Thermostat Upgrade

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.



Some feel that "smart" electronics can be stupid at times, but if you're convinced that electronic controls are the way to go, look at the Comfort Manager 100. It is designed as an upgrade for round, mechanical thermostats. By unscrewing the old thermostat, and attaching the Comfort Manager 100 to the existing round baseplate, the old thermostat can be transformed into a programmable, electronic model. For more information, contact Quad Six, Inc., 3753 Plaza Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104; 313/663-6666.

Quick Curve



Not auite instantaneous, but if manufacturer's claims are accurateand they probably are, because the product was designed by a drywall contractor-Insta-Arch could be the solution for a tricky modeling job. Turning a rectangular doorway into an archway could become a short 15 minute job, according to Fiberglass Plus. The prefabricated arch, which comes in five sizes, including one for 2x6 walls, eliminates the need to construct the arch with framing material, wallboard, and corner bead. For more information contact Fiberglass Plus, Inc., P.O. Box 218, Stratham Industrial Park, Stratham, NH 03885; 603/772-6133

Now You See it...



Now you don't. When closed, the Jomy Safety Ladder appears to be a normal drainpipe measuring only

4-1/4x4 inches. Designed for retrofit applications on apartments, offices, hotels, government buildings, and private homes, Jomy might be the solution in situations where access is limited or where flush mounting is not possible. For more information contact: Jomy Safety Ladder, 1873 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 303/594-4455.

Super Putty Stays Put



It doesn't shrink either. Poxywood works easy, repels water, sets fast, and looks like wood. Billed to make the lives of remodelers, carpenters, and cabinet makers easier, once dried, the stuff can be sawed, planed, drilled, or sanded. More information from Poxywood, Inc., P.O. Box 4241, Martinsville, Virginia 24115; 703/638-6284.

Steel Cover-up



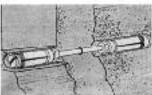
You can cover up old door frames with ReFrame, a steel replacement that installs directly over an existing wood frame. The replacement frame is constructed of 18-gauge galvanized, zinc-coated, rust-resistant steel, with 7-gauge steel hinge reinforcements, and according to the manufacturer, the installation requires no special tools. The company promises low initial cost, easy installation, security, and longevity. What more could you ask? For information contact Barton Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 6416, Dothan, AL 36302; 205/794-0661.

Instant Wall



Designed to cover concrete and cinder block, gypsum board, tile, plaster, paneling, and metal, Plaster In A Roll is a high-density gypsum-coated fabric. You apply the fabric with a special glue that not only adheres the fabric to the surface beneath, but crystallizes the gypsum into a hard fire-resistant finish. Faster plaster without the weave looks just like the old species of plaster, also comes on a roll. Both are made by Flexi-Wall, 101 Carolina Avenue, P.O. Box 88, Liberty, SC 29657; 803/855-0500.

Getting Stabilized



Any and all masonry facade stabilization problems are solved with Repair Anchors (above), Adhesive Anchors, and Panel Ties, according to manufacturer's reports. The anchor pictured above ties-in mechanically to solid or hollow backup. Adhesive anchors use a fast-setting adhesive, and Panel ties are used to lock veneer stone panels in place. For more information contact Dur-O-Wal, Inc., Restoration Products Division, P.O. Box 1054, Michigan City, IN 46360; 219/874-3626.

Limited Addition



For the fortunate few. A limited number of kits will be manufactured of this Victorian-era-like garden room. The design is among a number of classical arrangements by a company located in Sussex, England. Other designs include the Rectory, a gazebo variation on the English Garden Room featured above, and the Rotunda, another free-standing version, French-style. Obviously for the upper end market. For more information contact the stateside distributor: Newcroft Leisure Industries, Inc., 127 Airport Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601; 617/659-0512.