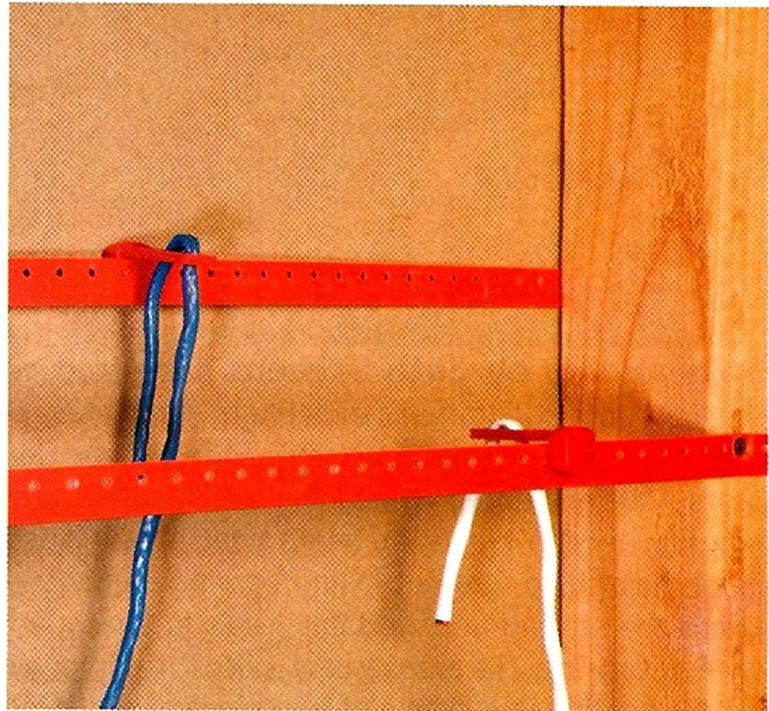


EDITOR'S PICK

X Marks the Spot

For many integrators, the manpower time wasted locating and retrieving wires behind the dry-wall during the trimout phase can mean the difference between profit and bankruptcy. Even with meticulous documentation, a technician is often taking an educated guess as to the location of the wire when he drills through the sheetrock. But the Xspot Wire Location System from Xspot Products, a division of



Prime Industrial Design in Gold Canyon, Ariz., promises to minimize those wasted moments and reduce headaches during prewire and trimout.

The reusable unit is so simple and efficient it is amazing no one thought of it before. A technician simply loops the Cat 5 or coax through the holes in the Xspot (or Xspot Mini for small gauge wire) device, which is simply an L-shaped piece of red plastic with a magnet on one side. A flat plastic strap is mounted between two studs at the location of the speaker and the Xspot is simply clipped to it. After the sheetrock is up, the technician simply runs a powerful magnet (the Xtreme Locator) across the wall which will line up to within ¼-inch of the Xspot device behind the drywall. Next, the technician replaces the Xtreme Locator with the Xcentric magnetic device, which gives the exact location for drilling. Once the drywall is drilled or punctured, the technician simply retrieves the Xspot with the attached wire from behind the wall. The design of Xspot protects the wire itself from being drilled.

The product was designed by Xspot's Mark Sipe, a former installer himself. I can see this unit becoming **a staple in every technician's toolbag.** Right now, it is being sold through specific distributors with 18 Xspots, three Xspot Minis, 36 feet of Xstrap, seven Xboxes, one Xtreme Locator tool set and 10 booty bags packaged together (called the X-Pack A/V). —Jason Knott

MSRP for the X-Pack A/V is \$300, www.xspotproducts.com