

# A.H. Harris Expands Concrete Forming Capability With Introduction of Two New Clamp Systems Manufactured by Universal

New Harris 1500 and Harris 2200 Clamp Systems—developed by A.H. Harris and manufactured in the U.S. by Universal Building Products—further cements Harris as the dominant distributor of concrete formwork and shoring systems in the U.S.

(Newington, CT and Chicago, IL) Already the largest concrete forming, shoring and accessory distributor in the Northeast and Southeast, A.H. Harris & Sons announced that it has partnered with Chicago-based Universal Building Products (UBP) to deepen their product line even further. The two new clamp-type concrete forming systems are dubbed the Harris 1500 and Harris 2200, named for their co-designer, exclusivity and high forming capacity.

According to Shane O’Kelly, President and CEO of A.H. Harris and Sons, “We are especially pleased with the addition of these breakthrough products to our sales and rental fleet. These clearly are the fastest concrete forming systems available anywhere, providing contractors with dramatic productivity and cost improvements over any European or domestic systems.”

“Adding to our decision, the fact that these products are manufactured in the U.S. from recycled and sustainable materials is vital to our efforts to provide building owners and contractors with products that can help their projects qualify for LEED credits,” O’Kelly continued. The Harris 1500 and 2200 systems and accessories will be stocked in Harris’ six regional mega distribution centers and be available for rental or purchase at all 42 branch locations.

Harris 1500 Features. The industry’s lightest, fastest and strongest hand set forming system in feet and inches. This break thru panel design has no top or bottom, so it can be installed in either direction, and requires only one hammer strike to properly align the panel joint. It is based on a sturdy galvanized steel frame that is reinforced with cast corner blocks. The panels come in five different heights and are outfitted with climbing rods to ensure jobsite personnel safety. The face sheet is 9-ply Xact2Form premium birch panels for an exceptionally smooth concrete surface.

Harris 2200 Features. The industry's only crane set clamp system with 2200 PSF Rating in feet and inches. This break thru panel design features an open channel tie box system. The American philosophy of consistent horizontal cross member orientation makes clamp and tie placement repetitive and productive. "Bigger is Better" (and faster!), and with this new system you have your choice of multiple large panel sizes and a lifting bracket that can pick 4,400 Pounds. Finally, the ability to place one-sided walls without frame support provides added flexibility on the jobsite. The facing of the Harris 2200 is a special 14-ply Xact2Form premium birch panel that provides exceptional durability and even finish.

"Product enhancements exclusive for A.H. Harris were jointly developed by teams from both organizations with additional input from contractors, architects, engineers and other industry professionals," according to Ray Bartholomae, Vice President and General Manager for Universal. "This is a multi-million program for A.H. Harris, beginning with an initial 200,000 sq. ft., plus corner brackets, clamps and other accessories. Although that is a huge stocking order, given Harris' size, capability and dominance throughout the entire eastern part of the United States, both organizations anticipate that this is just a small beginning."

"These dramatically-productive new products provide contractors that require heavy forming capability with the industry's lightest, fastest and strongest concrete forming systems and complete accessories to meet the needs of the most complex and challenging forming requirements," summed up Mark Grace, Formwork and Shoring Division Manager for A.H. Harris.

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About A.H. Harris. A.H. Harris & Sons is the nation's premier construction supply distributor. Beginning in 1916, the company now covers the Northeast and Southeast from Bangor, Maine to Charlotte, North Carolina with 42 branches and six distribution centers. They have multiple locations in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Further expansion is planned in the Southeast in particular. The company is headquartered in Newington, CT.

About Universal Building Products. Universal is the world's only concrete form manufacturer with in-house roll forming and galvanizing capability. UBP's Chicago facility is the largest U.S.-based multi-product concrete accessory manufacturing plant with over 500,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and distribution capacity. They also have several custom steel form and construction chemical manufacturing plants in the U.S., making them the largest domestic manufacturer of concrete forming products and accessories.