

Reroofing Video First Rate

Hometime Roofing Video with Peggy Knapp and Dean Johnson. Hometime Video Publishing, Inc., 6213 Bury Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346; 1987; 45 minutes; \$9.99, plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. Minnesota residents add 6% sales tax.

I have previously given high praise to Hometime videos featuring Peggy Knapp and Dean Johnson. As anyone who has seen them on TV knows, this series presents information in a clear, detailed, entertaining, and professionally produced manner. In this case the dynamic duo elucidate virtually every step in reroofing a house with asphalt shingles. My only real reservation about these tapes is that I have to endure the truck commercials interspersed throughout the program (and subtle plugs, such as the logo close-up as Ms. Knapp drives off to the site with a load of materials).



Otherwise, it's hard to say enough good about the Hometime tapes. In their competent and personable fashion, Knapp and Johnson begin by introducing the viewer to four roof styles with scaled-down models. A full-scale cutaway illustrates construction and basic terminology (eaves, rake, valley, etc.). Helpful tools such as the squangle and roof hatchet are also presented for novices to the trade. Then it's off to learn how to estimate materials (including waste allowance) and watch a tearoff set to music.

After a brief commercial message, it's on to repairing damaged sheathing, installing an ice shield along the eaves (useful and up-to-date info for builders in cold climates), and flashing chimneys, valleys, and vent stacks (remember to use compatible nails). The video goes on to cover roof jacks, cutting and staggering shingles, and laying out around dormers. Also covered are flat-plane installation methods, and how-to techniques on hips and ridges (by using pneumatic nailers or by the traditional hammer method).

Sometimes things moved a bit too fast, but this was easily remedied by "instant replay." Back in the shop, the program ends with a roof-over demo, and of course, another com-

mercial, plus a plug for the TV show (consult local listings). It is an excellent resource for novice roofers.

Framing Video Falls Short

Some time ago I gave Marshall Gross' *Roof Framing* book a glowing review in these pages. It remains one of the best references you can get on the subject. This video (part one of a two-part series) features the author explaining and demonstrating concepts from the book. For many people the video format may actually be easier to learn from than the written word. However, this particular tape doesn't fill the bill.

To begin with, Mr. Gross' eyes shift frequently around the studio instead of looking directly into the camera. He also seems to be unaware of which camera he is on, and he often talks for extended periods of time into the wrong one. This flaw may be forgivable in a "star" who is not at ease in front of a camera, but I found it quite distracting.

In addition, Mr. Gross' presentation is extremely difficult to follow on many points, despite the fact that I regard him as being exceptionally knowledgeable in his field and a lucid writer.

In the spirit of the times, and following the advice of his own book, Mr. Gross does most of his layout cal-

culations using trigonometry instead of a framing square. Unfortunately he doesn't define the basic trig functions (secant, cosine, etc.) before launching into intricate discussion of their use in framing; he refers viewers to the book instead.

By frequent recourse to the review button on the VCR, I was able to muddle through the description of calculating common rafter lengths, but I was still hampered by the fact that much of Mr. Gross' writing on the flip chart he uses for a prop was too small to be legible. And close-up shots of his pocket calculator were slightly out of focus and too dark to make out.

Another prop found in both the book and the video is the scale model. In this case, rafters are cut from 2x4s to fit a 3x5-foot scaled-down house frame. Mr. Gross advises that minimum rafter size should really be 2x6 (wisely so, as I can't think of many occasions when I'd want to use a 2x4 here in snowy Vermont), but he makes no reference to the role that span, load, or grade play in determining the correct size of structural members.

He also spends a good deal of time describing how to figure the HAP (height above plate) required for a birdsmouth cut, which would likely be irrelevant for anything bigger than a 2x6. Here again Mr. Gross completely lost me when he launched into a discussion of converting feet to inches on the calculator, and it was only after several replays that I realized he was no longer on the subject of HAP, but had gone back to figuring mathematical rafter lengths.

Up to this point I felt that by judicious use of both the book and the video I could probably learn how to cut common rafters for a straightforward gable roof. But by the end of the second half of the program, which covers cutting hip roofs, I felt as though Mr. Gross had been more-or-less talking to himself. I was having great difficulty concentrating on the material. I think much of the problem lies in the rather amateur quality of the video and Mr. Gross' dry presentation, and I would definitely see how far I could get with the book before springing for one or both videotapes.

—Paul Hanke

Free & Cheap

Understanding the Built-Up Roof: The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association has updated its *Guide to Preparing Built-Up Roofing Specifications*. Written for designers, specifiers, and applicators, the 18-page guide describes each component and its role in the built-up roofing (BUR) system. Issues such as quality of components, common design and specification pitfalls, and applicable codes and standards are covered. Reference information includes: member BUR systems manufacturers and products, material suppliers and standards organizations, industry associations, other BUR reference books, and available presentations and seminars. A glossary offers general technical language of built-up roofing. For a free copy, write to: ARMA, c/o Sumner Rider & Associates, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017; 212/661-5300.

FRT Roofs: Probs, Solutions: The National Association of Home Builders National Research Center publishes *Investigation of Problems and Solutions Relating to Fire Retardant Treated Plywood Roof Sheathing*. This 45-page report examines early deterioration of fire-retardant treated (FRT) plywood roof sheathing. The causes of this problem, as well as possible remedies, alternatives, and recommended actions are discussed. To order a copy, send \$5 to NAHB Technology and Codes Department, 15th & M Streets NW, Washington, DC 20005; 800/368-5242, ext. 300.

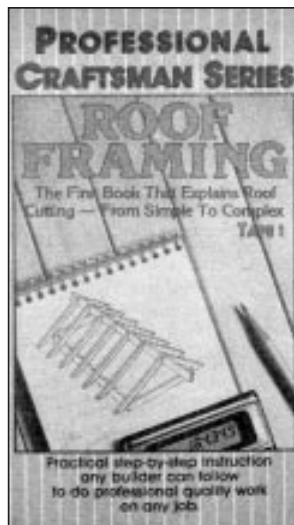
Standing Seams Only: *Standing Seam Metal Roofs: A Four Season Solution to Roof Problems & Maintenance*, is a free six-page brochure from the American Iron and Steel Institute that contains information on the cost-effectiveness of standing seam metal roofs. Two case studies compare the life-cycle costs of owning a metal roof with those of seven other roofing systems. The brochure also lists reference material for additional information. Write to: American Iron & Steel Institute, Suite 300, 133 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-2701; 312/372-7090.

Old House Bible: *The Sixth Old House Catalogue*, from Sterling/Main Street, is a where-to-get-it/how-to-do-it resource for restoring, decorating, and furnishing period dwellings. This 224-page catalog contains more than 2,500 listings of products and services—half include full descriptions, suppliers' addresses, availability of company literature, and product photos. *The Old House Catalogue* costs \$12.95 and can be ordered at bookstores. To order directly from the publisher, send \$14.45 to: Sterling/Main Street, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016-8810; 800/367-9292 (in N.Y., 212/532-7160).

Pollution Comes Indoors: *The Healthy House Catalog* is a 208-page directory of indoor pollution control products, services, and information, compiled by the Environmental Health Watch and the Housing Resource Center. A directory contains over 500 listings of products and services related to indoor pollution control ranging from "Air Filtration" to "Worker Protection." Twelve articles by experts in the field of indoor pollution control, include "Builder's Guide to Healthy Houses" and "Health Hazards of Remodeling." To order, send \$22.95 to Healthy House Catalog, 4115 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113; 800/222-9348.

"ReLeaf" for Trees: For builders interested in protecting trees on the job site, the American Forestry Association provides a free brochure called the *Global ReLeaf Action Guide*. A folder is available containing the brochure, articles, booklets, and information sheets outlining the benefits (to the environment and homeowners) of conserving trees. Also included is a list of additional resources, and the names and addresses of Global ReLeaf State Coordinators who can give technical assistance. To order, write the American Forestry Association, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013; 202/667-3300.

—Lauren Chapman



Video Roof Framing #1 with Marshall Gross. Craftsman Book Company/ATS, Box 6500, Carlsbad, CA 92008; 1989; 1 hour, 47 minutes; \$80.