

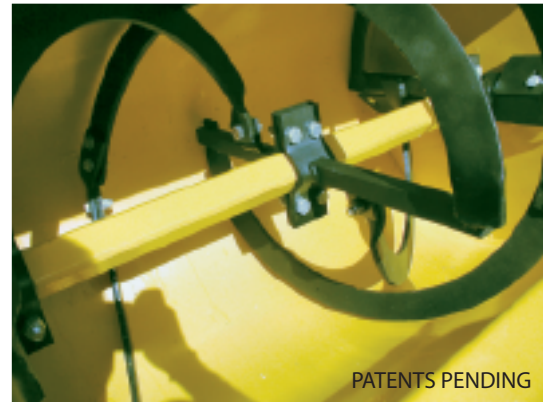


Smaller Mixers Shake Up 2005

While last year's shows saw the full spectrum of sizes being introduced for mortar mixers, this year's selection has the small and medium contractors in mind.

By Jennie Farnsworth

Spring is still around the corner, but construction conventions are in full bloom, so Masonry has gotten the scoop on this season's new batch of mortar mixers. While last year's shows saw the full spectrum of sizes being introduced for mortar mixers, this year's selection has the small and medium contractors in mind.



New Hydraulic Mixers

Buddy Equipment of Miami has a new 10-cubic-foot capacity hydraulic mixer continuing Buddy's claim to fame of eliminating the "dead zone."

"The Buddy hydraulic mortar mixer with heavy-duty spiral blades will mix mortar or concrete faster than any other mixer made," claims Jim Swisher, President of Buddy Equipment. "This is true because of the unique drum shape that eliminates the 'dead zone,' and uniquely designed spiral blades with additional paddles located at each end. This puts more push on the mix."

Swisher also says these unique characteristics help introduce air into the mix, improving the feel.



"Some would say that it makes the mix more creamy," Swisher adds.

Not only does the mixer incorporate the typical Buddy Equipment "no dead zone" design, but it also has a more symmetrical drum shape that increases drum strength. This further reduces the chance of damaging the drum or paddle shaft when the mason "dry cleans" — using an object to strike leftover mortar free — the mixer in the morning. The mixer also includes a "Pour Right" design that sends the material to a 15-inch-wide dump chute so that laborers can put the mortar exactly where they need it, rather than making a mess.

Finally, this new mixer also utilizes a patent-pending trunnion design with triple-sealed twin grease chambers.

"The dual grease chambered trunnion affords the mason the ability to choose and use the correct grease for the drum seals, which we found to be a sodium/calcium-based grease," says Swisher. "Then in the back chamber, to protect the shaft bearing, we found a lithium-based grease to be best."