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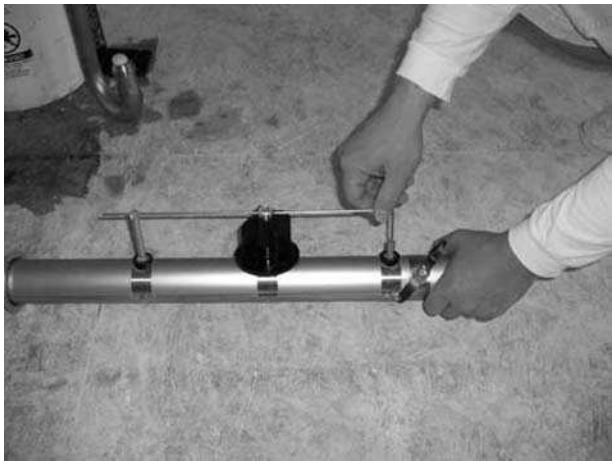
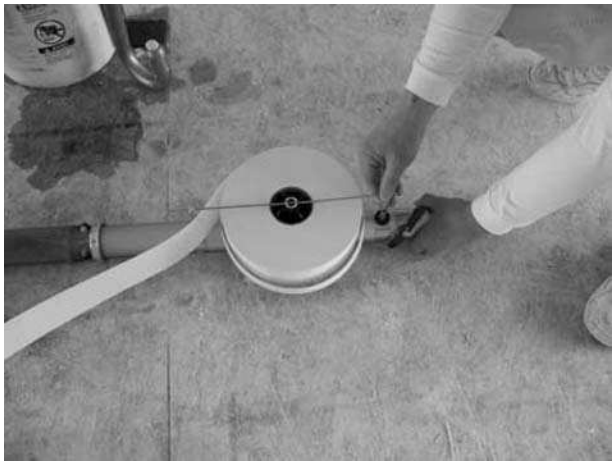
AUTOMATIC TAPER

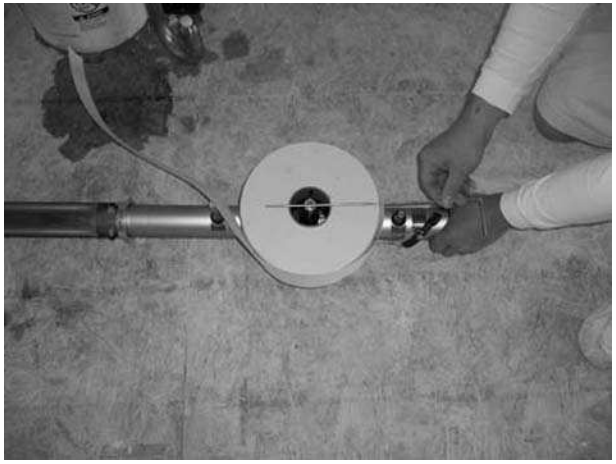


1 Spool retainer

2 Retainer off



3 Tape on (LH lead)



4 Tape on (RH lead)

5 Tape into feed guide

6 Curl of tape follows wheels

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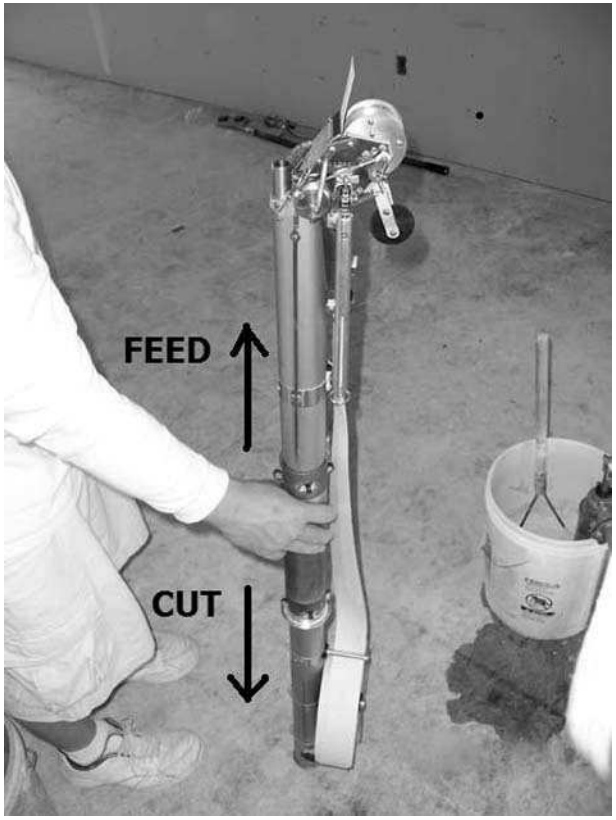

7 Check cut & feed operations

8 Close gate lever

9 Pump 8-9 times

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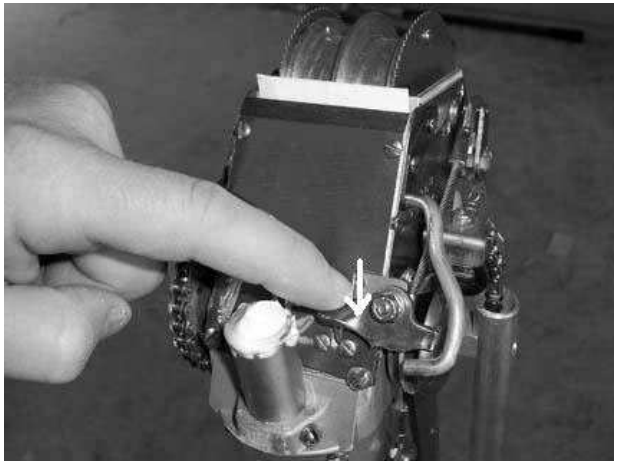
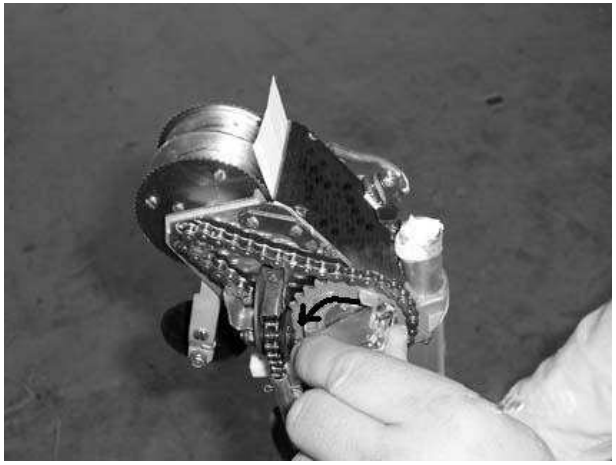
10 Open gate lever

11 Gate lever open



12 Release clip down



13 Feed mud compound

14 Mud on tape

15 Use creaser to start tape

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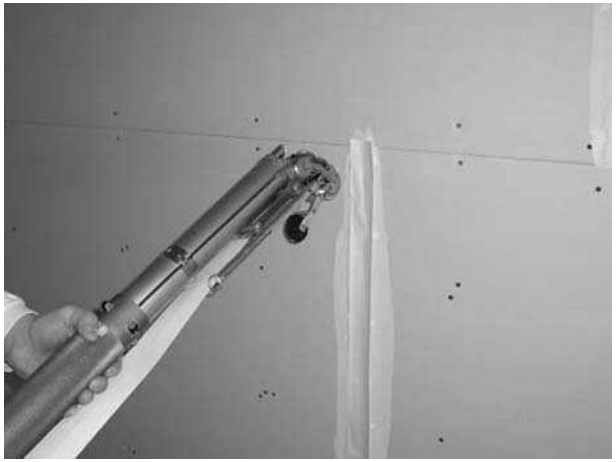
16 Butt seams first

17 Cut here



18 Tape cut

19 Flat seam (LH lead)

20 Cut here

21 Flat seam (RH lead)

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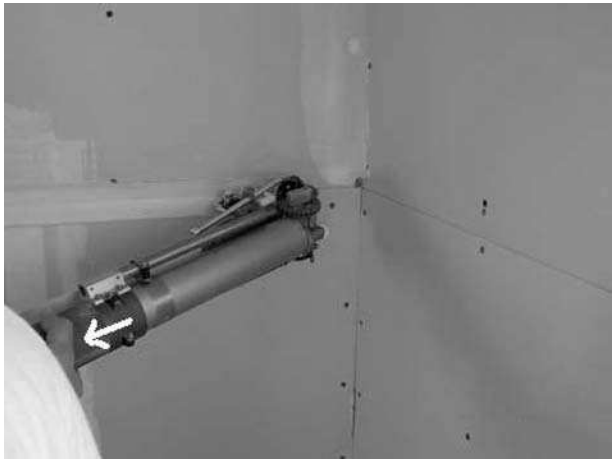
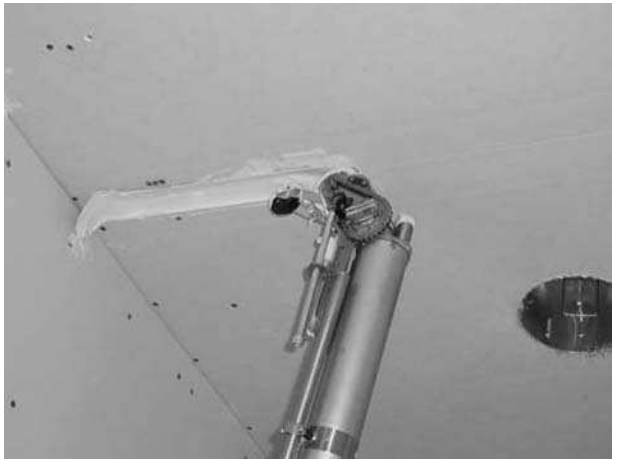


22 Cut here

23 Ceiling seam- use creaser



24 Creaser holds tape at start

25 Creaser to start angles

26 Ceiling angle- creaser at start

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27 Wall angle- creaser at start

28 Cut here (see corner tools next)

29 Shut-off lever on edge of pulley

30 Empty chamber

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31 Flush valve

32 Flush chamber

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AUTOMATIC TAPER

The Automatic Taper is designed to apply mud and tape smoothly and efficiently to flat seams and corners and provide many years' reliable, problem-free performance. Following the simple, easy-to-follow steps included with this information will allow you to complete your projects in a productive, profitable manner.

1,2) The spool retaining spring is designed to hold the joint tape and spool in place. Remove it as shown to install tape roll on taper.

3) The tape roll can be mounted in either direction, depending on whether you control the cut/feed operation with your left or right hand. If you cut and feed with your left hand, mount the roll in this direction. This will position the tape to feed easily over your fingers and avoid the possibility of paper cuts.**

4) If you control the cut/ feed operation with your right hand, mount the tape roll in this position.**

** You will discover after operating the taper a few times that one or the other position will feel most comfortable and natural for you.

5,6) Insert paper tape into tape guide as shown. Note that the natural curl of the tape should follow the round direction of the tape wheels for best feeding results.

7) Prior to filling the taper with mud compound, check for proper operation of the cutting and feeding of the paper tape. With taper in position shown in picture, pull hand grip down quickly and firmly to check for proper cut. If tape cut is ragged or incomplete, replace cutter blade before continuing.(See adjustment and problem solving.) If cut is good, check tape advance by pushing hand grip up to feed tape. If tape feeds properly continue to the next step. If tape doesn't feed properly check feeder needle position and replace if necessary. (See adjustments and problem solving.)

8) Get ready to load taper by closing shut-off lever as shown. This is done by putting light inward pressure on pulley while rotating lever into closed position. Set taper on gooseneck as shown in next step.

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9) In normal conditions, an empty auto taper will require 8-9 pumps to fill completely. Note in picture that operator has hand on end of tube. Put finger just inside end of tube to feel when plunger as it comes up to fully filled position. After 7 or so pumps, pump a bit more slowly to avoid over pumping and to feel the plunger come up.

10, 11) When getting ready to apply tape and mud, open shut-off lever as shown. Taper will only apply mud with lever in open position.

12) VERY IMPORTANT!! Make sure release clip is pushed down prior to applying tape and mud to seams. This is one of the most common causes of the taper not dispensing mud onto tape if the clip is not pushed down. With the clip up (empty position), even with the shut-off lever open, pulley may still be disengaging the clutch lever.

13,14) Turn manual drive grip until mud dispenses on tape. When mud begins to dispense, tape should feed at the same time. If mud dispenses, but tape does not feed, double check that the release clip is down as shown previously. If turning drive grip as shown fails to dispense mud, check taper for broken cable and replace if necessary. (See adjustments and problem solving.)

15) One of the important features of the automatic taper is the crimper lever and crimper wheel. Learning to use these helps greatly to keep beginning tape secure to walls, ceilings and corners. Firm pressure when beginning flat seams will set tape in place and reduce slipping or dragging. Good, solid pressure on crimper when applying tape in corners keeps tape from dragging and makes operation of corner tools much easier.

16) Begin by applying tape to butt seams first. After applying tape to butt seams, wipe with 6" or 8" taping knife.

17) When near the end of butt seam, stop taper movement momentarily (VERY IMPORTANT!) and cut tape by pulling hand grip as shown. After making the cut, push hand grip forward to advance tape for next seam.

19) Drywallers may operate the taper in either direction, depending which is most comfortable and natural. If you are new to using automatic tools, try both directions to see what feels best for you. This picture shows left-hand lead position. Notice how drywaller holds the taper in a comfortable position, with tool close to his body and arms not overly extended. A comfortable working position is important to reduce fatigue and avoid injury.

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20) When you get near corner or to end of seam, stop taper movement momentarily and cut tape by pulling hand grip as shown. As you improve your skills, your cutting reference will get better and better, and you will barely notice the stopping of the taper.

21) After tape is applied, wiper wipes tape. It's easiest to start in the center of the seam and wipe in either direction, Applying enough pressure to the knife or trowel so that mud appears even on both sides of tape.

22,23) These photos show the same procedure with drywaller who prefers to lead with right hand.

24) When starting ceiling seams, feed a little extra tape at the beginning to allow for a small amount of dragging. As your skill improves, dragging of the tape will be minimal. Firm use of the crimper lever and crimping wheel also keeps tape in place at start and reduces dragging.

25) Use creaser on all ceiling seams to keep tape in place.

26) We continue to emphasize the use of the creaser lever and wheel, especially when starting tape in corners. Extra firm pressure at beginning keeps tape in place and reduces dragging.

27) Start wall-ceiling angle with firm pressure on creaser.

28) Start wall angle with firm pressure on creaser.

29) When you get near the end of the angle, cut here by pulling hand grip as shown. (STOP MACHINE BRIEFLY WHEN CUTTING TAPE!) Some Automatic Tapers feature a handy grip ring for cutting higher seams.

Proper cleaning will keep your tools in great operating condition!!

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30) The easiest and most effective way to empty any extra mud from the taper after taping is to move the shut-off lever just over the edge of the pulley as shown. This will allow you to turn drive grip to release extra mud and eliminate the extra drag caused by turning the tape wheels, too. Also, this avoids the possibility of unthreading small drive gear and possibly losing it.
**** It is never a good idea to empty extra mud by using handle or rod to push on plunger! This can cause slack in cable which can knot around cable drum inside.**

31) Turn drive grip until all excess mud is emptied from taper.

32) There are two main areas to flush with water when cleaning taper. Spray water into filler until completely flushed. This should force water out of chamber over tape wheels also.

33) Spray water thoroughly into chamber past tape wheels until mud no longer is visible when flushing. It is a good idea to repeat the flushing several times between the filler valve and chamber to make sure all extra mud compound is removed.

FOR ADJUSTMENTS AND PROBLEM SOLVING, SEE NEXT SECTION

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AUTOMATIC TAPER
Troubleshooting tips
(Also see adjustments and problem solving)

Problem	Check	Solution
Mud leaks from head when filling taper	Shut-off lever not completely closed	Close shut-off lever
Tape does not cut when pulling hand grip	Check for damaged or worn cutter blade	Replace cutter blade
Tape does not advance when pushing hand grip	Check for worn or missing feeder needle	Replace or re-set feeder needle
Mud does not dispense when turning drive key	1 Shut-off lever closed 2 Check release clip 3 Check for broken cable	1 Open shut-off lever 2 Push release clip down 3 If broken, replace cable
Mud difficult to dispense when turning drive grip	Mud compound too thick	Thin mud compound
Overly sloppy operation	1 Mud compound too thin 2 Worn nyliners	1 Thicken mud compound 2 Time for a tune-up! Replace worn nyliners
Mud leaking out of filler valve	Dried mud or debris in filler valve	Flush filler valve with water or carefully clean with small piece of copper wire with "L" bend at end
Mud leaking out of sides of head	Worn nyliners	Time for a tune-up; replace worn nyliners
Mud leaking around plunger in main tube	Worn plunger	Replace plunger piston cup

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