

Weatherproof Ridge Vent

by Clayton DeKorne

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

The *Shingle-Over Ridge Vent* is another of the new breed of low-profile plastic ridge vents that can be nailed through and shingled over. This one is distinguished by a series of overlapping internal baffles

that provide support and ensure against weather infiltration. This

should keep the vent from being broken by a careless step in cold weather, and stop blowing rain and snow, which are two problems experienced by builders with other brands. The vent also has an external baffle that deflects wind over the top to create a negative pressure and draw air out of the attic. Other features include an exterior grade closed-cell foam end cap, supported nail holes, and tabs for quick alignment when butting lengths together. The *Shingle-Over* is sold in 4-foot lengths, and is rated at 17 square inches of net free area per lineal foot. For more information, contact The Solar Group, P.O. Box 525, Taylorsville, MS 39168; 800/647-7063.

white and buff — are available, and because the material is colored throughout, touching up chipped panels will take less time. For more information, contact Domtar Gypsum, P.O. Box 543, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; 800/366-8274.

Rolled Corner Bead



Ever tried using that last mangled piece of drywall corner bead that's been kicking around the site? You might want to keep a box of *Pace-Setter Self-Adhesive Plastic Corner Bead* on hand instead. This corner bead comes in 8- and 25-foot rolls. It has two 1½-inch plastic flanges connected by a hinge-like "bead," and will conform easily to splayed outside and inside corners. This corner bead also has a self-adhesive backing that the manufacturer claims will hold the bead in place without nails "if the surface is clean," and they put a lot of emphasis on that "if." But it does lay up easily without buckling under the nails, so you don't have to worry about smacking the bead with your hammer. For more information, contact Goldblatt, P.O. Box 2334, Kansas City, KS 66110; 913/621-3010.

Upscale Suspended Ceiling



In the list of ceiling options, *Eurostone Ceiling Panels* fit somewhere between mineral-fiber ceiling panels and lath and plaster. The panels are molded in a variety of deep patterns made from a combination of volcanic perlite mixed with a china clay. Judging from a sample, Eurostone is much like a light ceramic; it is denser and about 20% heavier than mineral-fiber. Note that these are not "acoustic" tiles: the material's noise absorbing ability is slightly less than conventional ceiling panels, so these tiles probably wouldn't help to reduce the noise level in a crowded office. On the other hand, the sound transmission levels are slightly better than regular panels. These panels are also more fire resistant than conventional panels. And they have some insulation value; they are rated at R-4. You will pay for the added quality and elegance of the ceiling — about \$1.30 to \$1.60 per square foot. Two colors —

Squeak Fixer



This simple adjustable bracket may be worth taking along the next time you get called back for a squeaky floor. The *Squeakender* consists of two parts — a square anchor plate with a long carriage bolt fixed to it, and a joist bracket that slips under the joist and through the bolt. When the nut on the carriage bolt is tightened down, the joist and subfloor are pulled together. The *Squeakender* retails for about \$10. For more information, contact E&E Engineering, 11941 Harper Ave., Detroit, MI 48213; 313/371-2000. ■