FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Adjustable Door Frame

by Charles Wardell

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



The Adjust-A-Trim isn't the only adjustable steel door jamb on the market, but it's the only one that comes with a prehung door. Most steel frames have to be assembled on site; if you wanted a prehung steel door, you've always had to be satisfied with a wood frame. But the Adjust-A-Trim changes all that. The system comes in two pre-assembled halves. The base jamb is installed from the inside and is prehung with a 22- or 24-gauge galvanized steel, insulated door. The closure jamb slips in from the outside, its edge fitting into a channel in the base jamb that permits 1/2 inch of depth adjustment. Both jambs are fitted with nonremovable metal casings. The Adjust-A-Trim comes in sizes that fit walls from $4^{1/2}$ inches to 7 inches thick. The manufacturer is particularly interested in the lead abatement market: The system can be installed over existing hollow metal or wood frames and is designed to completely wrap the old frame.

The system is coated with a bakedon porcelain-like "Porcelpas" paint. It also includes built-in magnetic and compression weatherstripping, a twopiece thermal break threshold, an adjustable doorsweep, and a recess that accepts a standard screen door. The manufacturer claims that Adjust-A-Trim has a lower installed cost than a wood door with brick-mold casings. It's also supposedly easy enough for one person to install in 15 to 20 minutes. *Contact:* Benchmark Inquiry Dept., P.O. Box 7387, Fredericksburg, VA 22404; 800/467-2329.

Nonpigmented Grout

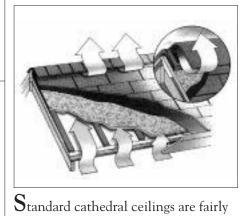


Dark grout colors like black and brown are popular for commercial tile installations and are even turning up in some homes. But the surface pores of certain tiles — pavers, unglazed ceramics, polished porcelains and some quarry tiles — tend to trap the color pigment during the grouting process. This "pigment stain" is hard to remove and usually requires chemical or acid-type solvents that can damage both the tile and the grout.

A simple solution is *Latapoxy Black* Onyx. This 100% epoxy grout contains no pigment — the color is in the grout aggregate — so it cleans up fast and easy with cool water. The grout is both stable and chemical-resistant, making it perfect for high-traffic areas like kitchens and entryways. It comes in seven assorted colors, including red, brown, gray and black.

Contact: Laticrete International Inc., One Laticrete Park North, Bethany, CT 06525; 800/243-4788.

Prefab Roof Deck



simple to vent: Install continuous ridge and soffit vents, staple ventilation chutes between the rafters, and insulate the cavities. Exposed-beam cathedral ceilings, however, are a different story. They usually require you to install rigid foam over the roof deck, put a layer of vertical battens over the insulation (to create ventilation channels between the soffit and ridge vent), then nail a second roof deck over the battens, Celo-Vent panels make the process less laborintensive by letting you do all this in one step. The panels measure 4 feet by 8 feet. From top to bottom, they consist of a shingle deck of 1/2-inchthick oriented strand board, a layer of 3-inch-wide fiberboard battens, and a sheet of polyisocyanurate foam. The bottom of the foam is protected by an organic facing material with fiberglass filaments. The panels are fastened through the roof sheathing to the underlying rafters with nails or screws. Celo-Vent is available in four thick-

Contact: Celotex Corp., P.O. Box 31602, Tampa, FL 33631; 813/873-1700.

nesses from 2 inches to 41/2 inches

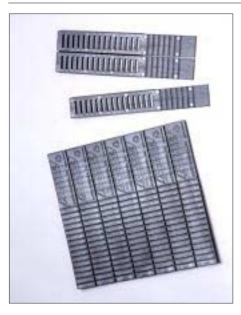
with insulation values from R-6 to

R-25.8. A 4-inch-thick R-21 panel

Plastic Door Shim

costs approximately \$48.

What makes EZ-Shim different from other plastic shims is that it's designed with the door installer in mind. EZ-Shims are made of 100% recycled plastics and measure 11/4 inches by 8 inches each. The manufacturer has precut a series of break points into the surface.



Once in place, a simple tap of the hammer snaps the shim at one of these break points, leaving it perfectly trimmed. Each sheet of ten EZ-Shims is scored so you can separate either a single shim or break off two or more together when you need a wide shim. The retail price is \$1.29 per sheet of ten.

Contact: EZ-Shim, Inc., 123 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101; 800/788-8945.

Flexible Moldings



Trimming arched windows and other curved architectural features is a breeze with *flexible moldings*. These polymer products resemble traditional wood moldings, but handle like dense rubber. You can bend them around a fairly tight radius — though just how tight depends on the molding's width,

thickness, and profile. They can be nailed, drilled, cut, fastened, and glued like wood. The plastic moldings are impervious to rusting, cracking, and other forms of decay, so you can use them inside or outside. Manufacturers offer standard profiles and can also fill custom orders.

Contact: Zago Manufacturing Co. Inc., 240 M.L. King Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102; 201/643-6700.

The Crowning Touch Inc., 8902 Rosehill Rd., Lenexa, KS 66215; 800/444-0462.

Flex Trim Industries Inc., P.O. Box 4227, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730; 800/356-9060.

Reversible Kitchen Sink



Swanstone solid surfacing now offers an Adaptable Double-Bowl Kitchen Sink that can be mounted beneath or on top of the counter, and with the drain board on the right or the left. Either way the sink is installed, it readily accepts faucet hardware.

The 20x393/8-inch sink is constructed from a stain and impact-resistant solid surfacing material that's easily repaired if scratched or gouged. It comes in 18 colors and with a 10-year limited warranty. Available accessories include a cutting board, a plastic colander, and a wire utility basket.

Contact: Swanstone, Dept. 269, One City Centre, St. Louis, MO 63101; 314/231-8148. ■