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**DID YOU KNOW?**

December 2, 2016

## The right tool is in your hands

Engineers of Record (EOR) have long specified the installation methods for steel deck side-lap stitching and support fastening. Move beyond welding and hand tool fastening. Now you can specify the use of new automated methods for safer, faster and more cost-efficient steel deck installation.



*Labor intensive and back-breaking... traditional methods of installation may soon give way to the use of automated tools for steel deck side lapping and support fastening.*

The Steel Deck Institute (SDI) has for many years outlined the methods for steel deck installation. Based on these guidelines, specifying engineers will call out which installation method is to be used for a given project, such as the welding of the steel deck to the building frame, or the use of self drilling screws to fasten the overlapping seams of sheet-to-sheet decking.

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Now one tool can perform both side lap stitching and support fastening, on nested or interlocking deck types, for the most cost efficient deck installations. Shown is the Simpson Strong-Tie Quick-Drive® PRO-SDX-150.

The installation trade has become increasingly aware of new steel deck installation tools that are automated and ergonomic, enabling faster, safer and lower-cost deck installation.

According to SDI's recently published Manual of Construction with Steel Deck (October 2016): "Deck is typically attached to the building frame with arc spot welds (also referred to as "puddle welds"), self drilling screws or powder or pneumatically driven pins. Sheet to sheet fastening is done with screws, button punching (crimping), clinching, or welds."

Deck installation by way of new sidelap "clinching" tools is an addition to the language of the updated SDI manual. In fact, the previous manual published in 2006 had foreshadowed and seemingly encouraged the use of new tools for side-lapping with this statement: "Automatic power driven crimping devices are rarely seen on deck jobs but should not be ruled out as a fastening method."

Having not ruled them out, installers today have found these tools to be substantially faster than spot welding or hand screwing and drilling. Such tools can eliminate a range of costs associated with welding, including the need for certified welders, welding equipment, weld area touchups, and related welding safety precautions. The new side lapping tools are also ergonomic, eliminating the back-breaking practice of bending over to hand drill and screw each individual side lap connection.

Today's most advanced, automated steel deck tools can do even more than just side lapping. On the market today are automated steel deck installation tools that can – all in one tool – perform both side lap stitching and support fastening.

All that is needed is for the Engineer of Record to say the word: and the use of automated tools will usher in a more cost-efficient approach to steel deck installation.



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