

■ Festool BPS 12 Cordless Drill

888-337-8600 or festoolusa.com

I don't like disposable tools. And I'm particularly irked by how quickly my cordless drills meet their demise. First the batteries go, then the brushes fry, then the motor cooks.

So when Festool officials said their new drill would sink a million screws, I sat up and paid attention. No, the battery won't last that long – you'll still get a limited number of charges from the 1.3 amp-hour NiCd. But the motor is brushless, and after extensive stress-testing, the German engineers could find no evidence of wear in the tool's motor. So you'll need to buy new batteries, but (perhaps) never a new drill.

There are more improvements. The BPS 12 is more than a half-pound lighter (at 4.02 lbs.) than my previous favorite drill, the Festool CDD 12 FX. That's significant. The grip is narrower and softer,

which makes it easier to hold. The balance has improved, as have the clutch controls. Plus the drill is even quieter than any of the 20-odd others in our shop – you'd be surprised by how much a drill whines.

Festool officials were concerned that this drill wouldn't sell well in the American market. Like all quality equipment, this drill costs quite a bit (\$345). Consumers seem to like – or be accustomed to – buying a new drill every two years. So a lifetime drill might be a hard sell.

I say we should prove them wrong.

