

From FastEST, Inc.

As another year draws to a close, we'd like to thank you, our customers, for your support and continued use of our products and services.

As many of you already know, we are currently in the process of a substantial upgrade to both FastPIPE & FastDUCT. As mentioned in the article to the right, both programs are up and running on Windows 7 and 64-bit Vista operating systems.

The new upgrade will improve our performance on these new operating systems. We also will incorporate new features to enhance Catalog management, job takeoff, and reporting.

Many suggestions have been given to us to make the program better, and we are doing our best to be responsive to those suggestions. If you would like to make a suggestion, now would be a good time and we would love to hear from you.

You can email me directly or make a suggestion at the portal at our Website. If you currently do not have access to the portal, send an e-mail to mark.oxler@fastest-inc.com and we will add you to the list. Call us if you have any questions or comments.

We would like to say "Merry Christmas" to all of you, and we hope that 2010 will be a happy and prosperous year for you.

Thank you,



Mark Oxler, President

FastPIPE and FastDUCT Compatible with Windows 7

With the new release of Windows 7 from Microsoft in late October 2009, customers who are in the market for a new computer have inquired about FastPIPE and FastDUCT's compatibility with this new operating system. Thus far, users have gotten their programs up-and-running smoothly. With our new 9.4R1 versions of FastPIPE and FastDUCT included with this update, we have included some additional drivers that make installation on a Windows 7 machine even easier.

If anyone does come across any possible Windows 7 glitches related to FastPIPE and FastDUCT, please contact us so we can address them and pass that information along to our customers.



Utilize Old Pricing Updates for Previous Bid Analysis

Some customers have requested the ability to go back and look at old bids as they were at the time of the bid, with corresponding pricing and data at that point in time. There is a way to do this by utilizing older pricing updates.

Let's say you have a bid from April 2009 that you want to look at in its original form, but you are up-to-date with our pricing (the latest release prior to this update being 8-18-09). In this instance, you should locate our data update CD dated 3-18-09 (since that was the most recent update prior to that bid date).

Normally, we instruct users to run a data update directly from the CD that we send out. In this case, though, you should "Save" the data update file instead of using the "Run" command. Save it to your C:\FastEST_Update folder.

Then, open FastPIPE and go to "File" then "Data Update." Double-click your C:\FastEST_Update folder on the right, and left-click the 090318.fei update file on the left, then click "OK." This reverts your data back to that March 18 update, where you can then look at bid in its original form after recalculating. After that, you can re-run the most recent data update, either from the latest CD or from your "_Update" folder, and you are back to current. If you have any questions regarding this situation, don't hesitate to contact us.

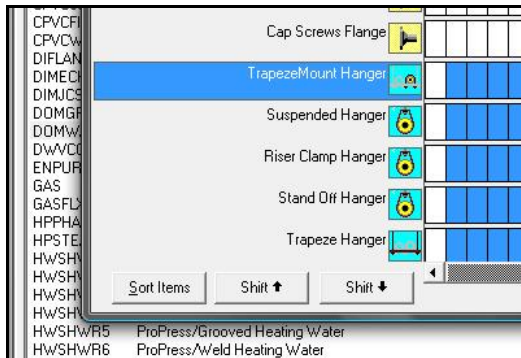
(more on back)

Instructions for Using Trapeze Hangers During Takeoff in FastPIPE

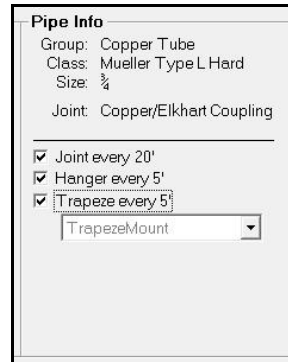
With our most recent portal update, we have updated the “Specs.asy.exe” utility, with the major change being that all of our Updated Specs in FastPIPE now contain trapeze hangers as a hanger option. There are a couple of things to remember when utilizing trapeze hangers during takeoff, related to setting up your spec prior to takeoff, and regarding the actual takeoff of the pipe.

First, prior to starting your new section of takeoff, go to the “Specs” tab and double-click to open the particular pipe spec that you want to takeoff with trapeze hangers. Highlight the “TrapezeMount Hanger” line item with a single left-click (it should light up in blue), then click the “Shift ^” button at the bottom of the window, until “TrapezeMount Hanger” is at the top of the Hanger items within the Spec. (See image at bottom left.) This sets Trapeze as the default hanger to be taken off. Once this is done, you are ready to begin takeoff.

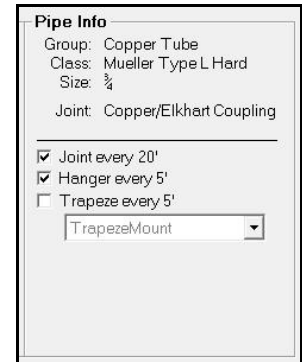
Normally, trapeze hangers are utilized with a multi-pipe system. Hence, there are two different ways to takeoff the pipe while utilizing trapeze hangers. Imagine you need to takeoff two 100’ runs of pipe installed with a trapeze hanger system. With the first run, you will need to takeoff both the trapeze itself and the mount that attaches the pipe to the trapeze at the specified intervals. With the second run, though, all you need taken off are the mounts with the pipe (since the trapeze itself was already accounted for with the first run takeoff). Therefore, the “Pipe Info” box at the bottom of your takeoff interface will look slightly different depending on what mode you are taking off in (trapeze and mounts versus just mounts). See the below images for clarification, and if anyone has any further questions about trapeze hanger takeoff, feel free to call us.



Shifting TrapezeMount to the top of the Hanger items sets up your Spec for trapeze hanger takeoff.



Pipe Info box as it should look to takeoff the trapeze and mount.



Pipe Info box as it should look to takeoff only mounts.

New Customers

United Contractors, Inc.
Marquette, MI

Spectrum Mechanical
Phoenix, AZ

C.J.'s Mechanical
Williamstown, NJ

Mechanical Air
Riverton, UT

M F Plumbing
Austin, TX

Corley Bailey Plumbing Co.
San Antonio, TX

Complete Comfort LLC
Warrensburg, MO

Union Air Conditioning, Inc.
Miami, FL

Spaid Mechanical, Inc.
Bloomington, IL

Tatro Plumbing Co., Inc.
Garden City, KS

BML Construction Services
Ogden, UT

Chapman Plumbing Co., Inc.
Meridian, MS

Ames Plumbing Service Inc.
Ames, IA

Integrate Comfort Systems
Belleville, NJ

Waiialua Plumbing & Mechanical
Waiialua, HI

The McCarty Corporation
Austin, TX

Teco Mechanical
Lexington, KY

Jae's Plumbing & Construction
New Orleans, LA

Rutherford Heating & Air Cond
Spindale, NC

Pipe Connection Plumbing
Mesquite, TX

Structures Construction
Memphis, TN