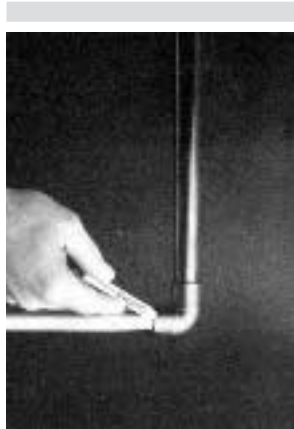


Testing For Lead in Old Plumbing

by Clayton DeKorne

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



Because lead in soldered plumbing joints can contaminate drinking water, codes now require solder containing less than 0.2% lead for domestic water lines. But this regulation hasn't been in place long and old plumbing can be a hazard. Plumbing joints can be checked for the presence of lead with *LeadCheck For Solder*. A test kit contains ten single-test swabs, which are each covered by a cardboard sleeve. Inside each sleeve are two glass vials containing a two-part test solution. To test a solder joint, the vials are crushed, turning the cotton swab yellow. When wiped over a solder joint, the solution will change to pink if any lead is present. A ten-pack *LeadCheck* kit costs about \$30. For more information, contact Engelhard Corporation, P.O. Box 1009, Mansfield, MA 02048-9973; 800/243-5472.

Gypsum Fiberboard



Gypsonite—a gypsum fiberboard—has been promoted in the U.S. for some time (see "Building Board From Abroad," *JLC*, 6/89) but is only now becoming available. *Gypsonite* is like a drywall "particleboard" made of gypsum and recycled-paper fibers. It is both stronger and denser than conventional drywall, and reportedly doesn't need taping. Instead it is finished with a bead of specialty caulk that is laid into a bevel at the joint. The slightly tapered edges are finished off with a sandable, adhesive-based compound. The finish compound reportedly shrinks very little so one coat is usually enough. According to a spokesperson for Furman Lumber Company which distributes *Gypsonite*, the finish compound is "not as sloppy as conventional joint compound and is slightly flexible, so corner joints are less likely to crack." Furman has experimented installing *Gypsonite* with a pneumatic stapler. They found that the pressure has to

be turned up to countersink the staples to permit finishing, but the staples have enough holding power to hang a ceiling. For more information, contact Furman Lumber, P.O. Box 130, Nutting Lake, MA 01865; 800/843-0963.

Invisible Drawer Slide



The *Delta ST 750* is a three-quarter extension, side-mount drawer slide that is not visible when the draw is extended. Instead of using a typical exposed drawer rail, the drawer is supported by four rollers. Steel corner brackets with vinyl-cushioned rollers support the back of the drawer; the front is supported by fixed rollers on a rail that is mounted on the interior of the cabinet. According to the manufacturer, the roller and case rail are no more difficult to install than conventional side-mount slides. In addition, the slide can be adjusted to take up the slack on either side of the drawer so the face won't be cocked if the case is slightly out of square. For more information, contact Delta Industries, 9530 Cozy-croft Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311; 800/238-3333.

Modular Millwork

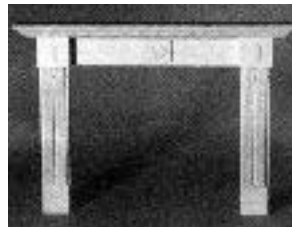
Built-up interior trim and ornate wood mantels can add a lot of time to a job—unless you use prefabricated woodwork. *SelecTrim* and *Modular Mantels* are two pre-cut component systems that simplify the installation of fancy woodwork.

SelecTrim is an option for trimming out light-commercial interiors where the decor needs to be changed periodically.



SelecTrim

cally. These hardwood moldings have pre-cut dados to accept an assortment of patterned inserts. The moldings can be screwed in place along the dados, and the inserts set in to cover the screw heads and dress up the profile. The manufacturer is working on a snap-in insert which would not need any additional fastening and could be removed to expose the screws. A variety of base, casing, and crown molding styles are available in oak, maple, cherry, and walnut. Exotics can be special ordered. For more information, contact The James Wood Company, P.O. Box 3547, Williamsport, PA 17701; 717/326-3662.



Modular Mantels

Modular Mantels are inexpensive mantel kits. According to the manufacturer, the mantels are adjustable to fit up to a 52x54-inch fireplace opening without much cutting and no mitering. The kit consists of an MDO or oak-veneered plywood base-plate, column boxes, and an assortment of solid poplar or oak moldings and carvings. Four mantel styles are available. Paint-grade mantels cost about \$200, the oak-veneered ones are about \$300. For more information, contact S&S Wood Specialties, Inc., P.O. Box 1188, Westbrook, ME 04092; 800/242-9663. ■