CABLE PULLING & TESTING EQUIPMENT
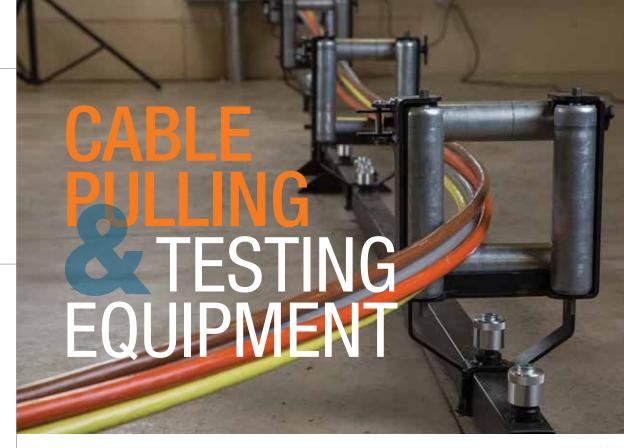
PULLING AND INSTALLATION GETS EASIER, SAFER AND SMARTER

Cable installation is one of the most thankless jobs an electrician or technician can do, fraught as it is with equal potential for physical injury and connectivity error. Thankfully, these firms are developing products to make the process easier, safer and more profitable.

SOUTHWIRE

"Some of the issues affecting cable pulling include manpower, time and danger," says Tom Caldwell, Director of contractor equipment for Southwire. "Southwire has taken an unparalleled, total-solutions approach to wire pulling. When you combine Southwire's large and small conductor solutions with Southwire cable pulling equipment, you can significantly increase pull speeds, reduce manpower, and increase safety."

CALDWELL

Starting with wire, Southwire's SIMpull wire significantly reduces the coefficient of friction for large conductor pulls and eliminates the need for someone to lubricate the wire.

"Southwire SIMpull wire can be delivered with a preinstalled SIMpull Head. Preinstalled SIMpull Head devices offer the industry's only 100 percent retention guarantee. When you connect the preinstalled SIMpull Head puller with a clevis to QWIKrope pulling rope (an ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene rope that is UV-resistant,

Southwire's expansive cable solutions range from its SIMPull wire and pulling equipment to electronic test equipment such as the M300P Profession VDV Cable Mapper and the T100PK Professional Tone & Probe Kit.

lightweight and ultra-low stretch), you not only increase the pulling speeds, but also reduce set up time."

By combining this with a cable feeder and the SIMpull Cable Guide System on the feed end, the user eliminates the need for over-the-shoulder guiding and manipulation to get the cable off of the spool and into the conduit or cable tray. This tends to be one of the most dangerous areas of a wire pull.

To further promote safety, the feeder can be wirelessly connected to the puller via the Southwire Triggers Wireless Safety Switch System. These switches require the operators on both ends to have a foot on a foot pedal simultaneously for either machine to operate, eliminating the need for verbal communication. With the addition of hand-held Trigger units, the pull can also be monitored by up to five additional personnel, all with the ability to stop all machinery in the pull simultaneously with the push of a button.

LEE

"In electronics, Southwire's newest tools are the M300P Profession VDV Cable Mapper and the T100PK Professional Tone & Probe Kit," explains Alvin Lee, product manager for test and measurement. "The M300P quickly tests voice, data and video cabling for wiring errors in one easy step. It maps out connections and identifies wiring faults including split, reversed, open or shorted pairs. It also identifies cross over and shielded cables."

The T100PK quickly traces multiple types of non-energized cables. This tool is great for locating cables in wiring closets and distribution panels. The T100PK can be a real time saver when installing network, communication, audio and video cables. It even works on non-powered AC wiring.

VOLTCLAW

"Cabling installers often must work on standard electrical wires, especially on residential and smaller commercial jobs," begins Warren Tarbell, Voltclaw inventor and founder. "For that reason and many more, installers must be familiar with general construction safety guidelines, as well as basic electrical safety and the codes that apply to electrical and low-voltage installations.

"The most important thing to remember is that low voltage does not necessarily mean low hazard. Low voltage systems can be not only dangerous, but deadly."

Invented by an electrician, the Voltclaw-12 is worth its weight in gold for maneuvering 12-14 gauge electrical wiring in junction boxes, switch boxes, outlets and panels.

Electrocutions kill an average of 143 construction workers annually and another 2,700 suffer non-fatal shocks that require days away from the job. Cabling companies should have an active safety education program, written safety guides and communication from management about the importance of electrical safety.

One way to improve safety is with the Voltclaw-12. Invented by an electrician for electricians, this simple-to-use, low-cost hand tool is nonconductive to allow the safe management of 12-14 gauge electrical wiring within junction boxes, switch boxes, outlets, panels or anywhere electrical wires are installed.

Using the Voltclaw, the electrician can:
▮ Reach inside crowded junction boxes, switch boxes and service panels to tightly grab wires and safely remove the wires out of the boxes
▮ Push, pull or bend wires
▮ Push wires back into outlets, switch boxes, break panels, GFCIs or other tight spaces
▮ Create a J-shaped loop on the end of a pre-stripped wire with the loop bender
▮ Remove or tighten twist-on wire connectors with the built-in wrench

"With an MSRP of only $14.95, the Voltclaw-12 improves job safety," Tarbell states. "And as cabling installers are increasingly expected to do electrical wiring on the job, just as electricians are installing cabling, tools like the Voltclaw become a necessary part of what contractors carry in tool bags and on tool belts."

EPSON

The best cable job in the world is worthless if you don't know what it is for, so identification is a key part of the process. The K-Sun Epson LABELWORKS PX LW-PX700 industrial label maker creates durable, custom and compliant labels, wire markers and more up to one inch wide.

The LW-PX700 label printer meets MIL-STD 810 "drop

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test" specifications for the toughest environments and can be used to mark cables and wires, tag assets, organize tool cribs, storage bins and inventory racks, make safety labels and create nine resident barcodes (or 15, using Label Editor Professional software), import images, label files and print on the go.

With applications-specific hot keys such as Punch Block, Patch Panel, Block 66, Self-Lam Overwrap and more, the LW-PX700 offers extraordinary flexibility. Powerful, easy-to-use Label Editor Professional software allows users to import and print large-batch files from Excel or other software with an available API, as well as import custom images and logos.

The LW-PX700's built-in handle makes it easy to use anywhere. Magnet attachments allow hands-free operation. A built-in memory lets users create, import and store up to 100 label designs. High speed, 180-dpi printing results in highly visible and detailed auto-cut individual and half-cut continuous labels. Exclusive features save time, effort and money and create a lower total cost of ownership, including:

▮ Auto Tape Rewind reduces lead margins to 4 mm by retracting material into the cartridge before the first label prints, which translates to more cost savings per print and less waste.
▮ The Mixed-Length hot key lets users create multiple uniform and variable-length labels on the same strip with a half-cut between each label for easy removal and application, eliminating multiple lead margins to significantly save tape.
▮ The Pick-and-Print function conveniently prints, cuts and holds a single label until it is removed. The function resumes for the next label in the series, saving time by eliminating the need to continuously type and print labels. **CS**

The K-Sun Epson LABELWORKS PX LW-PX700 industrial label maker is an essential tool for a huge variety of cable and parts marking and other labeling and identification applications.