

Introducing...

You'd been asking for information on products. So here it is. But the products described below are not endorsed by the editorial staff of NEB, nor warranted by us to perform as claimed or implied. They are merely a selection of the new or old, useful or frivolous, innovative, odd, or curious. They are presented here because they caught our attention, and we thought you'd want to know about them.

Fits in Your Pocket



The Sun Mic fits readily in your pocket.

Accurate solar site analysis equipment has been notoriously expensive, cumbersome, fragile, and time-consuming. Rather than deal with the hassle, most builders and designers would "wing" it. But no more excuses, folks, because according to its manufacturer, the Sun Mic is convenient and precise. What's more, they claim it will outlast its more delicate (and more expensive) predecessors. Costs \$64.95. For more information, contact Sundance Solar, 24 Dickens Circle, Salinas, CA 93901; 408/422-2000.

Elegant Efficiency



With a net efficiency of 65.6 percent, the BIS compares with controlled-combustion stoves.

Zero-clearance fireplaces are now all the rage. (See article on the subject in this issue.) What makes this model stand out is a high efficiency rating—65.6 percent. Compare that with most airtight woodstoves, which tend to rate at 72 to 75 percent, and most fireplace inserts, which tend to rate at less than 50 percent. Its manufacturers also boast of a low emission rating of 4.5 gr/h—that beats the strict standards set by the Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. One reason for its efficiency is that, in addition to the controlled combustion chamber, the fireplace includes a heat exchanger to recover heat generated in the combustion chamber, returning it through two hot-air vents. For more information, contact the Marketing Coordinator Louise Couto at Security Chimneys Ltd., 2125 Monterey Street, Laval, Quebec H7L 3T6; 514/337-3387. (N.E. Dist.: Higgins Energy Alternatives, Route 122, Barre MA 01005; 617/335-2712)

Warm Floors



Wirbo's underfloor heating system features Wirbo-PEX, a new type of crosslinked polyethylene tubing. You can cut it, bend it, and connect it easily.

In 60 A.D., the Romans realized that heat rises and put the theory to work for them. Most heating systems recognize the principle, some do it better than others. Systems which heat the floor, like Wirbo's underfloor heating system, probably take the principle most seriously. Developed in Sweden, there are over 300,000 installations of the system in Europe. For the homeowner, the system promises comfortable, even heat without drafts, noise or floor obstructions; for the contractor it promises easy installation, in both concrete slabs and conventional wood floors. For more information, contact Wirbo Company, Box 2025, Rockford, Illinois 61111; 815/282-1141; telex 206363. (N.E. Dist.: Earthstar Energy Systems, P.O. Box 626, Waldoboro, ME 04572; 207/832-6861)

Putting it All Together



With the new Vent-Aire ECS40 series, you get integrated heating, cooling and heat recovery ventilation.

HVAC will never be the same. The new Vent-Aire ECS40 provides heating, cooling, and heat recovery ventilation, all in a single box. And it looks like a furnace. This last feature is a plus for energy-conscious builders who have had trouble trying to convince reluctant homeowners that that "funny" thing hanging from the ceiling could actually heat their home, or that they should install five components instead of one conventional furnace. Nobody's found any flaw yet in the new system, (it's really too soon to tell) but even if there are any bugs in it, its manufacturer has a reputation for responsiveness to criticism from the field. For more information on the system and other options available With it, contact Energy Development, Inc., 4850 Northpark Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 303/599-9080.