

**TAUNTON'S 2008 TOOL GUIDE**

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## Hose-Free Framing Nailers

### **Paslode 900420**

The Paslode nailer is slightly smaller and lighter than the others, and its plastic body seems fairly tough. It has a well-protected battery slot, and the reversible combination belt-and-rafter hook is by far the best. The pinch-and-pull depth of drive works well despite the nailer's inability to drive some nails all the way. Paslode's nailer is the only one to require that the nail-feeder slide be pulled back before the gun is loaded, but this is hard to get used to only when switching between guns. The Paslode nailer never jammed in two months of hard use, so we never had to follow the manual's disassembly instructions.

Paslode offers only one framing nailer, which shoots full round-head nails collated at the steeper angle of 30°, commonly seen only with clipped-head nails. Paslode achieves this feat by offsetting the nail shanks to the edge of the round heads. The offset heads on these RounDrive nails still meet building codes in areas where full round heads are required, and Paslode claims that the offset heads test comparably with conventional centered heads in terms of pullout strength. Paslode's RounDrive nails also fit into the clipped-head guns made by other manufacturers.

The paper collation on the RounDrive nails is an improvement over other round-head racks; it produces less flying plastic. Initially, we were concerned about durability; the racks of nails needed for our old pneumatic Paslode guns used to soften and not feed properly when exposed to moisture. But we've soaked these new nails in water, and they seem unaffected.

Paslode pioneered the technology that makes gas-powered nailers possible, and the company's 20-year head start is evident. This gun is the one we'd keep in the truck, based on its design, its features, and its trouble-free operation.



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