

## Weigh In!

Want to test a new tool or share a tool-related testimonial, gripe, or technique? Contact us at [JLCTools@hanleywood.com](mailto:JLCTools@hanleywood.com)



BY CHRIS ERMIDES

## A Dustless Dry-Cutting Tile Saw

**At the World of Concrete show** recently, I walked by iQ Power Tools just as one of its representatives was cutting tile—inside, on a carpeted surface, without a dust mask or hose hookup, on a full-sized tile saw. We've covered some of iQ's products in the past, including a dust-free masonry chop saw and a dust-collecting cut-off saw; the brand was blue and yellow back then. Now it's orange and gray—almost the same color scheme as Husqvarna, which is why it initially caught my eye.

The new saw (iQTS244), released in February, is completely dustless thanks to an integral vacuum that includes a multi-stage cyclonic filtration system and dust collection tray. It requires a specialized 10-inch blade, which is included, that cuts porcelain, marble, granite, ceramic, and stone. According to the manufacturer, blade life is similar to what you would expect from a good-quality wet-cutting blade.

### HOW THE DUST COLLECTION WORKS

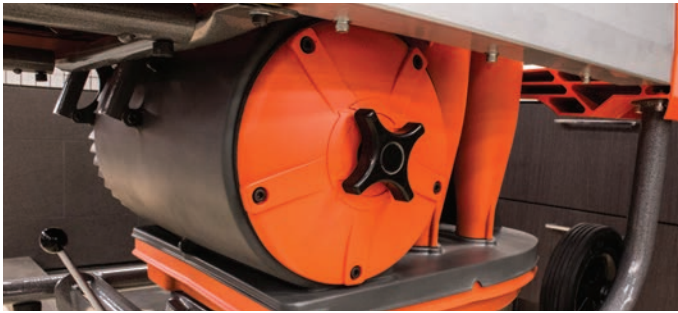
Dust is pulled through a slot beneath the cut, then captured first by the cyclonic filtration system, which sits just below the saw's sled, while the rest falls into a tray that sits under the saw (see photo, page 70). After about 500 lineal feet of cutting, you spin the filter, which shakes the captured dust and dumps it onto the tray. Pull the tray out, empty it, and reinstall it, and you're ready to continue. A replacement filter runs about \$90 and is expected to last up to one year with daily use. The built-in vacuum serves two functions: It cools the blade throughout the cut, and it removes debris from the kerf so the blade isn't grinding that material.

The saw has a 24-inch cutting capacity at 90 degrees. A proprietary, specially shaped arbor holds the blade—presumably ensuring you won't use a wet-saw blade, which would render the integral dust collection system virtually useless. The specialized blades are designed to stay cool while dry-cutting—a technology that iQ Power Tools has used in its other masonry saws. A replacement blade will run you \$100. Currently, the saw will not bevel, but the manufacturer says a bevel-cutting attachment will be available later this year.

The saw (with one blade) sells for \$1,590. It has a 10-foot cord, two wheels, and a handle built into the



**Waterless cutting.** It looks like a traditional tile saw, without the mess. The sliding table accommodates 24-inch-long tile, and has a built-in extension arm that pulls out to the right for holding wider tiles. At this time, the saw does not bevel. Saw and stand sold separately.



The filtration system sits just below the iQTS244 tile saw's sled.

cage-design of the main housing so it can be moved around like a piece of large luggage. A folding stand sells separately for \$150.

It's a hefty price tag—but the manufacturer is banking on the saw's convenience. You can use it inside and not worry about tarps, water, and slurry, and you never have to deal with a clogged pump or emptying and cleaning a reservoir. If you do a lot of tile work, it might be worth a closer look—especially if you often work on second-floor bathrooms and have to set up your saw outside. The time you'll save not walking up and down the stairs alone could be worth the money. [iqpowertools.com](http://iqpowertools.com)

## Flir Upgrades Two IR Cameras for Remodelers

**Flir recently introduced** several new thermal imaging cameras, two of which are new generations of previous models.

The new C3 (see photo, bottom right) looks like and functions similarly to the C2, which Doug Horgan reviewed for *JLC* (see “New Infrared Options for Remodelers,” Jun/15). Like its predecessor, the C3 is a pocket-sized, touch-screen unit that combines a visual camera with an IR imager. Both have a thermal resolution of 80x60 and let you save infrared and visual images at the same time. These cameras also have a function that Flir calls “MSX” overlay—a view that combines the IR image with faint lines outlining objects and patterns from the visual image. According to Horgan, the MSX image provides a clear representation of the captured area, along with the thermal information you need. The C3 has other functions as well, like Wi-Fi connectivity through the Flir Tools App—letting you mirror whatever you're capturing onto your phone or tablet—and the ability to locate the lowest or highest temperature within a chosen area on the screen. The C3 sells for \$700; the C2 is now available for \$500.

If neither of those options is in your budget, you might consider the third-generation FlirOne—also available in a new Pro model. Like the C2 and C3, both FlirOne models provide visual and IR images along with the MSX overlay. Both options also have a new adjustable-height connector, which is meant to adapt the fit for most phone and tablet cases on the market. The visual image output resolution for both cameras is 1440x1080. The standard FlirOne has a thermal resolution of 80x60 and will cost \$200. The FlirOne Pro has a thermal resolution of 160x120 and will cost \$400. [flir.com](http://flir.com)

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**IR camera upgrades.** The FlirOne (left) and FlirOne Pro feature an adjustable-height connector to adapt to most phone and tablet cases. The Pro has better thermal resolution than the standard version. The C3 (below) has many of the same features as the C2, as well as Wi-Fi connectivity and more customizable options.

