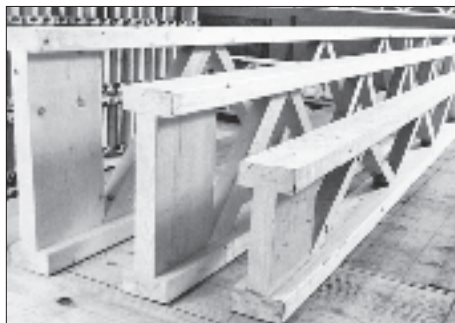


# Trimnable Trusses

by Charles Wardell



**B**uilders who use parallel-chord floor trusses praise the fact that they let you run all your mechanicals without cutting holes, but complain that trusses can't be trimmed to fit. The *Open Joist 2000* offers the best of both worlds. Like other trusses, the Open Joist comes in long lengths (up to 30 feet in 1-foot increments), but you can cut a total of 11 inches off of the overall length by trimming the solid web blocking on each end. And because the Open Joist's graded lumber is finger-jointed using a waterproof, resorcinol glue, it costs 25% less than trusses made from stress-rated lumber and steel plates. (Machine-stress-rated lumber is available for longer spans.) The design doesn't compromise strength: The manufacturer claims that the individually tested joists will span farther than standard floor trusses of equivalent size. The Open Joist 2000 has a built-in camber, and comes in depths of 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, 13, and 16 inches. The manufacturer has obtained code approvals from BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI.

**Contact:** Open Joist 2000 Inc., P.O. Box 2778, Plattsburg, NY 12901; 800/263-7265.

## From Blue Jeans to Batts

**A** blue-jeans and T-shirt manufacturer has figured out what to do with the thousands of tons of apparel scraps that its 18 mills generate each year. Instead of sending the scraps to the dump, the company now grinds them up, mixes

them with polyester fibers, and sells the finished product as insulation. *Greenwood Cotton Insulation* is available



as a loose-fill blowing insulation for attics, and as traditional paper-faced batts. The material looks and feels like dryer lint, but insulates as well as fiberglass, doesn't cause itching, and requires no protective clothing or breathing devices during installation. The cotton insulation has code approval from SBCCI.

**Contact:** Greenwood Cotton Insulation, P.O. Box 1017, Greenwood, SC 29648; 800/546-1332.

## Clip-On Backsplash



**T**he *Smart Clip* system is one of the slickest ways I've seen for fastening a laminate backsplash to a countertop. The system consists of a special router bit, a metal template, a setting tool, some 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch screws, and plastic *Smart*

**Clips.** Use the router bit to carve a channel in the back of the backsplash, stopping 1½ inches from each end. After marking the screw holes at 12-inch intervals with the template, chuck the setting tool into a drill to set the screws. Next, lay the backsplash on the counter and transfer the screw locations to the surface of the countertop. Screw the clips to the countertop, butting them against the back wall. Finally, run a bead of caulk the entire length of the counter in front of the clips, and drive the backsplash in place with a hammer and a wood block. No glue, braces, or clamps are needed. The backsplash follows the wall contour, and it won't separate from the countertop, even if the cabinet settles.

The clips cost about 31¢ each; the three mounting tools (including the router bit, the spacing bar, and the screw-depth gauge) sell for around \$70.

**Contact:** D&K Sales, 12972 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48150; 800/637-2250.

### Vent-Pipe Retrofit



**W**ith the *Kozy Kollar*, you can flash vent-pipe penetrations without ever setting foot on the roof. The *Kozy Kollar* consists of a 1/8-inch-thick steel frame, and a heavy rubber gasket and boot. Working from inside the attic, use the supplied template and a reciprocating saw to cut a hole in the

roof sheathing and shingles. After reaching through the hole to position the one-piece gasket-boot assembly on the roofing, place the mounting plates over the edges of the hole and tighten the nuts from inside. The clamping action of the plates forces the gasket to conform to the irregular surfaces of both conventional and architectural shingles. The boot diverts water around the opening, while the gasket shuns any moisture that does get through. The device is designed for roofs with pitches from 2/12 to 14/12, and will accept a 3-inch vent pipe. List price is \$52.

**Contact:** Kozy Kollar Manufacturing Inc., 9 Tinkham Ave., Derry, NH 03038; 603/432-0887.

### Textured Drywall Patch



**I**f you've ever had to patch a hole where a doorknob punctured a textured wall, you'll appreciate *Plug-A-Hole*. To use the pretextured drywall patch, first draw two circles on the wall, one on the inside of the circle template that comes with the kit, and one on the outside. Using a utility knife, cut all the way through the inner circle, but cut only through the paper on the outer circle. Spread joint compound (also provided) around the back edges of the patch and insert the patch into the hole. No further taping is required — just paint the patch to match the wall.

**Contact:** Professional Drywallers, 7802 E. Kimsey Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85275; 602/994-0313. ■