

Just a Jigolo

When Sydney builder, Jim Gialouris, nearly lost the top of his finger, he decided to come up with a better way to fix hex screws to corrugated sheeting...

The **Jigolo** is a tool that fits onto the chuck of any electric drill, and is specifically designed for the hexagonal screws that are used to fasten corrugated iron sheets to roof trusses. The general inspiration for the Jigolo came from the many years Jim had spent seeing himself, and his fellow building workers, experience difficulties in securing corrugated iron roofing safely.

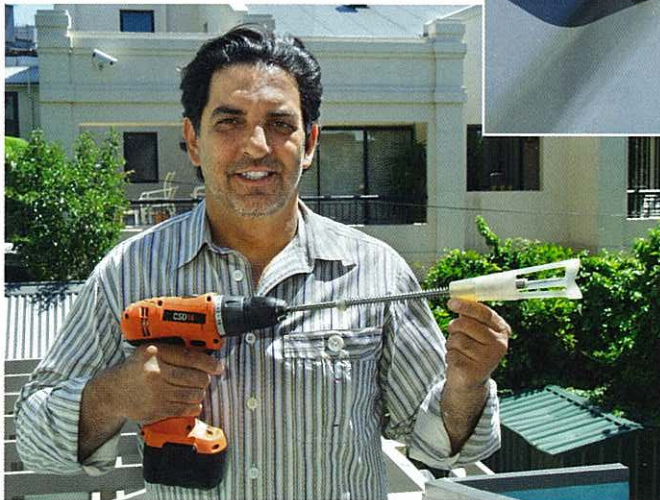
The great motivation to solve the problem came in 2005 when Jim was building some stables on his property and "lost a fingernail and nearly the finger tip" when he slipped while trying to drill in a hex screw to a corrugated iron sheet. "The roof was on a 45 degree pitch and I came close to losing my balance completely and falling off the roof," said Jim. "I knew then, there had to be a better way." Twelve months of research and development culminated in the Jigolo, which is now being manufactured in Sydney.

The body of the Jigolo tool is shaped like a small teepee with side "windows", on top of which resides a steel "spindle" encircled by a coiled compression spring. This spring enables the spindle to move up and down through the teepee-shaped body when in operation. The top end of the spindle has been designed to slot into the chuck of a standard electric hand drill, while the other end is magnetic and shaped to grip the standard hex screws used to fasten corrugated iron sheeting to roof trusses.

The most significant innovation in the Jigolo is the jig at the bottom of the tool, which is designed to fit snugly around the standard contours of corrugated iron sheeting. More importantly, the jig is flexible in design, so that it will adjust the hex screws precisely to the angle of the roof pitch. This assures that the screw and its rubber washer are fastened tightly and securely every time.

To use, the builder firstly attaches the Jigolo device to a standard electric hand drill. The hex screw is loaded into the device, where it is held by the magnet. The builder then positions the loaded Jigolo device over the spot where the screw is to be inserted; there is no need to pre-drill or nail punch holes into the corrugated iron sheets.

The user then simply drives the hand drill down to penetrate the screw through the roof sheet and roof truss underneath. The jig at the bottom of the device automatically adjusts to the angled pitch of the roof, ensuring that the screw



Jim Gialouris

and its rubber washer tightly seal and secure the roof sheet. Importantly for the builder, the Jigolo eliminates the acrobatics traditionally required to ensure the hex screw is tightly fitted according to the angled pitch of the roof. The tool does the hard work adjusting to the roof angle, minimising the strain to the builder's back while increasing speed and efficiency. "I didn't realise how much of the strain on your back is alleviated until I



Close up of the Jigolo

started using the Jigolo," said Jim. "The OH&S benefits of the tool are quite considerable."

According to Jim, reaction to the Jigolo has been amazing. The product was featured on ABC-TV's *The New Inventors* earlier this year, and since then Jim's phone and email has been running hot. 5,000

units have already rolled off the production line and Jim is determined to keep it an Australian-made product. "I've been getting emails from all over the world, I even got one from somebody on the Christmas Islands," said Jim. "And there are people in Canada and the UK interested in a dealership."

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