

Zap Me Some Glue!

by Bill Brockway



I always found plenty of uses for a hot-melt glue gun on site, but also got tired of dealing with one more tool to plug in and lug around. This new product from Loctite may solve the problem for the occasional user. Called *House Works Microwave Energized Glue*, all it takes is three or four minutes on high in the microwave to melt this glue to the right consistency. It will remain liquid for about 10 minutes. If the glue starts to set up in the tube, just pop it back into the microwave and heat it again. The manufacturer claims the stuff is nontoxic and that the tube is "splatterproof" — you won't end up scouring the inside of your client's microwave. (Of course, all this assumes that you have easy access to a microwave at your work site.) Each tube sells for around \$4 and holds about 1/4 ounce of glue, but a little goes a long way.

Contact: Loctite Corp., 1001 Trout Brook Crossing, Rocky Hill, CT 06067; 800/321-9188.

Help for Hard Water

Hard water can be rough on plumbing fixtures. The excess wear it causes on seats and washers can cause leaks in some fairly new faucets. Gerber is fighting back with *Hardwater Faucets*, a new line of single-handle faucets for kitchens, baths, and showers that use a

ceramic disk cartridge to regulate the water flow. Ceramics resist damage from hard water better than the stainless steel or plastic cartridges that some faucets have, according to the manufacturer. They feature pressure-balanced valves



and carry a lifetime warranty against leaks and drips. The solid brass fixtures come with 1/2-inch straight copper supply pipes. Prices vary.

Contact: Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Corp., 4656 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; 708/675-6570.

Easy Hauling

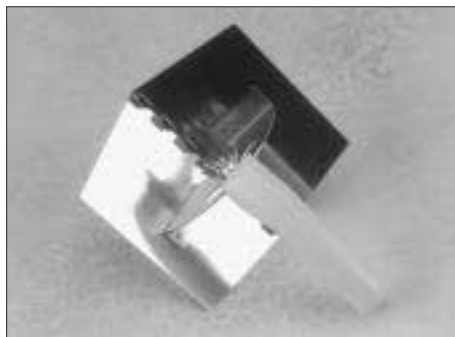


Valley Manufacturing has introduced anew trailer that can carry and dump up to 2,500 pounds of payload. The dumping action is powered by a key-controlled 12-volt hydraulic system with an on-board battery — so it will work even when detached from the towing vehicle. The *EZ-Dumper Trailer* tows on a standard bumper hitch, has a 5x8 bed, and includes the wiring hookup for taillights. They come with or without trailer brakes

and sell for \$2,495.

Contact: Valley Manufacturing, P.O. Box 70, Waynesboro, PA 17268; 800/233-5532.

Adjustable Corner Trowel



Corner trowels are great tools, but it's not unusual for two surfaces to meet at an angle greater than 90 degrees. If bending a trowel to fit or making two passes won't work, check out this new hinged corner trowel. The *Versa-Trowel* from Warner Manufacturing Co. adjusts from 89 degrees up to 150 degrees to handle joints between walls and cathedral ceilings, bay window joints, or anything else that's wider than a standard right angle. The wings are each three inches wide and the hinges are on the inside of the trowel where they won't leave any drag marks in the mud that might require extra sanding.

If you happen to drop it and ding up an edge, the handle comes off and reverses so you can use the other end of the angled wings. The *Versa-Trowel* sells for about \$32.

Contact: Warner Manufacturing Co., 13435 Industrial Park Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441; 800/444-0606.

New Air-Sealing Tape

A new product from UC Industries promises to help builders seal gaps and air-infiltration paths in the houses they build. Called *Bild-R-Tape*, it seals joints in foam panels, sheathing, around windows and doors, and between sheets of housewrap or vapor barrier. "It'll even patch up that place where you stuck your hammer through the Kraft-paper



facing on your wall insulation. The tape is 1⁷/₈ inches wide, and handles like that clear tape most mail-order houses use to seal boxes. It's UV-resistant, waterproof, and will stick to most surfaces even when temperatures drop down to -10°F. *Bild-R-Tape* sells for around \$2 per roll.

Contact: UC Industries, 3 Century Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054; 201/267-1605

Save Your Sole



Did you ever find a 16d nail the hard way — by stepping on its point in a pile of debris? Job sites abound with hazards like this, and contractors know that if you give disaster a chance to strike, it will. *Flex-Seal* boots offer a stainless steel plate built into the sole and optional *Super Guard* metatarsal protection for the instep. The boots are available in either 6- or 8-inch-high models in a variety of styles.

Contact: Florsheim Hy-Test, 130 S. Canal St., Chicago, IL 60606; 800/635-4536. ■