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Answers to your questions

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Raising the roof

The acquisition of another business will expand the range of ceiling options that CSR can offer to contractors and other customers.

CSR has consolidated its position as a major player in the commercial ceilings market, following the recent acquisition of commercial interiors suppliers Comprador Pacific in Australia and Potter Interior Systems in New Zealand.

The acquisitions strengthen CSR's position as a leading supplier of commercial ceilings through its wholly-owned Fricker Ceilings Systems business.

Comprador Pacific (Australia) markets a broad range of commercial ceiling products from leading manufacturers including USG and Daiken, as well as a full range of plasterboard panels and accessory products. Potter Interior Systems (New Zealand) also markets an extensive range of mineral-fibre ceilings as well as Bradford Insulation, Vision Whiteboards and

aluminium partitioning systems through outlets in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The expanded range of ceilings now offered by CSR in Australia, from high-end specialist products through to high-volume standard products, is further supported by the best distribution network in the country. CSR's network of specialist commercial ceiling outlets in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth is supported by Gyprock™ Trade Centres across the eastern States, and Western Australia will make these ceilings easily accessible by customers, as will a number of independent distributors.

A master distribution arrangement with

Continued on page 6

The System 205 Fully Concealed Metal Pan Ceiling at Westpac House, Sydney



Rocky road to recovery

While some positive results continue to buoy the Australian economy, the winding down of government stimulus spending is creating some uncertainty for the building sector, writes HIA Chief Economist, Harley Dale.

The global economy is growing again, but the debt and deficit debacle in Europe and the impact that it has had on world markets remind us that the road remains very bumpy. For Australia the key news is that the growth outlook for East Asia (excluding Japan) continues to be very healthy.

Muddy waters

There have now been six 0.25 percentage point hikes to interest rates since September last year. The Official Cash Rate is currently sitting at 4.5 per cent with a discounted variable mortgage rate sitting at around 6.75 per cent. Although the Reserve Bank (RBA) elected not to raise rates in June or July, the interest rate waters are muddier now than they were back in March.

Further rate rises in 2010 are not a foregone conclusion, although steady rates through the remainder of the year still looks the less likely option.

The RBA forecasts that Australia will grow at a 2.5 per cent pace over the year to the June 2010 quarter, rising to 3.75 per cent over the years to both June 2011 and June 2012.

Approvals flatten

The steady increase in the Westpac-Melbourne Institute (MI) Time to Buy a Dwelling Index through to mid-2009 accurately foretold a strong upswing in residential building approvals. However, for some time the index has been indicating a flattening out in the number of building approvals for the June 2010 quarter, before a significant slowing from the September 2010 quarter.

A turning down in the index is not in itself cause for concern in terms of the sustainability of a new home building recovery. However, the index has fallen over four consecutive quarters. Together with concerning trends in some other leading housing indicators, the overall profile does point to the increasing risk of the current rise in dwelling starts coming to an end once the positive impact from previous policy stimulus draws to a close.

Starts revised down

Total seasonally adjusted housing starts increased by 4.3 per cent in the March 2010 quarter to an annualised level of 159,596. This growth rate was very close to our forecast, but disappointed most analysts' expectations.

Upward revisions to previous starts levels meant that in calendar year (CY) 2009 there were 138,353 starts compared to the previously reported 137,680. Upward revisions contributed (at the margin) to an upgrade of our financial year (FY) 2009/10 and CY2010 forecasts.

We have long held a view that, from a low base, there would be healthy growth in housing starts this year.

We are now forecasting 159,690 starts in FY2009/10 compared to 156,770 previously (growth of 22 per cent compared to 20 per cent). For CY2010 we are now forecasting 165,940 starts compared to 162,840 previously (growth of 20 per cent compared to 18 per cent).

We have been concerned since late last year about the sustainability of the new home building recovery once the positive stimulus impacts have passed. In this

regard, leading housing indicators have been cause for increasing concern over 2010 to date. Based on our view regarding leading indicators of new home building activity, we have revised down our forecasts for housing starts for CY2011 and for FY2011/12.

Home sales stall

New home sales are going nowhere in 2010, based on HIA's survey of Australia's 100 largest builders.

Total seasonally adjusted new home sales fell by 6.4 per cent in May 2010 following a rise of 6.2 per cent in April.

Over the three months to May 2010 sales were up by two per cent, and were also two per cent higher when compared to the three-month period to May 2009.

There is no sustained upward momentum in new home sales in 2010 because higher interest rates and concerns over the threat of further rate hikes are dampening demand.

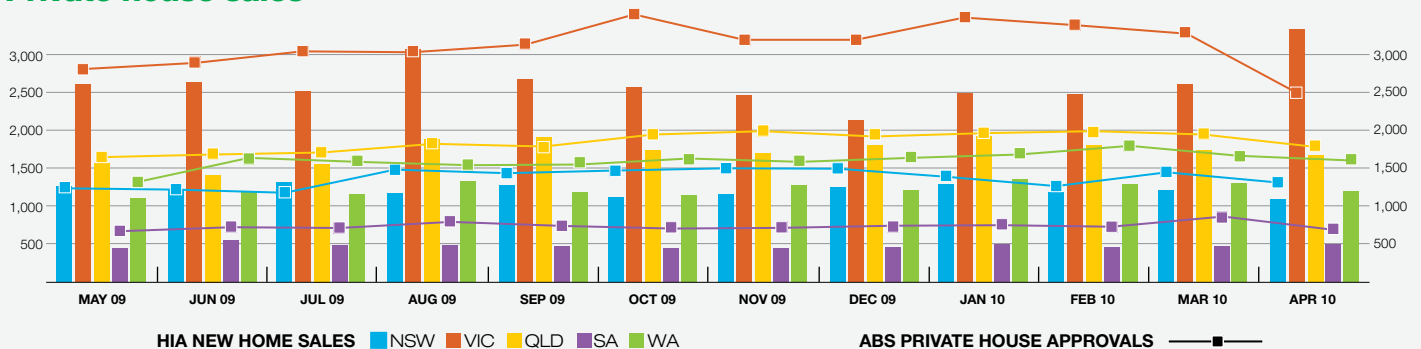
Meanwhile, supply side obstacles, including a lack of affordable land and tight credit availability for residential development, are weighing down considerably on the new home building sector.

Renovations trend up

There is a recovery underway in renovations investment in Australia, which began in the September 2009 quarter.

Total investment in renovations in the March 2010 quarter was 9.7 per cent higher than in the March 2009 quarter. The annual worth of the renovations sector to March 2010 was \$32.1 billion. Quarterly growth was 2.4 per cent, and investment in the March 2010 quarter totalled \$8.6 billion. This is the highest quarterly result on record! ■

Private house sales



Sound perforation

A 13mm Gyprock™ plasterboard offers excellent acoustic absorption and damage resistance.

Recent testing of Gyprock™ Perforated Plasterboard with an acoustic fabric backing shows that it can achieve a high level of sound absorption.

Extensive tests, with various insulations and cavity depths, were carried out at CSIRO laboratories in Highett, Victoria. The tests revealed that the system with

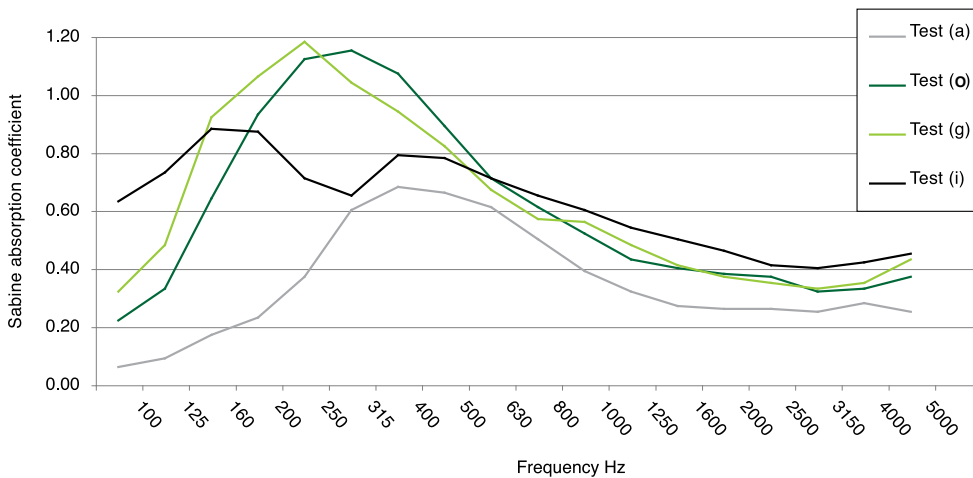
insulation achieves a noise-reduction rating of up to NRC 0.75 (see graph).

When Gyprock™ Perforated Plasterboard was tested with a black acoustic fabric adhered to the back, moderate performance levels were achieved. High levels of acoustic performance were achieved with an overlay of 50mm Bradford glasswool batts.

Designed to meet the requirements set for schools by the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) program, Perforated Plasterboard can be flush-jointed for a paint finish and has more damage resistance than mineral fibre tiles.

Gyprock™ Perforated Plasterboard has been specifically developed for use in both ceilings and walls where sound absorption is required, and it is ideal for high-traffic areas such as schools, libraries and shopping centres.

The board is dense-core 13mm plasterboard with 6mm diameter holes, with the perforations totalling 8.2 percent of the sheet area. Long edges are recessed to assist in producing a smooth, even and continuous surface once jointed. ■



i For more information on Gyprock™ Perforated Plasterboard, call 1300 306 556 or visit gyprock.com.au.

Key:	Insulation	Cavity mm	NRC
Test (a)	Nil	100	0.40
Test (o)	50mm Bradford Glasswool Partition 14kg/m ³	100	0.75
Test (g)	50mm Bradford Glasswool Partition 14kg/m ³	200	0.75
Test (i)	50mm Bradford Glasswool Partition 14kg/m ³	600	0.65

Value added

Revisions to Gyprock™ installation manuals will make them more useful to plastering contractors.

CSR Gyprock has included additional material in its manuals on Residential Installation and Steel Frame Wall Systems so that they are more relevant and up-to-date.

Information on the EC08™ range and new Rondo hemmed studs and tracks has been added to Steel Frame Wall System Manual.

New butt joint details have been incorporated into the fire-rated wall section of this book and

there is a new section on fire-rating steel columns. The revised manual also outlines a new option for the restraint of staggered stud framing in lieu of the stud clip.

Similarly, information on the EC08™ range has been added to the Residential Installation Manual. Two additional compounds, Pre-mixed Total Joint Cement and Multi-Purpose Compound, have now been included in this revised manual.

The Residential Manual has new notes on the requirement for a sealer in paint systems, for fasteners in treated timber, and for control joints in tiled areas. ■

i Copies of the revised manuals on Residential Installation and Steel Frame Wall Systems can be downloaded from the Gyprock™ website, www.gyprock.com.au (click on 'resources').

Better books ... CSR Gyprock's manuals on Residential Installation and Steel Frame Wall Systems

GYPROCK
Residential Installation Guide
Including Wet Area Systems

GYPROCK
Steel Frame Wall Systems
Installation Guide

STEEL FRAME WALLS

CSR

Help at hand

If you need any assistance with running your wall and ceiling business, now is a good time to call the AWCI and experience the benefits of membership, writes Doug Smith.

The Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries Australia and New Zealand (AWCIANZ) is streamlining its services to offer a wider range of practical help to plastering contractors.

Connected globally and with branches in every state of Australia, the AWCI has been supporting the plastering fraternity and allied industries for 65 years. During that time, the organisation has been instrumental in initiating many positive changes to Australian Standards. It has also offered the best back up or insurance for stand-alone plasterers and contractors when they face challenges in the marketplace.

As well as running his own successful business, current National President, Perry Richardson, has devoted considerable time

to revamping the AWCI so that it can better meet the needs of industry, bolstered by an enthusiastic team of state representatives, councillors and office staff.

Membership matters

If you are finding it more and more difficult to run your business smoothly—or you have simply not considered the benefits of membership—then now is a great time to contact the AWCI and sign up.

Being a member allows you to communicate with colleagues who have a wealth of industry knowledge and are keen to share their experiences to help you solve your issues, whether it's on a technical or a commercial level.

The AWCI publishes *On the Surface*

magazine to provide just that information. It's fast becoming a collector's item for its informative articles.

In addition, the AWCI is in the process of producing educational tools for the plastering contractor to provide information they can discuss with owners and contractors in an easy-to-read format.

This can happen before a project begins so that any misunderstandings can be avoided.

As this becomes available in booklet form, the AWCI will post it on its website. ■

i To become a member and to find the AWCI office located in your state, visit www.awci.org.au. Look for information on the same site about the 65th AWCI National Conference to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand from 5-8 October, 2010. Doug Smith is Editor of *On the Surface* magazine.

Joint forces

The latest addition to Rondo's KEY-LOCK® range is easy to use and offers an attractive finish.

Designed for interior applications, Rondo's new Express Joint Wall and Ceiling System gives wall and ceiling installations a stylish finish.

The Express Joint Wall and Ceiling System is an exciting addition to Rondo's existing KEY-LOCK® range, and includes Rondo's new 155 Express Joint Furring Channel and three complementary clips, providing a 10mm-wide architectural feature on an internal wall or ceiling.

The 155 Furring Channel's 10mm-wide central strip acts as a practical guide to spacing the sheets. Its overall width provides the appropriate fixing margin for the board and the Rondo head ensures safer handling. It also helps users to find the secure location in the appropriate clip without requiring any mechanical fixing.

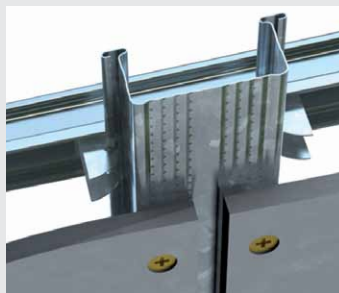
Specifically designed to accommodate the 155 Furring Channel, the 157 Direct Fix Clip allows for fixing to a masonry wall; the 159 Joiner provides attachment to Rondo's KEY-LOCK® Top Cross Rail; and the 156 Direct Fix Clip offers fixing to steel purlins or timber joists in ceiling applications, as well as to steel girts or timber studs in walls.

Rondo's Express Joint Wall and Ceiling System is manufactured in Australia from G2 7275 Galvabond steel and complies with all relevant standards. ■

i For more information, including Express Joint Wall and Ceiling System span tables, visit www.rondo.com.au or call your local Rondo State office on 1300 367 663.



The 155 Furring Channel can be fixed to a masonry wall with the 157 Direct Fix Clip



The 159 joiner allows the 155 Furring Channel to be attached to KEY-LOCK® Top Cross Rail primary suspension members in ceilings



The 156 Direct Fix Clip can fix the 155 Furring Channel to steel purlins or timber joists in ceilings



The 156 Direct Fix Clip can also fix the 155 Furring Channel to steelgirts or timber-stud work in walls

RONDO®



Public and private

Designing an open office plan that allows for private conversations to take place was no match for Ecophon Master Solo panels.

Ecophon™ Master Solo ‘floating panels’ have taken a starring role in a challenging design brief that called for acoustic privacy in the context of an open plan office.

Specified for the very first time in Australia, Ecophon™ Master Solo S panels, suspended from the typical lay-in grid ceiling, incorporate Akutex FT coating, which is damage-resistant and visually pleasing, while allowing sound to penetrate the acoustic panel material behind it.

While open plan offices are typical in fit-outs, mid/upper level managers are usually provided with enclosed offices because of the need to maintain an adequate level of acoustic privacy.

So when a recent design brief for CSR’s new corporate headquarters required acoustic privacy for everyone, right up to executives and the CEO, the challenge was on. CSR worked closely with Acoustic Logic Consultancy to come up with a solution that would meet these needs in a completely open plan workspace.

Extensive research, which consisted of modeling sound radiation patterns around

The final design incorporated Ecophon Master Solo S panels which met both the acoustic and aesthetic requirements

open plan areas, determined the level of audible penetration in executive office workstations.

The final solution to the problem did not come from one single idea but a combination of three key approaches to ensure the workstations were acceptable to the end user, namely:

- Physical treatment of the workstation areas;
- Planning of the office space; and
- Education of the end user.

The physical treatment involved the use of highly absorptive Ecophon floating panels to minimise any reflected sound energy. These panels are able to absorb around 95 per

cent of the sound energy corresponding to a 13 dB reduction in reflected sound. The result is a significant and clearly noticeable reduction in sound. The final design incorporated Ecophon™ Master Solo S panels which met both the acoustic and aesthetic requirements.

In planning the office space, buffer areas were created by corridors, corners and partitioned rooms. They formed natural boundaries arranged adjacent to executive workstations where conversations requiring privacy could take place.

Ecophon™ ceiling baffles were used to dampen noise reverberation from the glass treads on the internal staircase which potentially could have become an acoustic concern. In meeting rooms, Ecophon™ XT wall panels were installed to absorb the lateral sound reflections typically found in these rooms. ■



For more information on how Ecophon Master Solo panels can enhance your next project, visit www.gyprock.com.au or phone 1300 306 556.

FastPlast covers the Coast

Outlets in Coffs Harbour and Grafton will allow FastPlast to improve the service it offers to customers on the North Coast.

FastPlast Building Supplies, a Gyprock™ Internal Lining Specialist (ILS) based in Port Macquarie, has expanded its business on the North Coast of NSW. The company has acquired two existing ILS stores in the region, Adventure Coast in Coffs Harbour and Jack Wallbank in Grafton.

The new stores, renamed Adventure Coast Plasterboard, will allow FastPlast to increase its customer base. It will also allow the company to serve its existing customers better, particularly those who operate across a large area of the North Coast.

Jeff Hickson, General Manager, is working to align the products and services offered at all three stores. As a building supply business, FastPlast Port Macquarie offered a very diverse range of products, and the company has been able to extend this product range to its new Grafton and Coffs Harbour stores. The presentation of the stores, including signage, has also been given an overhaul. In addition, FastPlast enlarged its fleet of trucks to improve product delivery.

The Coffs Harbour and Grafton outlets were acquired by FastPlast in January this year. ■



Adventure Coast at Coffs Harbour

Specialists meet contractors' needs

Thanks to a new CSR initiative, more building suppliers will stock the full range of Gyprock™ plasterboard and accessories.

CSR Gyprock has embarked on a program to identify key plasterboard distributors across the country to create a comprehensive network of top Gyprock™ suppliers. Each outlet selected will erect signage that designates them a Gyprock™-approved Internal Lining Specialist.

CSR Gyprock approved Internal Lining Specialists are the one-stop shop for all a contractor's plasterboard needs. Each outlet stocks the complete range of Gyprock™ plasterboard products, systems, tools and accessories. With fully trained staff to provide expert advice and an array of technical and product information, Gyprock™ approved Internal Lining Specialists will help to ensure that the job is done right first time, every time.

Clear Gyprock™ branding at each approved Internal Lining Specialist lets customers know that any Gyprock™ products purchased are supported by the company's quality guarantee. ■

Continued from page 1

global mineral-fibre ceilings supplier USG, covering all of Australia and New Zealand, will also help to ensure that ceilings are available promptly and wherever customers are located.

"The acquisition is part of our wider Building Products strategy to consolidate CSR's position in core markets," says Rob Sindel, CSR Building Products CEO.

"The transaction provides our existing commercial ceiling business with an immediate uplift in scale and synergies with a platform to grow more quickly into the commercial ceiling and interiors market," he adds.

In addition, the acquisition, which also includes Potter Interiors, will provide an extensive range of specialist commercial interior products.

Choices covered

Fricke Ceiling Systems supplies fully integrated ceiling solutions, including suspension systems, ceiling tiles, lights, diffusers and perimeter trims. Fricke ceilings can be tailored to suit different types of developments, whether it's commercial buildings, education, healthcare facilities, retail and industrial.

Comprador Pacific supplies a comprehensive range of ceiling systems covering major international brands and products, including mineral-fibre ceiling panels. It provides solutions for new or refurbishment projects for suspended ceilings; applications requiring acoustic ratings, fire ratings, impact resistance and sag resistance; food-preparation areas; feature ceilings and economical ceilings. ■



For more information on CSR's wide range of ceiling options, including Comprador, visit www.csrfricker.com.au.



The System 320, 3939 Perforated Metal Pan Tiles in place at Tenix in North Sydney

You asked for it

The following questions—and answers—were originally posted on the informative Tech Forum on the CSR Gyprock website.

Question:

My bedroom is a renovated garage and it is connected to the living room (and not far from the TV room) in an open plan environment. I would like to reduce the noise coming in from the TV room. My room is lined with standard Gyprock™ and the wall that faces the TV area is a lined brick wall. The brick wall is a feature wall in the living area. Can I Gyprock™ the brick wall with a product that will reduce the noise to the bedroom? And do I have to glue it to the bricks, or have a frame built using a Soundchek™-type system?

Answer:

The best way to improve the rating of a brick wall is to create a cavity with studs, then insulate and line it. The studs may be timber or steel and should not touch the wall. A heavy plasterboard lining like Gyprock Superchek™ is good, and the insulation can be Bradford Rockwool or glasswool. More information is available from the Soundchek™ datasheet downloadable from the 'resources' section of the Gyprock™ website.

Question:

I've been renovating the kitchen here at home, and when I removed the ceramic tiles it lifted the face of the plasterboard off. Some places aren't going to be covered with new tiles, so I was wondering what the experts recommend to repair them?

Answer:

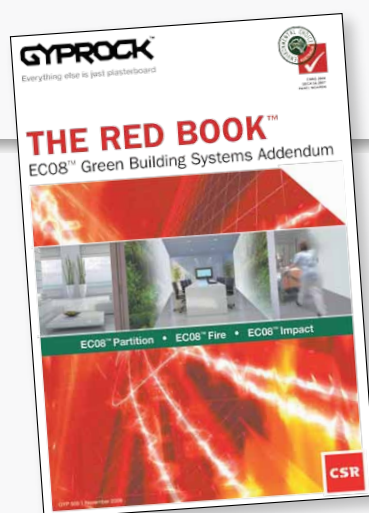
Torn face areas of plasterboard be patched with a topping compound such as Gyprock™ Multi-Purpose Joint Compound.

Question:

I want to ask about gap detail for single-layer fire-rated ceilings. Is it important whether walls or ceilings go on first in this application? And is there a detail that shows caulking for this? If ceilings go up first do they need to be caulked? Or can you sheet them tight put walls up then caulk ceiling line?

Answer:

The idea is that the fire seal goes between the Fyrchek™ lining and the fire-rated wall element. If the wall lining is also Fyrchek™, either lining can be installed first, otherwise the ceiling should be caulked before non-fire-rated wall linings are installed. Fire seal options for ceilings can be found in the Ceiling Installation Guide in the resources section of the Gyprock™ site.



Question:

When using shaft wall systems, does it decrease the fire-rating capabilities if you put 10mm Gyprock™ on walls instead of Sounchek™ or Supachek™? We have a house at rear and unit at front to plaster. There is a 1000mm void between the unit and house, and a shaft wall instead of a block wall. They are joined only by a set of external stairs. The external side of shaft wall is to have cladding on it. We cannot find a system in the Red Book that shows what we can do other than getting a ruling on it. Could you please give us some guidance?

Answer:

For our Party Wall systems that include a central shaft liner barrier, 10mm Gyprock™ plasterboard CD is not sufficient as stud lining to maintain the 60/60/60 FRL. However, system CSR 503 has 6mm fibre cement Wallboard lining, and that could be increased to 7.5mm Texture Base Sheet as an external lining if required.

Question:

I have a client who wishes to clad on top of an external fire-rated wall system (min FRL will be 60/60/60) with timber cladding or fibre cement sheeting. Is this possible under one of your CSR Systems?

Answer:

It is possible with our external systems. CSR 900 allows any timber or fibre cement cladding and CSR 902 uses Cemintel Texture Base Sheet as cladding. Full details are available in our Red Book, and this can be downloaded from our website (under 'resources').

Got a question?

If you have a question about anything related to installing CSR Gyprock products, help is at hand! Simply post your question on the Tech Forum at www.gyprock.com.au or email it to kfoxall@csr.com.au. Someone from the Gyprock™ Technical Team will provide you with a helpful solution—and others will also benefit from reading the response.

TOOL TALK WITH JOHN RAE, CSR GYPROCK PRODUCT MANAGER HARDWARE ACCESSORIES

Intelligent design

This new screw gun's durability and innovation will ensure long life and top performance.

The DuraDrive by PROTOOL is the first screw gun of its kind with an induction motor which has no carbobrushes.

It is also the lightest screw gun in its class on the market. These qualities allow the machine to operate only when it is actually driving screws, saving up to 50 percent more power than other screw guns.

The DuraDrive is also extremely quiet.

The collated head can be removed without tools in seconds and can be used for single shot screws for all types of material. It can also be pulled apart without tools for easy cleaning on site and it takes all standard screws on the Australian market.

The DuraDrive is available in Li-Ion cordless or corded versions and comes in a set with the single-shot chuck and a collated screw feed.

Don't forget the three-year warranty available on the tools, batteries and charger.



Light and quiet ... the DuraDrive cordless



Top gun ... the device offers incredible power with maximum run time per charge

For more details visit www.protool.com.au/duradrive.

MUDSHARK

FLAT APPLICATOR

Savages flat recessed joints

TWFFAN
MudShark Nozzle

TWFACT
MudShark Compound Tube

- Draws compound from bucket
- Completely fills flat recess joints
- Fills Flat Boxes / Mud Boxes

Available from your local Gyprock™ Trade Centre

From **TAPEPRO DRYWALL TOOLS**

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