

# Crowning Touch

by Clayton DeKorne

The  
Journal's  
pick of  
curious,  
interesting  
and useful  
products.



**All-copper and brass weathervanes give rooftops a traditional touch.** The solid-brass directionals of Good Direction's Weathervanes can withstand high winds without bending. The full-bodied figures, however, are made of copper in the traditional way. Both materials will oxidize to a similar green color, though the brass may take a while longer. A large selection of figures – everything from pigs to cherubs – is available. And a choice of three mounting brackets – for flat roofs, ridges, and eaves – is offered. For more information, contact Good Directions, Inc., 24 Ardmore Road, Stamford, CT 06902; 800/346-7678.

## Active Ventilation



**Two roof vents actively draw air out,** yet they won't let the elements in. The Shingle Vent (top) is a low-profile ridge vent with a wind baffle that deflects wind over the ridge. This creates a negative air pressure, which pulls air out of an attic. The baffle keeps blowing rain and snow from

entering the attic, as well. The Shingle Vent is made of linear polyethylene that can be bent to a smooth arc over the ridge of roofs with up to a 16:12 pitch. The vent can be capped with shingles by simply nailing through the vent with 2-inch roofing nails. Or, if you prefer, it can be capped with tiles, shakes or metal roofing. For more information, contact Air Vent, Inc., 4801 N. Prospect Road, Peoria Heights, IL 61614; 309/688-5020.

For flat roofs, the Dunseal Solar Vac (bottom) uses a photovoltaic cell to run a small fan in a roof-mounted vent. The manufacturer claims the fan will operate at least nine hours a day for six months of the year based on average light conditions across North America. (The time will vary with the number of sunny days in an area.) When the fan is not running, it operates as a passive ventilator. Both the fan and the solar cell can be replaced without removing the ABS plastic housing that can be permanently mounted on the roof. For more information, contact Dunlop Construction Products, Inc., 2055 Flavelle Blvd. Sheridan Park, Mississauga, Ontario, CANADA L5K 1Z8; 416/823-8200.

## Rafter Framing Jig



**Throw away rafter tables and roof-framing formulas.** The Articulated Rafter Framing Jig holds an uncut rafter in place over a layout line on the wall plate. Adjustable slides allow it to be trued to plumb and moved to an exact location. Seat, cheek, and plumb cuts

can then be accurately scribed with a square and a level. The jig was designed by an old-time carpenter who has been continually called upon to frame in fancier and more complicated roofs. He claims that his jig is the fastest way he knows to lay out pattern rafters for complex roofs. It is ideal for one-man building teams like his own. The lightweight, aluminum-alloy jig can hold any dimension lumber up to 4 inches in width. For more information, contact Hip and Valley Enterprises, P.O. Box 15088, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

## Foil Flashing



**Self-adhesive material flashes curbs, endwalls, and other difficult roof details.** Flashband is a modified bitumen material made for flashing and repairing most roofing. Like other modified bitumens, it is very pliable and can be wrapped over difficult roof contours. The manufacturer claims the polyethylene and asphalt mass won't lose its bond or crystallize like butylene mastics and guarantees Flashband "will not curl, creep, sag or split" for ten years. The thermoplastic material is self sealing in temperatures above 40°F. Below this temperature, it seals down easily if heated lightly with a torch. Flashband has reportedly been used in Antarctica in this way. For more information, contact 3-E Corporation, P.O. Box 392, Moorestown, NJ 0805; 609/866-7600. ■