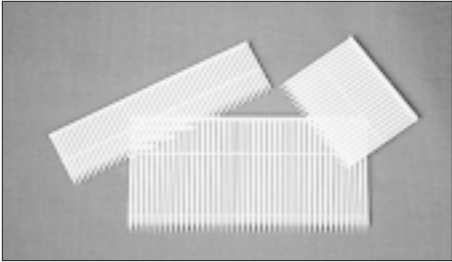


Plastic Nails

by Bill Brockway



They'll fit in your straight-magazine finish gun. They'll never rust. They weigh less than the nails you use now. Sound too good to be true? Not if you can get used to the idea of plastic nails. The surface of *Raptor Nails*, which are made of a glass/plastic composite material, actually heats up enough from the friction of being driven to fuse to the fibers of the wood.

Contractor Carl Hagstrom has blown through several cases of these nails in the past few months, so I asked him what he thought of them: "They're great. They don't have much shear strength, but they're almost impossible to pull out. They drive just like metal nails, though I think they tend to follow the grain more. They take paint well too, so they're almost invisible in the finished product."

Raptor nails are available in several colors to match different species of wood and won't damage your cutting tools if you happen to slice through them. The price runs a little higher than for galvanized nails, but less than for stainless steel.

Contact: Utility Composites, Raptor Nail Division, 3925 W. Braker Ln., Suite 427, Austin, TX 78759; 800/460-6933.

Roof Safety

OSHA's got you protected all around the edge of your roofing job, but what about some solid footing in the middle of the roof? *Roof Cleets* may be the answer. The zinc-plated L-brackets are

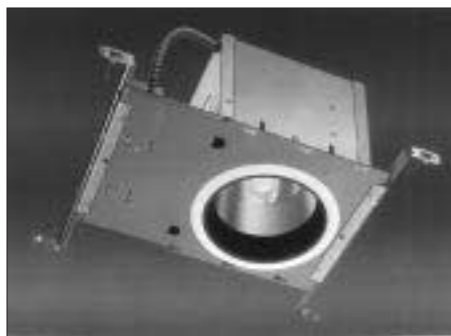
designed to slip under a shingle tab, and are held in place by two 16d nails. They're small and light enough that you can carry a half dozen in your back pocket, and install them as you work your way up the roof. Once in place, they'll hold bundles of shingles, keep air hoses out of the way, or give you a solid place to lay a footing board. To remove, just tap the bracket up, lift it off, drive the nails home, and let the



shingle tab cover them up. *Roof Cleets* sell for around \$20 per five-pack.

Contact: Cuppson Inc., P.O. Box 566, Feasterville, PA 19053; 215/945-0444.

Airtight Light



How can you keep moisture out of the attic when can lights essentially poke a hole in your air-and-moisture barrier? Juno Lighting has a new product to help — *Air-Loc IC* energy-efficient recessed lighting. The housing above the ceiling is sealed, and a peel-and-stick foil gasket ensures a no-leak

seal at the trim ring. The housing is also safe for direct contact with insulation. *Air-Loc* lights cost about \$30 each, depending on style and trim.

Contact: Juno Lighting, P.O. Box 5065, Des Plaines, IL 60017; 708/827-9880.

Better Eye Protection

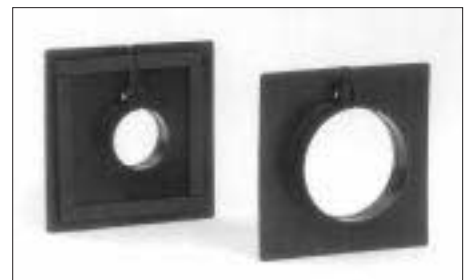
This new piece of protective eyewear from Uvex combines the comfort of glasses with the side protection and elastic headband of goggles. Because there is no temple piece hooked over your ear, the *Spoggle* fits easily under earmuffs, hard-hats, or face shields. A thick foam pad around the edge of the *Spoggle* conforms to your face and pro-



vides an excellent fit. The new eyewear sells for under \$5 a pair.

Contact: Uvex Safety, 10 Thurber Blvd., Smithfield, RI 02917; 800/343-3411.

Penetration Sealing



Anytime you pop a pipe through a wall or the roof, you're inviting air and water leaks. This new product from R&S Enviro Products could help stop those leaks. The *PlumbSeal* clamps around both 1½- and 3½-inch plastic pipes. Neoprene foam on the 6-inch-square flange forms a seal to the pipe and to the vapor barrier.

PlumbSeals sell for about \$3 each.

Contact: R&S Enviro Products, One Church St., Unit 10, Keswick, ON L4P 3E9, Canada; 905/476-5336.

Powerful Ventilator



Building a tight house is a great way to save energy, but it takes a little more effort to make the place livable. If you need to provide mechanical ventilation, consider one of these units from Venmar. In the winter, the *Super Compact Duo* reclaims heat and moisture from the indoor air and transfers them to the incoming outdoor air, so there's less work for the furnace and the humidifier. In the

cooling season, the Duo removes about 80% of the humidity from the incoming air, so the air conditioner has an easier job. Venmar calls it an ERV (energy recovery ventilator) system. The Duo has a feature to help with pressure-balancing the ductwork, too — the technician just has to hook up a regular airflow meter, then adjust baffles inside the Duo to get the proper balance between the flow. The Duo sells for about \$1,250.

Contact: Venmar Ventilation, 1325 E. 79th St., Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55425; 612/854-0947.

High-Temperature Caulk

A new silicone sealant for the hvac trades provides a reliable, flexible seal in temperature extremes from -85°F to 500°F. Polyseamseal's high-temp *Red Silicone Sealant* adheres to glass, metal, porcelain, and painted surfaces. Intermittent exposure up to 600°F is even safe, but the manufacturer recom-



mends that you don't allow it to contact open flame. Uses include sealing around pipes, flues, vents, chimneys, and ducts. While the seal is waterproof, it shouldn't be used below the waterline. Red Silicone sells for about \$15 per 10-ounce tube.

Contact: Darworth Co., 3 Mill Pond Ln., P.O. Box 639, Simsbury, CT 06070; 800/624-7767. ■