

IRWIN Introduces New Series of Folding Utility Knives With Proprietary BladeLock Technology

New Knives Offer Unprecedented Locking Features, Durability and Design Innovations

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. [5/20/13] — Across all trades, there is a common tool in every tradesman's tool bag – a utility knife. Utility knives come in various shapes and sizes and are used to cut a wide range of materials on the job site and in the home. Today, IRWIN Tools introduces the International [A'Design Platinum Award](#) winning **Folding Utility Knife Series with patented BladeLock Technology – the FK100, FK150, and FK250**. Recognized for its “best-in-class” design attributes, the FK Series is durable, compact, and easy-to-use.

The FK Series delivers unparalleled user safety, durability, and comfort. IRWIN's proprietary design addresses the most frequently cited user frustration – when blades accidentally pull out of the handle during use. BladeLock Technology further improves safety by providing the user with the ability to change blades only when the release button is engaged and the blade holder is in the 45° open position. Each of the new folding utility knives have a liner lock for safe, one-handed operation and a 16° cutting angle for ultimate comfort and control. No other folding knife offers this level of blade security and user safety.

“Our research shows that the utility knife is the second most important tool to a tradesman, and the biggest frustration and safety hazard on the job is when the blade comes out unexpectedly during cutting,” stated Katy Vogl, IRWIN Tools Product Marketing Manager. “So, when we set out to design a revolutionary new utility knife, we built-in the BladeLock safety feature. But we didn't stop there,” Vogl emphasized. “These new knives are what every tradesman will want in their tool box or pocket, or on their belt clip. Whether you need the compact durability of the FK100, the built-in blade storage of the FK150, or the durability of the FK250 with fold out screwdriver, there is a knife for every tradesman.”

Designed with a rugged and robust feel, the new **IRWIN FK100 with BladeLock Technology** features a compact, durable body design that is lightweight and compact. Comfortable in the hand, pocket or on the belt, the FK100 has a built-in wire stripper, cast finger grooves and trigger-grip handle for greater control.

The new **IRWIN FK150 with BladeLock Technology** is a no-nonsense, rugged folding utility knife designed with built-in blade storage that holds up to two blades, for quick, on-the-job blade changes. The compact and durable design of the FK150 fits comfortably in the hand, pocket or on the belt. The FK150 has cast finger grooves, trigger-grip handle and delivers maximum durability, reliability, and is easy-to-use.

For the tradesman who needs a superior utility knife and quick access to his most commonly used screwdriver bits—without the bulk of a multi-tool— IRWIN integrated a foldout screwdriver for 1” insert bits into the new **IRWIN FK250 with BladeLock Technology**. For added convenience and customization, the FK250 includes built-in blade storage and an additional insert bit storage compartment. The FK250 delivers maximum durability and versatility and is designed with cast finger grooves and trigger grip handle for optimal control.

The new FK Series handles are backed by IRWIN's Lifetime Guarantee. The FK100, FK150 and FK250 are now available at hardware stores, construction and industrial tool distributors throughout the U.S. and Canada and the MSRP ranges from \$10.99 – \$15.99.

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About IRWIN Tools

IRWIN Tools manufactures and distributes a broad line of hand tools and power tool accessories under the IRWIN® brand including VISE-GRIP® pliers and wrenches, MARATHON® saw blades, QUICK-GRIP® clamping tools, SPEEDBOR® wood drilling bits, STRAIT-LINE® marking tools, UNIBIT® step drill bits, MARPLES® fine woodworking tools, and HANSON® taps and dies. IRWIN Tools is a part of Newell Rubbermaid's global portfolio of leading brands. For more information, call 1-800-GO-IRWIN or visit www.irwin.com. IRWIN invites the nation to celebrate **National Tradesmen Day**, on **Friday, Sept. 20, 2013**.

Additional assets available online:  [Photos \(1\)](#)

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