



MODERN POWER PLAY



If you were to go back 50 to 100 years and take a look at a "state of the art" production shop of the time, you'd find that although they were efficient and profitable in their own way, they can't hold a candle to today's equipment and procedures.

Hammer and nails, simple sanders, and basic sharpening stones or grinders ruled the day. And while many woodworkers still use and trust the old

ways of doing things for an authentic look of the past when making reproductions and handcrafted items, the truly productive shop of the 21st century doesn't always have the time or the means to run a business this way.

HAMMERING IT OUT

A hefty hammer and a keg of nails

may be a rule if your shop is located in the center of Colonial Williamsburg, but in the real world speed and accuracy translate to greater production and sales. That's why so many shops rely on air power and pneumatic nailers.

Direct Sales Ltd., a Canadian company based in Vancouver, British Columbia, is meeting nailer needs throughout North America with a new line of pneumatic tools geared espe-



Top: Designed for fine finishing work, the Cadex CPB23.50 uses 23-gauge fasteners. Bottom: The Cadex CPB21.50 handles both brads and headless pins ranging from 5/8" to 2".



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CB18.50 (as well as the entire Cadex line) is a built-in air gun. Operated by a convenient thumb lever, it can blow dust and dirt off your work surface without taking your hand off the tool.

For even finer work, the finishing line also includes the CPB21.50, a 21-gauge nailer that shoots both brads and headless pins ranging from 5/8" to 2" in length. Like other nailers in the line, the gun includes the thumb-activated air gun, trigger safety, belt hook, anti-dry-fire mechanism, soft no-mar tip, and magazine sight window to monitor the fastener load. It sells for \$319.

Rounding out the Cadex line are two machines that Direct Sales notes are its fine-finishing guns, the CPB23.35 and CPB23.50, which the company recommends for trim, moldings, decorative work, cabinetry, crafts, invisible fastening in hardwoods, and other precision work. The two 23-gauge guns – which sell for \$299 and \$399, respectively – shoot both headless pins and brad nails. Geared toward specific job sizes, the smaller CPB23.35 handles fasteners from 1/2" to 1-3/8", while the larger CPB23.50 uses 5/8" to 2" fasteners. Both nailers include the same features as the other Cadex nailers, including the built-in air gun.

SANDS OF TIME

Among the tools that have come the longest way in the shortest time, you'd probably have to put sandpaper at the top of the list. Although records of sandpaper date back to around the 13th century, sandpaper that resembles what we use today only came about in the 1800s. Even that, however, bore little resemblance to contemporary sandpaper.

As to the tools that use sandpaper – or, more accurately, tools that help us use sandpaper – the most common one that existed until the 1900s was located on the end of your arm.

Mechanical sanders have been around for some time, of course, but development of their specialized nature for fine-finishing work has left the old belt and orbital sanders of the past in the metaphorical (sanding) dust.

The problem with even some modern sanders is that they can be uncomfortable to use after long periods of time. Dynabrade has addressed that issue with the introduction of a unique Comfort Platform, a standard enhancement available on all of the company's palm-style Dynorbital-Spirit and Dynorbital Supreme random orbit sanders.

The Comfort Platform focuses on the area of sanding that causes the most discomfort, and that's the lack of hand and wrist support while using the tool. For additional operator comfort, the system also protects the user's hand from contact with both the air coupler and connector, and further shields against air exhaust.

While the Comfort Platform is standard equipment now, existing owners of the Dynorbital-Spirit and Dynorbital

Supreme sanders can get a Comfort Platform conversion kit for \$6.25. This allows the operator to install a Comfort Platform on an existing tool. This kit includes the Comfort Platform, roll pin, and detailed instructions.

Dynabrade has also upgraded one of its most popular offerings with the Dynabug II finishing sander to incorporate sandpaper clips. The Dynabug II is small (only 2.1 lbs.) but effective; it's low size and weight making it ideal for vertical sanding applications and for woodworkers with smaller hands. The sander sells for \$250.



The Dynabug II has been upgraded to include sandpaper clips, increasing production efficiency.



Dynabrade's "Comfort Platform" lends welcome wrist and hand support to the company's sanders. A converter kit for older-model sanders is available for less than \$10.

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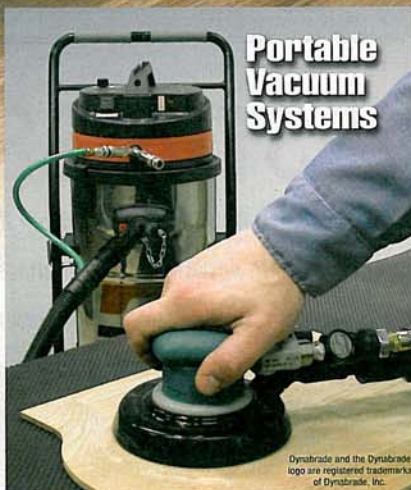
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