

## Joist Bay Heater

by Sal Alfano

A company famous for quality cast registers and grilles has teamed up with a hydronic heater manufacturer to produce an attractive way to get hot water heat to cold spots without using up wall space. The *In-Floor System* combines a Reggio Register grille with a Beacon-Morris



Twin-Flo II hydronic heating unit. The fin tube and squirrel cage fan are arranged at an angle in a sheet metal housing so that everything fits under the subfloor in a joist bay, either parallel or perpendicular to the joists. Air enters through the cast-iron or solid brass grille that comes with the heater, circulates around the fin tube, and is blown back into the room through the same grille. Depending on water temperature, the Model F42 can deliver between 2,500 and 5,000

Btus per hour; the larger Model F84 can deliver twice that amount, but only fits parallel to the joists. The small heater with a cast-iron grille retails for \$399.95, but contractor discounts are available. The company also offers a kick space heater and a recessed floor heater, both of which come with Reggio grilles. For ordering information, contact Reggio Register Company, 25 Central Ave., Ayer, MA 01432; 508/772-3493.

### Nesting Caulk Tips



How do you cut the tip of a caulking tube to the right size and angle? And how do you reseal the cartridge when the job's done? *Perfect Bead Caulk Tips* solve both problems. Packaged in groups of four, three of the plastic tips have a perfect 45-degree angle cut on the end and each produces a different bead size. To use the 1/2-inch tip, screw it onto the cartridge after cutting off the nozzle square (a cutout in the cardboard packaging acts as a guide). For a smaller bead, add the 1/4-inch tip, then the 1/8-inch tip to form a series of nested tips. The

fourth tip serves as a cap to keep unused caulk from drying out. A package of Caulk Tips retails for between \$1.59 and \$1.99 from Myro Inc., 8440 North 87th, Milwaukee, WI 53224; 800/222-6976.

### Layout Tape



If you're looking for ways to speed your framing layout, a roll of *Precision Carpenter's Layout Tape* may be just what you need. The clear, adhesive-backed tape has red and blue cross-hatch markings that correspond to 12-inch, 16-inch, 19.2-inch, or 24-inch framing

centers. In addition to speeding and reducing errors in wall framing, the 3/4-inch-wide by 60-yard-long rolls are especially useful for laying out floor joists on a long rim joist, or laying out a bank of common rafters on the top plate of a wall. A second kind of tape takes the place of a story pole when laying out siding. Called *Precision Carpenter's Siding Tape*, it has black hash markings spaced at three common weather exposures — 4 inches, 5 inches, and 6 inches. By skipping every other mark, it can also be used for exposures of 8 inches, 10 inches, and 12 inches. Both kinds of tape are reinforced with nylon filament to prevent stretching and cost about \$5 per roll. For more information, contact Sayre Enterprises, P.O. Box 2637, Anniston, AL 36202; 800/552-6064.

### Signs of the Times



Job signs are good marketing tools, and they don't have to cost an arm and a leg. The *Dee Sign Company* manufactures durable custom signs from a variety of materials at very affordable prices. For example, a minimum order of six 18x24, one-color hardboard signs, which should last from 12 to 18 months, costs just \$28.60 per sign. For an additional \$1.90 per sign, you can order fiberglass, steel, aluminum, or polyethylene signs, which will last even longer — at least 36 months, according to the company. The steel frames are included in the price and have a black or white baked enamel finish. They don't require bolts or screws to hold the signs and you can easily push the uprights into the ground by standing on the bottom rail. The company's in-house design department will take your design ideas, produce a full-size layout, and submit it to you for approval, all at no additional charge. For a catalog of the wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors available, contact Dee Sign

Company, 6163 Allen Rd., West Chester, OH 45069; 800/333-7446.

### Vested Interest



There was a time when I contemplated wearing a fishing vest on site to hold all the stuff I needed to carry around. These days, I'd use *Shop Pockets*. The shell is made of a lightweight mesh that lets you stay cool in the summer, but has an optional zippered insert that expands its size to fit over cold weather clothing. Two sewn-in nylon breast pockets will hold pens, pencils, and small tools, and you can use the area between each pocket and the mesh to store larger items, such as a tape measure, notebook, or flashlight. There are also four pairs of clips along the waist band that will hold removable accessory pockets of different sizes and shapes, two of which are supplied with the basic vest. Most of the accessory pockets have zippered tops to keep their contents from spilling out, as well as sleeves to hold small hand tools. About the only thing I don't like are the nylon fabric hammer loops. They're actually bigger and easier to use than most I've seen, but they're no substitute for a steel loop. The *Shop Pockets* vest retails for \$59.95 and additional accessory pockets cost between \$3 and \$10 each. For ordering information, contact Fantech, 1712 Northgate Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234; 800/487-9915. ■