OSHA), is one of

the reasons why major power tools manufacturers continue to develop dust extraction innovations like Bosch Speed Clean Bits for cleaner concrete drilling.

"However, concrete workers who are drilling holes aren't alone," says

The seven-inch Bosch model 1974-8 large angle grinder boasts a four-hp motor and reduces vibration by up to 50 percent, yet weighs 20 percent less than competing models.



Mike Iezzi, product manager for the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation. "Dust mitigation accessories like the Bosch 18SG-7 dust extraction attachment are sucking dust away from surface grinders, reducing clean-up times and providing cleaner, safer air for the user."

The 18SG-7 works with the Bosch seven-inch angle grinder and includes a removable nose piece which allows the user to execute a flush surfacing job while still benefitting from dust extraction.

Much like drills and drivers, grinders are getting lighter and more powerful than ever before. Bosch 1900 Series seven- and nine-inch grinders house a powerful and efficient four-hp motor.

"Plus, 1900 Series grinders utilize industry-best vibration control, highlighted by a soft-grip handle that minimizes vibration by up to 50 percent," Iezzi adds. "And Bosch 1900 series grinders are among the lightest large angle grinders available, weighing up to 20 percent less than comparable competitive models."



Between the safety advantages of dust extraction and the increasing power and efficiency of today's grinders, users are finding a more comfortable and easy-to-use tool than ever before. It's all about maximum power at minimum weight, all while removing dangerous dust – and doing it without compromising the integrity of the job.

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MAKITA

“Excessive vibration in a power tool is wasted motion which leads to loss of efficiency and overall performance,” states David Fernandez, product manager, Metal Working and Concrete Products, Makita USA. “On the job site, high levels of



vibration may affect a worker’s comfort level and, ultimately, productivity. Makita, a leader in vibration reduction technology, is addressing the negative effects of vibration and delivering technology with unprecedented levels of vibration reduction in the grinder category with the exclusive SJS II system.”

Makita’s SJS II technology is a leaf-spring and cam gear-drive mechanism engineered to reduce vibration. It works by transferring the vibration generated by the application through the wheel accessory spindle and onto a CAM component. The vibration causes the cam to press against the leaf spring and absorb the vibration that would otherwise be transferred to the user’s hands if SJS II were not present. The result is a reduction of operator downtime with increased operator comfort during extended grinding applications.

New Makita grinders equipped with SJS II technology include the 4 1/2-inch (GA4542C) and five-inch (GA5042C) models. In addition, Makita offers two five-inch SJS II grinders with tuck point guards (GA5040X1, GA5042CX1) for both efficient dust extraction and less vibration during tuck pointing applications.

“In addition to reducing vibration, Makita is improving grinder durability,” Fernandez continues. “Makita grinders denoted with a ‘C’ in the model number are equipped with an Electronic Controller that improves

motor and gear protection for extended tool life.

The Electronic Controller consists of a three component electronics package. First, the electronic current limiter helps protect the motor from overload during high-torque applications. Secondly, Constant Speed Control automatically applies more power to the motor to maintain speed under load variances. And the Soft Start feature is designed to suppress start-up reaction and preserve longer gear life.

BARTELL MORRISON

“Concrete grinding is nothing new to the rental industry,” begins Jeff Durgin, president of Bartell Morrison USA. “Most rental shops will have at least a small single-head grinder for basic floor prep and coating removal.”

Although there are always new innovations being added to grinders, the overall design has stayed the same for years. One quickly advancing area is the tooling that grinds or polishes the floor.

“We are seeing longer lasting metal bonds and resins that polish much more effectively. With the development of adaptor plates for all major machine types, you are now able to put almost any diamonds on any grinder, giving you the ability to move your buying around easily.”

Another area that is continuing to grow is polished concrete. More and more customers are evaluating this as a viable option not only for areas like garages, but throughout



The Innovatech model P1800 grinder polisher from Bartell Morrison features a three-head planetary design for rigid or flexible seven-inch heads. It has a single-phase 208-240 volt, four-hp motor.

homes and businesses. With all of the training out there, basic polishing is becoming much more accessible, even for some DIY guys.

“Polishing is a great option for rental houses because it can be a high ROI rental,” Durgin adds. “The polisher needs to have a grinder, tooling and chemicals in order to complete their job, giving you the chance to sell multiple items in one transaction.”

“Think this is too advanced for you? With the growing popularity of floor systems, it has never been easier to learn how to polish and teach your staff.”

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Whether cordless or corded, Metabo grinders deliver professional performance. Their new WEPF15-150 flat head grinders deliver 13.5 amps of power — up to 50 percent more torque than their predecessors.

METABO

Recently acquired by Hitachi, Metabo's brand will only benefit as its premium products are introduced to a wider global audience.

"In corded grinders, Metabo has recently added several new six-inch grinders into its unique family of low profile, flat head angle grinders," begins Terry Tuerk, senior product manager. "They feature a patented gear drive that allows for an extremely low profile head, enabling the grinder to fit into angles as low as 39 degrees and narrow spaces as low as 2 5/8 inches."



TUERK

The new flat head grinders are available in three versions; one with a side locking switch (WEPF15-150); a non-locking paddle switch version (WEPF15-150); and due to increasing user demands for safer tools, a version with non-locking paddle switch and mechanical brake (WEPFB15-150) that stops the grinding accessory in under two seconds.

The motors of the new six-inch flat head angle grinders have an increased power rating of 13.5 amps (1,550 watts) and are based on the all new small angle grinder platform released by Metabo earlier this year. Producing up to 50 percent more torque, 20 percent more output power and up to 20 percent higher overload capacity, this new design allows for the development of higher power while meeting user demands for physically smaller tools.

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CARDI *Concrete Drilling Products*
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Festool's new brushless six-inch model ETXS EC 150/5 sander packs active electronic vibration control, soft-start, a carbide-tipped brake and Multi-Jetstream dust extraction.

FESTOOL

When woodworkers think best-in-class, many think of Festool before any other brands. Festool aims to reinforce that thinking with its new five- and six-inch brushless ETS EC sanders, which feature a compact, ergonomic, low profile and low vibration design. Built for prolonged use and extended service longevity, the new ETS EC sanders claim to achieve the performance of air sanders without the expense or bulk of an air system.



RANGOUSSIS

The ETS EC sander line is available in three models: the five-inch ETS EC 125/3, which has a fine 3mm sanding stroke, the six-inch ETS EC 150/3, and the six-inch ETS EC 150/5, with sanding strokes of 3mm and a broader 5mm.

"These sanders can run all day and through multiple shifts," says Steve Rangoussis, chief sales and marketing officer for Festool USA. "They're equipped with the EC-TEC brushless motor, a proprietary motor that provides more power to the pad with no need for brush replacement."

Other features include an active electronic vibration control system, a carbide-tipped pad brake and electronic control for smooth start-ups and minimal surface marring.

"Finally, dust extraction efficiency is built in with Multi-Jetstream dust extraction on the six-inch ETS EC and Jetstream dust extraction on the five-inch ETS EC," Rangoussis adds. "These sanders fit seamlessly into the Festool sanding solutions system which includes CT dust extractors, abrasives and pads."



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Alpha makes not just great tools, but great dust collection products too. Its Ecoguard shrouds and collectors work with many drills and grinders and minimize both dust and water to reduce clean-up time and improve productivity.



ALPHA PROFESSIONAL TOOLS

Since 1986, Alpha Professional Tools has been developing and manufacturing tools for cutting, drilling, grinding and polishing natural and engineered stone, porcelain, ceramic, glass for the construction, marine and automotive industries. Recently, in answer to the growing demand for dust and water collection products, Alpha has been expanding its lineup of dust collection covers and guards.

“The Alpha Ecoguard Type G dust collection cover is designed for use with the Alpha HSG-125 or other high-speed angle grinders,” begins Karen Jordan, systems administration manager. “The Ecoguard Type G is intended for use when grinding with wheels up to five inches in diameter. It is made of high-quality construction for heavy-duty applications. This cover creates a virtually dust-free environment when connected to a vacuum.”

The Ecoguard EG is an economy grinding dust collection cover for

larger grinders and fits most of the popular six- to eight-inch grinders on the market today.

“The new Alpha Ecoguard Type D dust collection cover for drilling applications helps keep dust out of your face and off of the floor when drilling holes on walls and ceilings,” Jordan explains. “The Ecoguard D captures the dust while leaving both hands free to drill. Since the dust cover is transparent, you can always see where you are drilling.”

The Ecoguard Type CD wet/dry shroud dust collection cover can contain dust and water when drilling with up to a 2 1/2-inch diameter core bit. The Ecoguard CD can be secured on horizontal and vertical surfaces with vacuum during the application. The step-down connection accepts most popular dust hoses available.

CS UNITEC

“Recent trends are influencing the way new tools are being designed,” observes Thomas Carroll, president of CS Unitec, Inc. “Although today’s tools must perform to the highest performance standards, they must also be ergonomically designed for the operator.”



CS Unitec’s new model ELS 225.1 drywall sander with VacuSlide follows this trend by preparing wall and ceiling seams with a smooth finish quickly, cleanly and with 60 percent less effort prior to painting, plastering or decorating.

The adjustable vacuum suction of the VacuGlide system holds the sander to the surface, reducing the amount of pressure the operator needs to apply to the surface. This feature allows for easier guiding of the sander and reduces the perceived weight of the tool to 3.3 pounds.

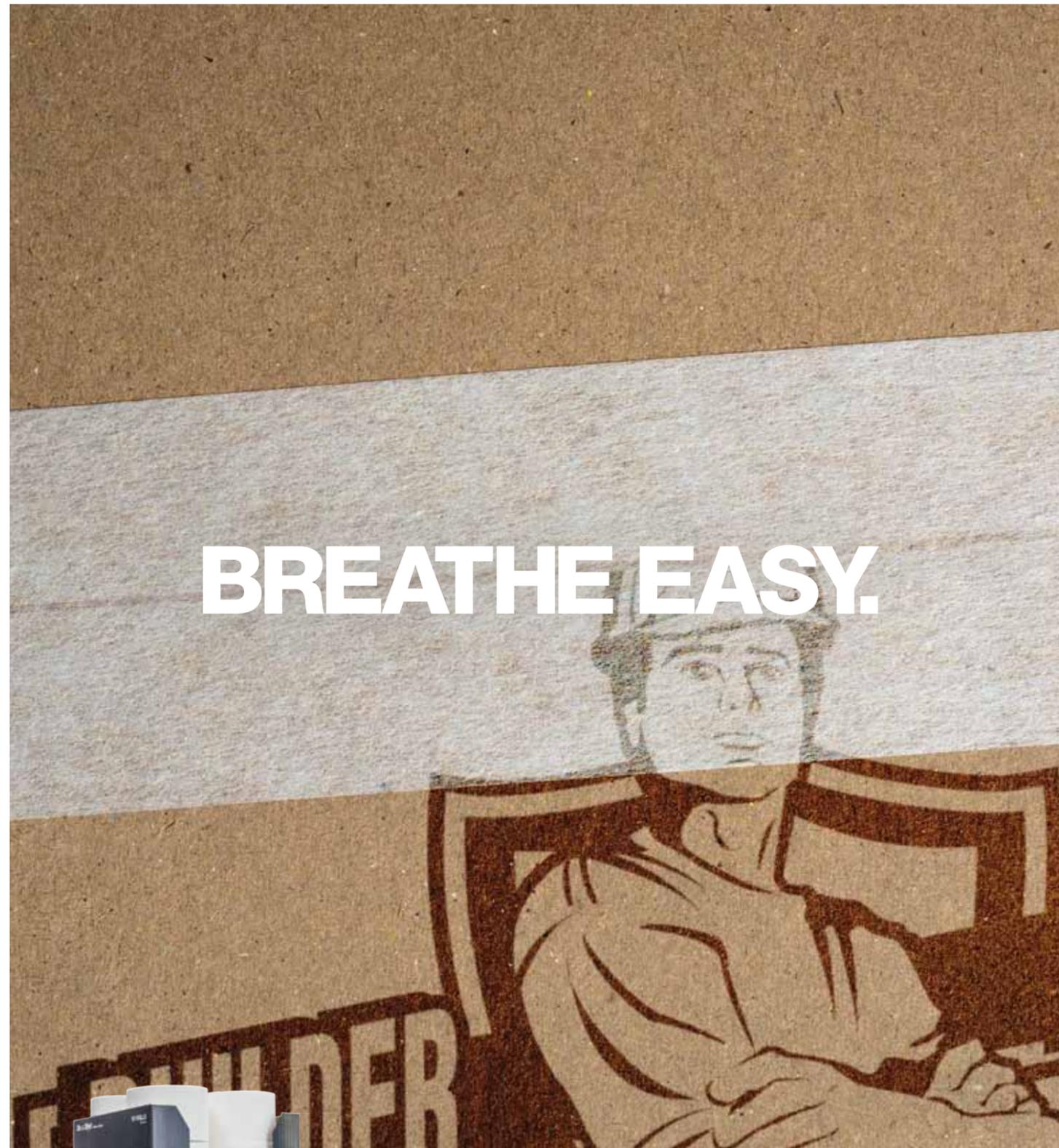
A spring-mounted dust shroud with sealing lip adapts to the surface, compensates for unevenness and prevents grooving when beginning to sand.

“The ELS 225.1 extends up to nine feet and easily adapts to angles,” Carroll adds. “A balanced, ergonomically designed handle allows the sander to be guided for long periods of time with less operator fatigue, whether working on walls or overhead on ceilings.”

To reduce airborne particulate matter, the dust-free sanding discs

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The ELS 225.1 drywall sander from CS Unitec has a 5.5-amp motor and extends up to nine feet. Its VacuGlide system grips the wall to make the tool feel 3.3 pounds lighter. It has a nine-inch sanding disc.



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A dream tool for metal workers, Walter's ZipCutter 18-volt cordless cutter easily makes cuts with a six-inch wheel and its 5.2-Ah battery allows more cuts between charges.

for the ELS 225.1 have vacuum holes and a hook and loop backing. Coupled with a dust extraction vacuum, these discs reduce drywall dust to near zero for a cleaner and safer working environment. The nine-inch disc diameter is ideal for sanding large surface areas.

The ELS 225.1 has a 5.5-amp, variable-speed motor that operates from 1,050-1,600 rpm. Electronic features include soft start and overload protection. The sander is supplied with a transport bag, extension, brush rim and sanding pad starter kit (1x 80, 100 and 120 grit).

WALTER SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES

Metal workers are frequently on location without access to power supplies. For them, Walter has created the ZipCutter, the most powerful cordless cutter that can drive a six-inch cutting wheel. The ZipCutter system includes an 18-volt, 5.2-Ah battery, DYNAMAX electronics for rpm control and consistent speed under load, bevelled gears to reduce noise, a front retaining plate and rear bushing to prevent misalignment and reduce vibration.

"We've incorporated the latest

technology into the ZipCutter and produced a one-of-a-kind, heavy-duty and light-weight cordless cutter," said Stephane Drainville, product manager. "This one tool will reduce downtime by allowing users to make more cuts between recharges. And with the Ventilated Charging System, battery-life is extended, too. Furthermore, with the ability to use a six-inch cutting wheel on a cordless cutter, it will easily increase worker performance and productivity." **CS**

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