

NEB's pick
of curious,
interesting
and useful
products.

In Good Form

by Kate O'Brien



Don't re-invent the wheel. Business forms for builders and contractors have been worked out already by Home-Tech, Inc. The company offers forms for punch lists, invoices, time cards, sales leads, design/build proposals, and lots more. The forms and other business-management aids are listed in the catalog pictured above. Contact Home-Tech Publications, Inc. 5161 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20816; 1-800-638-8292 (In Maryland: 301-654-8380).

Advanced Communicators

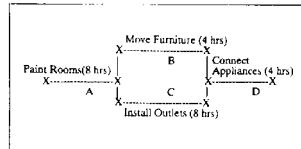


For those last-minute calls on the way to the bid. The Cellular Pocket Phone (upper) weighs 15 ounces, and continuously displays battery condition, volume setting, signal strength, and call duration. The mobile phone also features an electronic security lock, automatic redial, and a 99 telephone number memory. For info, contact Cellular One, 190 Second Avenue, Waltham, MA 02154; 617/890-1555.

Or, if you don't need the whole world at your fingertips, you could try Flexicom (lower) a talk-operated switch which improves the versatility of standard two-way radio systems,

and allows you hands-free Communications. Utilizing existing radio units, the operator can choose ear microphone, throat microphone and lightweight, heavy-duty or dual-muff noise protection headsets that plug into the Flexicom radio adapter. Manufactured by Controlonics, 49 Power Road, Westford, MA 01886; 617/692-5738.

Cheap Computer Control



Manage your projects without blowing your budget. PC Project Management (PCPM) is a computer "shareware" software package that uses the critical-path method (as displayed above) to help you plan projects. Runs on IBM PCs and compatibles and costs \$9. A *Guide to Project Management* is available at extra cost. No frills packaging and lack of middlemen keep the price down, but users are requested to send an additional voluntary donation if the package is useful. For information on this and other Shareware software packages, write to Softwhere?, P.O. Box 3336, Yuba City, CA 95992; 916-674-3688.

Builder's Phone Book



Links building professionals with local, regional, and national suppliers. Masterguide: The Official Buying and Specifying Directory of the American Institute of Architects, is really a specialized phone book designed for desktop reference. Organized with CSI format, the guide is divided into an AIA industry resource guide; an alphabetical listing of national manufacturers; and a classified section, listing suppliers within 17 product section. Also includes brand name, heading, and keyword indexes. One copy is free from PacTel Publishing, 590 Ygnacio Valley Rd., #300, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; 415-932-6300.

Stamp Out Crime



Permanently marking your tools to discourage thieves is simplified with U Mar Kit. The kit includes custom-made computer-generated stencils encoded with the identification mark you choose. The pressure sensitive stencils produce characters in the form of a series of 1/2-inch high "hi-tech" dots and come with a peelable split backing. The labels are disposable, but can be reused several times. Contact U Mar Kit Inc., Suite 160-5, 900 N. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton, FL 33032.

Affordable Calculation



Pocketsized, and solar-powered, Inch+ is the thrifty man's alternative to other more sophisticated inch-foot calculators. Basically a standard calculator that comes with a plastic conversion chart. Costs about as much as a good tape measure. For more information, contact Aspen Inchware Corp., Box 3203, Aspen, CO 81611; 303/925-3734.