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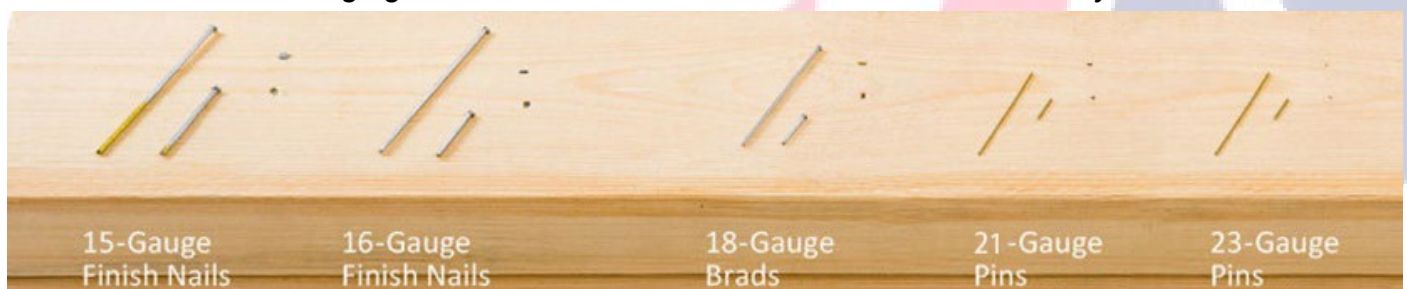
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Choosing a Finish Nailer Article

Gauging the Differences: Which Finish Nailer Should I Buy?



Which finish nailer should I buy? Sometimes this can be a hard one to pin down given the smallest of differences between them. Despite the small differences, one size does not fit all. You will get the best results using the right nailer, whether you're installing doors, crown molding, fine trim, or assembling cabinets. These applications each require a certain size of nail referred to as a gauge. Gauge sizes are essentially the thickness of the nail; however, a higher number means a thinner nail. The most common gauge sizes are 15, 16, 18, 21 and 23 gauge. Let's break them down to gauge what works best for you.

15 and 16 gauge

Start with the 15-gauge finish nailers, these are ideal for heavier jobs working with thick, dense wood, door trims, casings, or hanging doors. 15-gauge trim nailers are more powerful like [AFN1565](#) is a good choice for you, the finish nails come with round heads giving you the penetrating power and holding power needed for these types of applications.

Compare this to just a single gauge up, the 16-gauge. This size is the sweet spot between 15 and 18 where you can get away with some overlap. The 16-gauge nailer however, is better suited for more delicate and thinner trims for example:

- smaller bed moldings
- base moldings
- interior trim works
- baseboard

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Because it's smaller, it has a little less holding power than the 15-gauge nailer and leaves a smaller hole. So, if you're looking for just the right amount of power with a slightly cleaner finish, then our [FN1665](#) 16-gauge finish nailer would be your go-to tool.

18 gauge

Because 15 or 16-gauge nailer would likely split narrow trims and moldings, the better option would be an 18-gauge trim nailer or commonly known as a brad nailer. These are ideal for:

- Stop and cove moldings
- Baseboard shoe molding
- Decorative moldings
- Assembling small DIY projects

Brad nails are thin wire-like nails and because they are so thin they often eliminate the need to fill in holes left behind. However, you will not get the holding power as the 16-gauge but you won't need it if you're using it on the above-mentioned applications. If you're thinking about joining thick pieces of plywood or hardwoods, then a brad nailer won't have enough power to join these materials properly. If you're looking to join anything smaller, then EVERWIN's [FN1850](#) 18-Gauge Brad Nailer would be a great choice.

21-gauge

Until recently, carpenters and cabinet builders only had the 18 and 23-gauge options. But now the 21-gauge is gaining popularity as it replaces some of the 18 gauge finish nailer applications. Our [P850 Micro Brad Nailer](#) fills the gap between the 18-gauge brad nails and 23-gauge micro pins. It can drive 21-gauge headless and micro-head pins, ideal for:

- Cabinets
- Mirrors
- Picture frames
- Finish and trim



This size leaves a smaller indent in the workpiece compared to the 18-gauge, but with just enough holding power, excellent for more delicate work. As you go higher in gauge, the indents in the workpiece keep getting smaller which means you might keep on nailing without realizing that the tool had run out of fasteners. To combat this, a useful feature on our models is the dryfire lock out that prevents the tool from firing when there are no fasteners in the chamber.

23 gauge

For the most delicate and intricate finish work, most pros turn to the 23-gauge. As with its 21-gauge relative, according to the current regulations in North America, they don't require contact trips. This means that you won't have that extra element pressing into your precious workpiece, leaving an almost invisible hole. Keep in mind that headless pins have little holding power and are not meant to be structural. 23-gauge pin nailers are normally combined with adhesives to create a more permanent bond.



To sum up, these pinnerers are great for:

- Blending the pin into the wood grain
- To avoid splitting or damaging moldings
- Pinning into corners
- Tacking a hardboard or MDF pattern

If you're looking for an industrial strength pinner, look no further than our [P635B Micro Pinner](#), a 23-gauge that drives 35mm headless pins without splitting and requires no touch-up work. There is also a 50mm option, the [P650 Finish Nailer](#).

Industrial Grade Finish Nailers

At EVERWIN, our finish trim nailers come with all the practical features wanted by the professionals. However, what sets us apart from the others is our focus on industrial grade compared to the many DIY grade tools on the market today. Both do have their own market, but what differentiates them are three things:

- The number of times it will be used in its lifetime
- The average run-time for each use
- The conditions it will be used under

Our tools are designed based on the higher metrics of these answers. When maintained properly, EVERWIN's industrial tools will last up to 1 million cycles compared to DIY's 10-30k cycles, ultimately saving you time and money. We put high importance on keeping up our reputation for

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excellent build quality where durability is crucial to productivity. Use our local dealer locator to find the nearest EVERWIN dealers.

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About EVERWIN PNEUMATIC

EVERWIN® is a stapler & nail gun manufacturer founded in 2012 by a group of American and Taiwanese pneumatic tool experts, each boasting decades of experience and success in the world of pneumatic fastening. They founded the company with one shared goal in mind— to “build a brand the fastening industry can rely on for consistency and efficiency”. EVERWIN quickly garnered recognition as a premier brand for industrial fastening tools. With strong roots in the industrial market, EVERWIN has a different take on construction nailers and staplers from most price-driven manufacturers today; and with a touch of innovation, its 2017 and 2018 product introductions earned EVERWIN back-to-back Pro Tool Innovation Awards.