

# Bring on the Air Force

Look at all you can do with an air-powered brad nailer or narrow-crown stapler!

If you've always wanted a brad nailer or narrow-crown stapler, the time is perfect to make your dream a reality. No longer are these tools exclusively for production shops and tradesmen. Today's air-powered tools fit nicely into the home woodworker's arsenal. Consider these advantages:

- Prices have come down in recent years, moving high-quality nailers into your home-shop budget. Nowadays, you can buy a nailer and compressor packaged together at one low price. An added bonus: The compressor often arrives with a kit for household tasks, including a needle to inflate athletic balls, valves for air mattresses, and adapters for auto and bike tires.
- Nailers, staplers, and compressors are smaller, lighter, and more compact than ever. Once you've cleared a corner of your workbench for air tools, you'll be amazed at how often you put them to use. And because some compressors weigh as little as 20 pounds, you can easily move them from place to place.
- Today's air-powered nailers and staplers are reliable and nearly maintenance-free. Some require no lubrication; others need just an occasional drop of oil.
- New technology makes air-powered tools virtually jam-free. An easy-access front gate on the tool makes it a breeze to extract the rare jammed staple or brad.
- Combination models allow you to buy one gun that shoots brads *and* staples.



*A narrow-crown stapler is the ideal way to effortlessly install a 1/4" plywood back.*

## 12 ways to use an air-powered fastening tool to improve your woodworking



### 1. Clampless glue-ups

Instead of waiting for glue to dry, keep working on your project. You'll save money by buying fewer clamps.



### 2. Less splitting

There's not a better way to fasten fragile materials, such as glass stops. There's less chance of shattering glass—and you won't have to pre-drill holes. Whatever delicate hardwood molding you select, you're unlikely to split it with a pneumatic brad.



**3. Easier project-part handling**  
One person can easily accomplish tasks—like installing crown molding—that traditionally takes three hands to hammer, nail, and apply joint pressure.

**4. Accuracy** You'll enjoy more accurate assembly because slippery glued parts won't slide under clamping pressure. With this 2½-pound tool, fatigued forearms are a thing of the past—and so are bashed fingers.

**5. Speed** Air-powered tools drive fasteners many times faster than a hammer. When you add in the extra time required for setting finish nails, there's just no contest.

**6. Quality** Eliminate divots (hammer tracks) from your hammering oops. The rubber nose cushion prevents marring.

**7. Quickly make jigs and fixtures** Nailers and staplers make short order of assembling your workshop helpers.



**8. Manageable miters** A nailer performs efficient, reliable joining of mitered corners, including picture frames.



**9. Quick stack-cutting**  
Speed up production cutting (and accuracy) at your bandsaw or scroll-saw by firing nails into waste areas of stacked workpieces. The alternative—double-faced tape—is slower and messier.

**10. Stronger joints** Each time your hammer strikes a nail, you loosen the joint. Or worse, you run the risk of bending the nail.

**11. Forgiving** Accidentally sawing through a brad or staple causes negligible damage to a saw blade compared to hitting a screw or finish nail.

**12. Neat, space-saving fastener storage** The compact boxes of fasteners replace bulky cans and bags of nails and screws.

## Tips for nailers and staplers

- **Follow common-sense safety pointers** included in the instruction manual. And always wear safety glasses.
- **Test fire** Before rushing into a project, shoot fasteners into scrap stock to test the depth of the drive. (This is especially important with staples and thin stock.) With the adjustment knob, it's easy to dial in the precise pressure setting to match the size of the fastener and the material hardness. Setting a brad 1/16" below the surface is adequate for most fillers.
- **Watch hand position** Brad and staples follow grain lines and could exit on the side where your fingers are positioned.
- **Check the fastener supply frequently** Most nailers have a window that indicates the remaining supply of fasteners. However, if you realize you've been shooting blanks, grab a stud finder to track down the last properly secured hole.



■ **Reduce reliance on long bar clamps** by toenailing dadoed shelves. This technique secures the carcass while the glue dries.

## When is a narrow-crown staple a better choice than a brad?

Some of the fastening tasks that are best suited for a narrow-crown stapler:

- **¼" or thinner material** With a stapler, you'll have better holding power in thin plywood. An added bonus: fast!
- **Upholstery** Staples are perfect for smoothly securing fabric and other flexible, thin project materials.
- **Underlayment** The next time you get involved in a remodeling project, forget about spending the day stooped over with a hammer and nails. Your knees will appreciate the quick completion with a stapler. Plus you'll have a perfectly smooth surface for the finish layer of flooring.



Rely on staplers to install glue blocks in no time flat.