

Stable Stapling

by Kate O'Brien



No more splitting or marring wood floors. The MarkIII Pneumatic Floor Stapler automatically positions and drives 1½-inch or 2-inch coated staples at the proper angle and depth for hardwood strip floors. Setting the machine squarely against the work correctly aligns the angle of the staple. Tapping the top of the stapler with a mallet activates the driving mechanism. An adjustable bumper controls the depth of staple penetration. For more information, contact Stanley-Bostitch, Inc., East Greenwich, R.I. 02818; 401/884-2500.

Curved Corners



Steel cornerbead offers softer look.

The Bullnose cornerbead can be screwed, nailed, or glued to sections of drywall meeting at a corner to create a rounded look. The 7/8-inch flanges are then mudded over with regular joint compound, and the entire piece can be finished like the drywall, with paint or vinyl. The product is available in two sizes (standard ¾-inch radius, 90 degrees; and off-angle splayed bullnose, 135 degrees) and five lengths (from 6 to 10 feet). For more information, contact Clinch-On Products, Mounds View Business Park, 5201 Program Avenue, Mounds View, MN 55112; 800/523-4642, or 612/786-6024.

Handles With Care



Handles for the handicapped don't have to look ugly. The Desipro ("Designs in Progress") series is being developed to help the disabled operate door and window handles. The door handles shown are the first of the series and vary in shape, depending on the type of hand dysfunction they are designed for. They come in a variety of colors and materials, and are intended for residential, office, and health care facility use. For more information, contact Valli & Colombo (U.S.A.), Inc. at P.O. Box 245, Duarte, CA 91010; 800/423-7161 or 818/359-2569.



**Fancy
Fake
Molding**

Looks like solid oak, but works like pine. Oak Over is an oak-veneered jamb and molding product with a pine core. Besides cutting easily, it comes in 14-foot lengths, is pre-sanded, and offers more economy than solid oak. Contact Contact Lumber, 275 Duniway Center, 2525 S.W. First Ave., Portland, OR 97201; 503/228-7361.

Keeps You in Line



Battery-operated locator promises an end to hit-or-miss drilling. The Pin Point uses a separate transmitter and receiver to help locate two corresponding points on either side of structural components, such as walls, ceilings, and floors. The manufacturer promises accuracy within ¼ of an inch. Two nine-volt batteries are required. For more information, contact Micro-Trak, P.O. Box 3699, Mankato, MN 56002; 800/328-9613 (collect (507)/257-3600 in Minn.).

Wall Renewal



Repair drywall damage with ease.

Holes caused by door knobs, electrical box or fixture removal can be repaired with Holpatch Kit. Each kit contains material to fill a 4x4-inch hole ready for spackling, in thicknesses of drywall up to 1 inch, with instructions for a variety of hole types, and the sandpaper to finish the job. The adhesive-coated flexible backerboard does away with the need for wire mesh or messy newspaper. For more information, contact Cascade Development, 500 East Carson Plaza Drive, Suite 108; Carson, CA 90746; 213/516-7965.

How Wet Is It?



With this humidity tester, you can find out. The Environmental Humidity Sampler is simple: a tube with a non-toxic, moisture-absorbing material packed into the closed end. It was developed by BLP, an engineering

firm that needed it for its own work. Users (mostly researchers in the indoor air quality and energy fields) hang the tube in the area being measured, take the cap off, and mark the time. A week later, they recap the tube, mark the time, and send the sample back to BLP, who will analyze the samples. For really accurate results, several tubes are used in different locations. The tester is used to simply test for humidity, or for calibration purposes when other detectors that are humidity-sensitive—such as formaldehyde monitors—are being used. For more information contact BLP, 5370 Canotek Rd., Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1J 8X7; 613/748-3762.

Skillful Scraping



Sharp enough to shave with, the Pro Prep is the brainchild of a contractor with 40 years experience at paint removal: Its contoured handle is guaranteed for life, and comes with an assortment of three-sided stainless steel blades, including some designed to work around ornate trim. The tool is intended for use with a paint stripper or heat gun, but works well enough alone. Easy blade replacement adds to this tool's appeal. The product comes with a how-to manual of scraping tips. Contact Pro Prep at P.O. Box 19757, Portland, OR 97219; 800/255.4535 (503/245-1701 in Oregon).

Keeping Windows Trim



Trim Liberty, Andersen, and Marvin double-hung windows, without the fuss. The E-Z Trim Kit is a one-piece, pre-fabricated interior window molding, which comes pre-sized and pre-assembled. It requires no further cutting. After hanging the window, the kit is positioned and nailed. Contact Liberty Millwork, 12 Sting Bridge, Exeter, N.H. 03833; 800/422-0248 and 603/889-8078).