AIRMATIC®
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MAX® REBAR TIERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ10162023

Frequently Asked Questions On Rebar Tier Use, Best Practices, and Maintenance.

DO THE MAX TOOLS TIE AS TIGHTLY AS HAND TYING?

Yes. MAX Tools tie as tight as hand tying. The RB218, RB398, and RB398S wrap the wire 3 times, the RB518 wraps the wire 3 or 4 times, the RB655, RB441T, and RB611T all wrap the wire 1 time around the rebar – but the RB441T and RB611T feature a twin wire wrap that consistently makes every tie equally tight. They automatically adjust from small to large ties.

BUT ISN'T MAX WIRE THINNER THAN HAND-TIE WIRE?

The RB655 uses 16-Ga wire (TW1525), which is the same as hand-tie wire; the RB218, RB398, RB 398S, and RB518 use 21-Ga wire (TW898) but by increasing the number of wraps around the rebar to 3-wraps (or 3 or 4-wraps w/ RB518), they make strong, tight ties. The RB401T-E, RB441T and RB611T use 19-GA wire (TW1061T) but are looped twice to create a twin wire tie as opposed to the 3-wrap, single wire tie.

IS THERE AN EPOXY COATED TIE WIRE?

Yes. MAX currently manufacturers: Black Annealed, Electro-Galvanized, and Plastic-Coated (Polyester) steel tie wire in both 16-Ga, 19-GA and 21-Ga sizes.

HOW MANY TIES PER COIL OF TW898, TW1525, AND TW1061T TIE WIRE?

The RB218 makes 170-210 ties/coil; The RB398 and R398S: 120 ties/coil; The RB518: 90 ties/coil (3 wraps) or 75 ties/coil (4 wraps); The RB655 (TW1525): 120-230 ties/coil; The RB401T-E (TW1061T): 260 ties/coil; RB441T (TW1061T): 240 ties/coil; RB611T (TW1061T): 205 ties/coil.

HOW MANY TIES PER BATTERY CHARGE?

Each re-charge will allow the RB218 ≈ 3,000 ties; RB398 ≈ 2,600 ties; RB518 ≈ 2,400 ties (3 wraps) / 2,200 ties (4 wraps); RB655 ≈ 2-4 coils; RB401T-E ≈ 4,600 ties; RB441T ≈ 5,000 ties; RB611T ≈ 5000 ties per charge.

IS "MADE IN AMERICA" TIE WIRE AVAILABLE FOR MAX REBAR TIERS?

Yes. MAX manufactures, and AIRMATIC, stocks TW898-USA and TW898PC-USA, 21-Ga wire, and TW1061T-USA, 19-Ga wire. Certificates showing compliance with current USA Made Buy America Regulations, are shipped with each tie wire order.

IF WE PURCHASE MADE-IN-AMERICA WIRE, DO YOU PROVIDE BUY AMERICA CERTIFICATION?

Yes. With each shipment of wire you receive a packet of three Certifications attesting to compliance with Buy America regulations. You receive: Certification Documentation on "Melted and Manufactured in the USA"; a Certified Material test report; Certification that the product has been spooled with American-made wire. The wire supplied is traceable to the mill's heat number of the steel used.

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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CHARGE THE BATTERY?

Each re-charge takes ≈ 80 min. for full battery; ≈ 60 min. for 80% charge. But, like any new cordless tool, an initial full charge will maximize the life of the battery.

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED LIFE OF THE BATTERY?

The Li-ion battery accepts 300 to 500 charges. The NIMH battery (RB655) accepts 350 to 400 charges.

IF I TIE SMALL REBAR CAN I GET MORE TIES PER ROLL?

The RB218, RB398, RB398S, and RB518 use the same amount of wire regardless of rebar diameter. The RB655, RB401T-E, RB441T, and RB611T do sense the thickness of the rebar and use the exact amount of wire needed.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TOOL GETS WET OR DIRTY?

The tools are electronic with microchips — they should not get wet. When used outdoors, cover the work area if it begins to rain. Tools must be free of dirt to perform consistently. Regularly use low-pressure compressed air to blow-off the top drive gears, and the area that makes the cut – both areas build-up dust and dirt during normal use.

DO MAX TOOLS COME WITH A WARRANTY?

Yes. Tools are warranted against defects in workmanship or materials for 1-year or 100,000 ties excluding wear parts. Warranty doesn't cover abuse of the tool.

WHAT PARTS NEED MAINTENANCE AT 200,000 TIES?

The twisting motor and wire guide will need to be changed at ≈ 200,000 ties.

DO I NEED TO OIL THE TOOLS?

No. Tools don't need to be oiled. When the motors are repaired they will need to be greased.

DO THE TOOLS COMPLY WITH LOCAL CODES?

Yes. Research shows that the tools comply with all codes, including those requiring epoxy-coated ties.

I'VE HEARD THAT SOME PEOPLE EXPERIENCE LOOSE TIES. WHY IS THAT HAPPENING?

There are two major reasons why a user would produce loose ties when using these tools: 1. The ties aren't being made at a 45° angle. Tying "off-center" – even when hand tying – won't allow a tight tie; 2. Rebar has ridges. Tying ridge-to-ridge won't allow/keep a tight tie (if rebar twists, the valleys align, and a tight tie loosens).

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