

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

Low-Flush Retrofit

by Clayton DeKorne



If a low-flush toilet breaks your client's budget, a conventional toilet can be retrofitted with a low-flush valve. The Econo-Flush twin-Valve is designed to replace the outlet valve in most toilet tanks. It has two valves. When the handle is depressed part way, one valve releases 1.5 gallons from the tank. Pushing the handle all the way down releases the full tank when needed. Except for the valve, no other hardware needs to be replaced. The suggested retail price for the Econo-Flush valve is \$39.95. For more information, contact Econo-Flush, P.O. Box 294, Skykomish, WA 98288; 206/677-2213.

Hardware Paradise



Looking for cabinet hardware? Outwater Industries specializes in plastic and its products include polypropylene hinge stock, inexpensive shelf track, steel molding, CD, VCR, record, and cassette holders, sliding door tracks, wiring grommets, screw cap covers...the list goes on. Outwater also has a good selection of steel and aluminum KD clips, latches, catches, connectors and wood knobs, edge banding, and trimstock. Their catalog should prove useful to any remodeler. Contact Outwater Plastic Industries, Inc., 4 Passaic St., WoodRidge, NJ 07075; 800/543-3217 or 201/472-1174 in N.J.

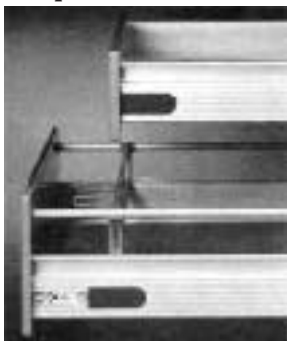
Home on the Range

Commercial-quality cooktops approved for residential use are avail-



able from Dynamic Cooking Systems, Inc. Electronic spark ignitions and insulated, double-wall construction make these ranges safe. They are approved by the American Gas Association for zero-clearance installation. Yet these stainless-steel cooktops feature porcelainized, cast-iron grates, 15,000 Btu burners, and a thermostatically controlled griddle and broiler just like any good restaurant stove. For more information, contact Dynamic Cooking Systems, Inc., 17802 Metzler Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647; 714/842-5661.

Simple Drawers



Cabinet drawers can be a lot easier to fabricate using Blum Metabox drawer hardware. The metal slides act as the sides of the drawer. All that's needed to complete a drawer is a 5/8-inch bottom and any front and back. A bracket is screwed to the inside face of the drawer front. To mount the front, the bracket clips into the sides and the front can then be adjusted in any direction with a screwdriver. Rails are available for deep drawers. For more information, contact Julius Blum, Inc., Blum Industrial Park, Hwy. 16-Lowesville, Stanley, NC 28164; 704/827-1345.

Quiet Fan



If a bathroom fan is noisy, chances are it won't be used and moisture problems may occur. Alternatives may be the Quiet Pack Air Handling System (Kanallflakt) or Quiet Fan (Therma-Stor Products). The fan in each product is housed in a double-walled sheet metal box with about an inch of insulation. The fans can be mounted along the exhaust duct, remote from the room, making them especially quiet. The Quiet Pack uses a high-speed motor that the manufacturer says is most efficient (and quiet) when installed near the exhaust end. Four sizes are available ranging from 135 to 1,230 cfm at 0.2-inch water gauge (w.g.). the largest size emits just 54 decibels at 10 feet from the inlet, which is little more than the sound of a quiet refrigerator. According to the manufacturer, all you really hear is the sound of the air moving through. For more information, contact RB Kanallflakt, 1121 Lewis Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237; 813/366-6505. The Quiet Fan is equally quiet. Its low-rpm blower has two speeds that draw 170 and 330 cfm at 0.2-inch w.g. For more information on the Quiet Fan, contact Therma-Stor Products Group, P.O. Box 8050, Madison, WI 53708; 800/533-7533.

Bath Environments



If the bathroom is your customer's life, American Standard has made it possible for that person to live there. With the Ambiance 2000 and 2500, one can call in to a pre-programmed control center to fill the tub to a set temperature and depth, dim the lights, and tune in to a favorite channel. Once in the bath, whirlpool settings, pool lights, room lights, stereo, TV, phone, intercom, front door lock, and security system all can be controlled from a floating, shock-resistant device. If the phone rings or the bather calls out, the music automatically turns off...and comes back on when the call is over. The 2000 includes all components except the TV. The 2500 includes a video monitor with the intercom, so the bather can know who's at the front door. With all of this, who would need to ever get out? The cost is about \$25,000. But for that price the manufacturer will send someone to advise on the installation. For more information, contact American Standard, 800/821-7700.

If, on the other hand, your customer is only concerned about water on the floor, a Drip-Strip may be a solution.



A Drip-Strip is a small, self-adhesive plastic rim that is stuck on to the corners of the tub to redirect drips and overspray. The 3-M adhesive on the strip is reportedly unaffected by hot water, shampoo, bath oil, or household cleansers. Drip-Strips sell for about \$7.50 and are available in a wide variety of colors. For more information, contact Germain Manufacturing, RR #5, Belleville, Ont. K8N 4Z5; 613/969-1214.