

# Point Drivers

## A Retail Framer's Guide

By Jim Hynes

**Knowing which point driver is right for you can save time and money. Here's a look at what's available today.**

**P**oint drivers are pretty simple, but they are essential to most framing jobs. Their major purpose is to hold contents tightly inside the frame. The right tool results in a properly fitted frame that helps keep out dust and other contaminants. The most important factors are: strength, ability to adjust to the type of frame, volume of frames, and the kind of points needed for the job. This last statement is especially important because you need to use the manufacturer's recommended type of points (usually their own) in order to avoid jamming and to not void the warranty.

### Manual Fitting Tools

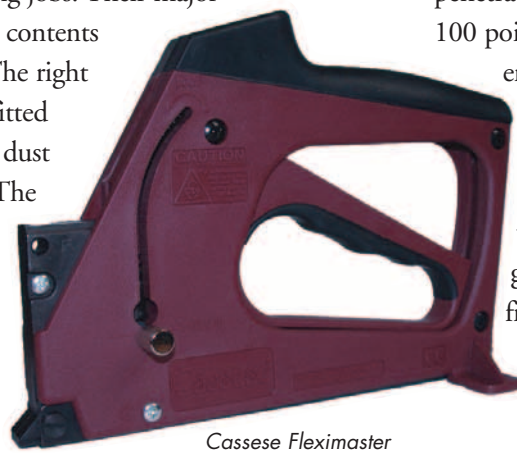
The Cassese Fleximaster can shoot any type of 15mm flexipoints and Cassese hard points. An easy-to-load magazine accommodates 170 flexible or hard Cassese points. It has spring-adjusted firing power to match the wood density and a comfortable full-grip trigger.

The Fletcher-Terry FrameMaster is a very popular point driver, capable of driving rigid points into hard or soft wood. The gun action is reliable, firing the point free of the gun and imbedding it into the rabbet at a slight upward angle so the point exerts downward pressure on the back of the stack, insuring a tight fit. This means no jamming or double feeding. Its user-

friendly, pressure-setting knob lets you determine the exact penetration depth in any wood, and the magazine holds 100 points. It comes with a new rubber grip handle ergonomically designed to eliminate hand fatigue and increase ease of use.

Fletcher's FlexiMaster is similar to the FrameMaster but is designed for flexible points used in jobs where changeable artwork or photographs are involved. The driver provides a tight, flat fit with the added benefit of points that can be bent out of the way to change the frame contents or to open the framed artwork for cleaning. This tool features a spring mechanism for adjusting the tension to fit the specific wood density. The lightweight design and full-grip trigger provide comfortable point firing. The easy-to-load magazine holds 170 flexible points. A new rubber grip handle eliminates hand fatigue and increases comfort.

As its name suggests, the Fletcher MultiMaster is designed for fitting one frame into another. It fires the uniquely shaped, bendable Multi-Points, which are roughly rectangular, with two barbs and a 4.5mm round hole. The barbs hold the points firmly in the wood, while the bendable points allow the frame back to be



*Cassese Fleximaster*



*Fletcher MultiMaster*



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removed and re-fitted. A special feature of the MultiPoint is that it can be used to join two frames together when assembling shadowboxes. This tool can fire points into the side of the lower frame, where a screw can be put through it into the upper frame. This holds the frames together while allowing them to be easily dismantled. The easy-to-load magazine holds 167 MultiPoints.

The Fletcher FrameMate is for more delicate jobs, when finesse is more important than sheer strength. This tool inserts special 5/8" fitting points and brads into wooden frames up to 3" wide. Squeezing the handle brings clamping pressure to bear on the brads or points, forcing them into the wood. A rubber cushion and minimum pressure prevent the tool from marring the outside of the frame, especially small and delicate frames.

There are two models of Inmes point drivers available in the US. The FI-150 applies 15mm flexible framing points and the RI-160M has applies 16mm (5/8") Inmes Framing Points. Both have a rubber action handle and are equipped with an adjustment tab button, allowing the operator to make adjustments on the penetration of the points, depending on the framing materials.

The Logan Fitting Tool can handle all four types of inserts that finish framed art. Logan's unique swivel foot design drives single inserts including rigid points, flexible points, brad nails, and multi points for stretcher bar mounted artwork, such as oil paintings. Each insert is loaded into the turret and then driven choosing the point type. The tool has an easy-adjust foot and a patented, rotating insert holder that's been redesigned to increase product durability. The tool can be used on both hard and soft woods.

The Logan F500-2 Dual Drive Elite works like a common staple gun, driving either rigid or flexible inserts into the rabbet of wood frames to properly secure the glass, artwork,



Logan F400



and backing material into the frame. The Dual Drive Elite fires either rigid or flexible points into all types of wood moulding and features a tensioning knob for harder woods. An improved comfort grip and easy pull action makes the Dual Drive Elite better than ever as the



*Logan 500*

must-have tool for any shop. This tool uses points F53, F54, F55, and F56.

The 888 Manual Point Driver for flexi and rigid points is a versatile manual tool. This tab gun accommodates both flexi-

points and rigid points, allowing a framer to use one tool for both applications. The rugged steel ergonomic construction gives this tool durability under heavy use.

### **Pneumatic Tools**

The AMS Standard-Fire Flexi Tab Tool inserts one Flexi-Point or Rigitab per press of trigger into wood mouldings to quickly clip frame load into frame. The nosepiece is designed to allow Flexi-Point insertion almost horizontally. After firing, just slide the tool over to the next point of insertion rather than lifting away from frame for speed and efficiency. Tabs are inserted at an angle, which means they need to be pressed down to complete assembly. This tool is lightweight and can be loaded quickly without change of work position.



*AMS 1AMS Standard-Fire Flexi Tab Tool*

The AMS Auto-Fire Flexi Tab Tool includes all the advantages of the Standard-Fire #SFLX1 tool, but it is automatic for mass production workshops. This

tool has a repetition trigger that, while pressed, will continually fire Flexi-Points or Rigitabs into moulding as adjusted with its speed control. The nosepiece has rollers to enable smooth and quick movement over the back of frame.

The Cassese CS 6.15A FlexPoints Pneumatic Gun is

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AMS Standard-Fire #SFLX1

ture allows for opening two sides. The weight is .550 kg and is designed for a maximum of 70 psi.

The Cassese CS 6.25 FlexPoints Pnuematic Gun is an exclusive pneumatic gun designed specifically to use only 25mm Cassese flexpoints. This makes it ideal for big frames, mirrors, or poster frames. This tool is also economical as one 25mm flexpoint can easily replace four regular 15mm flexpoints. The weight is .750 kg and is designed for a maximum of 70 psi.

The Fletcher Pneumatic FrameMaster and FlexiMaster work and look like their manual versions. They fire tight and flat to the surface but provide superior holding power due to the



Cassese 6.25

increased pressure. The FrameMaster uses Framer's Points

in stacks of 250 and the FlexiMaster uses points in stacks of 425. There is no 'pull-back' required; just slide the driver along the moulding for continued firing. The ergonomically designed trigger eliminates hand fatigue.

The Inmes FP-150 Air-Op Flexi Driver fires 15mm flexis, Standard or Semi-Rigid points. The magazine takes strips of up to 300 flexi points. Its nose plate quickly loosens to clear jams and it has a rubberized hand grip and safety catch on the operating trigger.



Fletcher PneumFlexiMaster

The Omer 53 Air fires both 15mm Standard and Bendable flexible points. This light weight reliable tool is ideal for high volume production. It produces low noise, no recoil, fast air recycle; and is easy to use. This durable gun is built to hold up under volume production conditions and drives at low air pressure.



Omer 53 Air

A large, rusted metal frame with a cross shape. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset image showing a close-up of a metal frame with a circular opening.

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adjusted on each to regulate depth of insertion.

The 888 Pneumatic Framers Point Tool has a special nose plate attached to ensure that tabs are not driven completely into framing materials, which means the tabs are kept extended about 50 percent above the installed surface.

This gun fires 5/8" flexi-points and rigid points. This gun is available both in a premium and an economy version.

The versatile 888 Pneumatic Framers Tab Tool can dispense both flexi-points and rigid points, allowing a framer to use one tool for both applications. This tool is used for flexi-tabs that allow the artwork to be changed. ■

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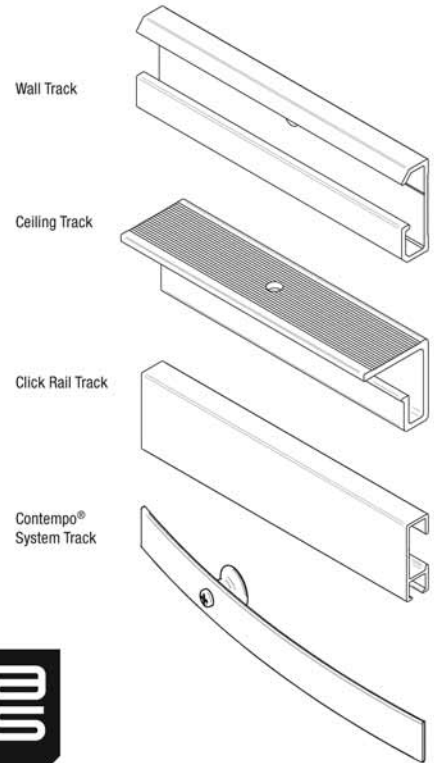
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