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United States Patent Application Publication

20250262704

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 21, 2025

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SPOTTER BIT

Abstract

A spotter bit and system for use in identifying a hole location in a construction substrate which includes an illuminating member which extends through the hole and is maintained in position to enable easy locating of the hole by virtue of the spotter bit. The spotter bit can also include a sound emitting device to assist in the locating of the bit.

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Family ID: 1000007700338

Appl. No.: 18/581449

Filed: February 20, 2024

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: B23Q17/22 (20060101); B23B51/08 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC B23Q17/22 (20130101); B23B51/08 (20130101);

Background/Summary

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Field of Invention

[0001] The invention relates generally to locating devices. More particularly, the invention relates to a device and system for easily identifying the location of predrilled holes in construction substrates, such as ceilings and floors.

Prior Art

[0002] During the construction process, particularly in multi-story buildings or structures with complicated areas or designs, identifying the precise locations of holes drilled through ceilings or floors poses a significant challenge for builders, contractors, and maintenance personnel. These holes serve various purposes such as accommodating wiring, plumbing, ventilation ducts, and other utilities critical to the functioning of the building.

[0003] Typically, once the construction phase is complete, locating these drilled holes becomes cumbersome and time-consuming, often leading to inefficiencies, delays, and potential damage during maintenance or renovation activities. Examples of this include trying to locate hole(s) in the case where insulation has been installed in a ceiling and the contractor is trying to locate the hole while sifting through insulation or walking on rafters above the ceiling and trying to avoid damage to the ceiling.

[0004] The conventional methods employed for identifying drilled holes lack precision and efficiency. Builders often resort to manual techniques such as measuring distances from fixed reference points or relying on architectural drawings, which are prone to inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Additionally, as buildings age and undergo modifications, the original plans may become outdated or unavailable, further complicating the process of locating drilled holes.

[0005] Furthermore, the lack of a standardized system or technology specifically designed for this purpose exacerbates the problem. Existing solutions such as metal detectors or stud finders are ill-suited for accurately pinpointing holes in ceilings or floors, as they primarily detect metal objects within the wall structure rather than holes in horizontal surfaces. Contractors have resorted to using items, such as a wire extending through the hole as a means to locate the hole, but these can be difficult to see particularly in dimly lit areas, such as an attic.

[0006] Recognizing the need for a reliable and efficient method to identify the location of drilled holes in ceilings or floors during construction and subsequent maintenance, the instant innovator has embarked on the development of a device and system tailored to address this challenge. These solutions leverage the device's ability to facilitate the precise localization of drilled holes in these surfaces.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0007] It is a general object to improve construction techniques.

[0008] It is another object to improve the ability to locate predrilled holes in a ceiling, floor or other walled surface.

[0009] Another object is to reduce the risk of damaging an existing structure with the aid of a device and system for locating holes in a surface provided by the instant invention.

[0010] A further object is to reduce the time required for locating predrilled holes in a construction surface.

[0011] Still a further object is to provide a device for aiding in detection of location of holes in a substrate of a building.

[0012] Another object is to provide a system for detecting a plurality of hole locations in a subsurface of a building.

[0013] Accordingly, an embodiment of the instant invention is directed to a spotter bit for use with a hole of a predetermined diameter D extending through a construction substrate having a thickness T which includes a first end configured to be positionably disposed against the construction substrate and a second end extending from the first end and is elongated and has a diameter D' less than the hole diameter D and a length L longer than the thickness T and extending beyond a surface of the substrate when the second end extends through the hole and first end abuts the construction substrate, and wherein the second end is configured to illuminate. The first end can preferably be equipped with a housing made of metal or plastic having operably disposed therein a power source, such as a battery, which operably connects to the second end in a manner to deliver power thereto to cause illumination thereof. The first end can include an on/off switch to control illumination of

the second end. The first end of the spotter bit can also include an audible sound chip operably connected thereto to assist in emitting a sound for location.

[0014] The second end can be of a length L, for example, more than 12 inches. Additionally, the second end of the spotter bit can be flexible or rigid and can include an LED or other illuminatable material such as a clear material which can be illuminated from the first end having a light source operably disposed therein.

[0015] While not needed in the case where the second end extends downward with the first end supported above the construction substrate and held in place by gravity, there can be provided an adapter to maintain the position of the spotter bit in the case where the second end extends upward, e.g., through a ceiling hole. In this regard, the adapter has a central opening for receiving the second end of the spotter bit and includes arms which extend through the hole, and a base which abuts the construction substrate (e.g., ceiling), which includes a retainer, such as a magnetic surface, to hold the first end of the spotter bit. When the arms are extended through the hole, and second end of the spotter bit is pushed through the adapter, the arms move radially outward to frictionally retain the adapter and spotter bit in place.

[0016] In conclusion, the problem of identifying drilled holes in ceilings or floors during construction represents a significant impediment to efficient building management and maintenance. However, through ongoing research and innovation, the instant invention provides a promising solution to address this challenge, empowering construction professionals with the tools and technologies needed to streamline operations, minimize errors, and enhance the overall quality and longevity of built environments.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] FIG. 1 is a side view of an embodiment of the spotter bit of the invention revealing internal components in dashed lines.

[0018] FIG. 2 is side view of a pilot bit for use with the invention.

[0019] FIG. 3A is a perspective view of an adapter for use with the spotter bit of the invention.

[0020] FIG. 3B is a bottom view of the adapter for use with the spotter bit of the invention in FIG. 3A.

[0021] FIG. 4 depicts a set of components for use as a system in the invention.

[0022] FIG. 5 illustrates use of the invention in a construction substrate.

[0023] FIG. 6 illustrates use of components of the invention in a floor.

[0024] FIG. 7 illustrates use of components of the invention in a ceiling.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0025] Referring now to the drawings, a spotter bit of the instant invention is generally designated by the numeral **10**. The spotter bit **10** is for use with a hole **12** of a predetermined diameter D extending through a construction substrate **13** having a thickness T. The spotter bit **10** includes a first end **14** configured to be positionably disposed against the construction substrate **13** and a second end **16** extending from the first end **14** and is elongated and has a diameter D' less than the hole diameter D and a length L longer than the thickness T, and preferably longer than joist **17** width and truss **23** width as depicted in FIGS. 6 and 7.

[0026] The second end **16** is configured to extend beyond a surface **15** of the substrate **13** when the second end **16** extends through the hole **12** and first end abuts the construction substrate **13**, and wherein the second end **16** is configured to illuminate. The first end **14** can preferably be equipped with a housing **18** made of metal or plastic having operably disposed therein a power source **20** (shown in dashed lines), such as a rechargeable battery, which operably connects to the second end **16** in a manner to deliver power thereto to cause illumination thereof.

[0027] The first end **14** can include an on/off switch **22** to control illumination of the second end **16**. The first end **14** of the spotter bit **10** can also include an audible sound chip **24** (shown in dashed lines) operably connected thereto to assist in emitting a sound for location.

[0028] The second end **16** can be of a length L, for example, more than 12 inches, for example, it is envisioned that the suitable length can preferably be from 12 inches to 24 inches. Additionally, the second end **16** of the spotter bit **10** can be flexible or rigid and can include an LED or other illuminatable material such as a clear material which can be illuminated from the first end **14** having a light source **19** operably disposed therein.

[0029] A pilot bit **50** is provided which can be a high strength carbide steel drill bit, such as 3/16", 1/4" or 5/16" diameter, configured with or without a 1/4" hex shank. A set of spotter bits **10** as seen in FIG. 4 can have second end **16** with lengths of 12", 18" or 24" for example, and adapters **30**. A set of spotter bits **10** is desirable when drilling a series of holes **12** in the construction substrate **13** and the user can insert a spotter bit **10** through each hole **12** and thus provide a system of identifying a plurality of holes in construction substrate **13**.

[0030] While not needed in the case where the second end **16** extends downward preferably below joists **17** with the first end **14** supported above the construction substrate **13**, floor, and held in place by gravity as is seen in FIG. 6, there can be provided one of the adapters **30** to maintain position of the spotter bit **10** in the case where the second end **16** extends upward, e.g., through a ceiling hole **12** and insulation **21** between trusses **23** as seen in FIG. 7. In this regard, the adapter **30** has a central opening **32** for receiving the second end **16** of the spotter bit **10** and includes arms **33** which extend through the hole **12**, and a base **34** which abuts the construction substrate **13**. The base **34** can include a retainer **35**, such as a magnetic surface, to aid in holding the first end **14** of the spotter bit **10**. When the arms **33** are extended through the hole **12**, and second end **16** of the spotter bit **10** is pushed through the adapter **30**, the arms **33** move radially outward to frictionally retain the adapter **30** and spotter bit **10** in place.

[0031] While the description above discloses preferred embodiments of the present invention, it is contemplated that numerous variations and modifications of the invention are possible and are considered to be within the scope of the claims that follow.

Claims

1. A spotter bit for use with a hole of a predetermined diameter D extending through a construction substrate having a thickness T, which includes: a first end configured to be positionably disposed against the construction substrate and a second end extending from said first end and is elongated and has a diameter D' less than the hole diameter D and a length L longer than the thickness T of the construction substrate and extending beyond a surface of the construction substrate when said second end extends through the hole and said first end abuts the construction substrate, and wherein said second end is configured to illuminate.
2. The spotter bit of claim 1, wherein said first end is equipped with a housing made of one of metal and plastic having operably disposed therein a power source which operably connects to said second end in a manner to deliver power thereto to cause illumination thereof.
3. The spotter bit of claim 2, wherein said power source includes a rechargeable battery.
4. The spotter bit of claim 1, wherein said first end includes an on/off switch to control illumination of said second end.
5. The spotter bit of claim 1, wherein said first end of said spotter bit includes an audible sound chip operably connected thereto to assist in emitting a sound for location.
6. The spotter bit of claim 1, wherein the construction substrate is further characterized to include one of a truss and joist connected thereto for support thereof and said second end is characterized such that length L is greater than the thickness T plus width W of said one of the truss and joist.
7. A spotter bit system for use in locating a plurality of holes in a construction substrate, which

includes: a plurality of spotter bits, each spotter bit for use with a hole of a predetermined diameter D extending through a construction substrate having a thickness T and has a first end configured to be positionably disposed against the construction substrate and a second end extending from the first end and is elongated and has a diameter D' less than the hole diameter D and a length L longer than the thickness T of the construction substrate and extending beyond a surface of the construction substrate when said second end extends through the hole and said first end abuts the construction substrate, and wherein said second end is configured to illuminate.

8. The spotter bit system of claim 7, wherein each said spotter bit is characterized such that said first end is equipped with a housing made of one of metal and plastic having operably disposed therein a power source which operably connects to said second end in a manner to deliver power thereto to cause illumination thereof.

9. The spotter bit system of claim 8, wherein each said spotter bit is characterized such that said power source includes a rechargeable battery.

10. The spotter bit system of claim 7, wherein each said spotter bit is characterized such that said first end includes an on/off switch to control illumination of said second end.

11. The spotter bit system of claim 7, wherein each said spotter bit is characterized such that said first end of said spotter bit includes an audible sound chip operably connected thereto to assist in emitting a sound for location.

12. The spotter bit system of claim 7, wherein each said spotter bit is characterized such that the construction substrate is further characterized to include one of a truss and joist connected thereto for support thereof and said second end is characterized such that length L is greater than the thickness T plus width W of said one of the truss and joist.
