

Gun-Compatible Framing Anchors

by Clayton DeKorne

At last there are framing anchors you can nail off with an air nailer.

Advanced Connector Systems (ACS) offers a full line of hangers, strap ties, hurricane clips, and tension bracing. The nail holes in the connectors have a raised embossment that fits into a special tip on a nail gun.

As with other framing connectors, special common-wire nails are required. ACS offers the special tip and collated nail strips for Hitachi, Halstead, and Bostitch nailers, and is reportedly working with the other major nail gun manufacturers, as well.



The connectors are ICBO approved; BOCA and SBCCI approval is pending. For more information, contact Advanced Connector Systems, 3335 East Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040; 602/243-5161.

No Sag Drywall



USG has recently introduced a 1/2-inch sag-resistant drywall — *Sheetrock Ceiling Board* — similar to *Domtar CD Ceiling Board* (see "For What It's Worth," 7/90). The ceiling boards are reportedly as stiff as 5/8-inch drywall, but as light as conventional 1/2-inch material. USG would not tell us how their board is made, except to say it has a "specially formulated core." Domtar has a three-layer

"controlled density" core. The gypsum near each face is concentrated to increase the board's strength. Both 1/2-inch ceiling boards are designed for 24-inch on-center framing, where extra insulation is required, or where the moisture in heavy-textured finishes might weaken ordinary drywall. For more information, contact United States Gypsum, 101 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, 800/621-9622; or Domtar Gypsum, P.O. Box 543, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 800/366-8274.

Lightweight Insulated Blocks



Faswall Forms are dry-stack concrete blocks made with portland

cement and wood chips. The southern yellow pine "pinchips" are treated with minerals in a process the manufacturer compares to the formation of petrified wood. The process reportedly renders the chips rot-proof and fire-proof. The blocks are lightweight — about one-third the weight of ordinary concrete blocks — and have good insulation value. According to the manufacturer, a 9-inch-thick wall filled with ordinary concrete has an insulation value of about R-11. Blocks measure 9-inches-thick by 1-foot-high, and are available in 1-foot and 3-foot lengths. Material costs run about \$1.30 per square foot. For more information, contact Faswall Concrete Systems, 1676 Nixon Rd., Augusta, GA 30906; 404/793-8880.

Backdraft-Safe Chimney Cap



The *Aerocowl* is designed to enhance airflow across the top of a chimney and draw out flue gases. According to the designer, as wind blows across the cap, the two lower vanes direct air away from the chimney opening to prevent blow-back. In addition, the wind is directed over a central aerofoil, shaped like an airplane wing, which creates a slight negative pressure near the flue opening to draw exhaust gases out. The *Aerocowl* is available in stainless steel or aluminum in 6-, 9-, 12-, and 18-inch diameters to fit a variety of round and rectangular vents and chimneys. For more information, contact Z-Flex

Inc., P.O. Box 4035, Manchester, NH 03108; 800/654-5600.

Flame-Retardant Paint



Ocean Coatings is one of several companies that manufactures a line of fire-retardant coatings, including latex, enamel, and epoxy paints, polyurethane varnishes, and exterior clear finishes. These coatings are classified as "intumescent coatings," which are often specified in schools and hospitals where Class A fire-rated finishes are required. When exposed to heat and open flames, intumescent paints will swell, forming a foamy crust that insulates the wall from heat and stifles the flame. According to the manufacturer, the crust can often just be scraped off and recoated, if the fire hasn't been too extensive. For more information, contact Ocean Coatings, 5364 Pan American Freeway, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109; 800/634-5030.

Clarification

In "For What It's Worth" (4/91), we reported that Comply — a veneer-faced particleboard panel — would be a suitable underlayment for resilient flooring. However, the manufacturer, Oregon Strand Board, strongly discourages the use of Comply beneath resilient flooring because the red edge sealer on the board is dissolved by the floor mastic and can bleed through some vinyl floor coverings. ■