

Easy-to-Remove Tape

by Bill Brockway



Have you ever ended up paying a high-wage carpenter to spend time scraping old masking tape off of a painted window? It's not exactly an efficient use of resources. Next time, try using Cantech's *7-Day Outdoor Masking Tape*, which the manufacturer claims will pull away from glass without leaving a residue, even after seven days of exposure to direct sunlight. The tape is available in widths from 12mm (about 1/2 inch) to 72mm (27/8 inch) so it will work in applications from brush work to spraying.

Contact: Cantech Industries, P.O. Box 1432, Johnson City, TN 37605; 800/654-3947.

Pipe Slope Level



How do you set a drain line at the required 2% slope? If you are considering investing in an electronic level with a digital slope readout, you might find the *RedLine 5* a good alternative. This tool has three bubble vials — one for plumb, one for 45°, and a level vial. The level vial has some extra hash marks on

it that you use to read a reference of a 1% or 2% slope. The off-level reference would also be useful for exterior grading, pool surrounds, and gutters.

Contact: Atlanta Special Products, P.O. Box 359, Wasco, IL 60183; 800/327-3552.

Instant Door



When working in an occupied home, builders often screen off the work zone with plastic sheeting. Slipping around the corner of this sheet to go in and out usually leaves a ragged opening that leaks dust. To solve this problem, try the *Stik 'n Zip* from P&M Distributing. After adhering the zipper to the plastic sheet, unzip it, cut the plastic between the two halves of the zipper, and you've got a resealable opening. The kit consists of two 83-inch-long zippers and two self-adhesive drawstrings to hold the door out of the way for access. The cost is about \$12.

Contact: P&M Distributing, P.O. Box 40003, Long Beach, CA 90804; 310/439-9512.

Sturdier Clamp Lamp



All of the clamp lamps I own have two flat loops of rubber-coated wire as the gripping surface. They stay in place pretty well when hanging from the bottom of framing and pipes, but getting them aimed where you want them from other clamping positions can be a real balancing act. The new *Tight Grip* lamps from Woods Industries look like an improved design. Two 90-degree bends in one of the jaws help to grip pipe and 2-by lumber at any angle. The lamps are rated for a 150-watt bulb and have a 12-foot cord. Once you've got the head pointed where you want it, a wing nut holds it there. Tight Grip lamps sell for about \$13.

Contact: Woods Industries, 510 Third Ave. SW, Carmel, IN 46032; 800/428-6168.

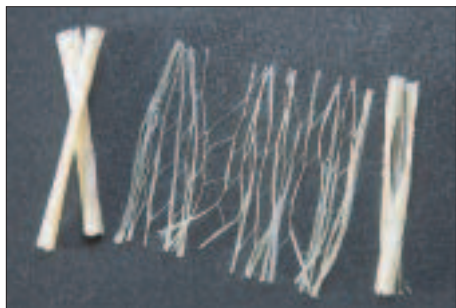
Garden Window



From Fen-Tech comes a garden window that looks like it will cut down on installation time. The *Botanica II* has a sloped top and brackets underneath that eliminate the need for any framing beyond the rough opening. Sizes range from 36 inches wide by 41 inches tall up to 60 inches wide by 47 inches tall. Custom sizes are also available. Prices vary with location and quantity.

Contact: Fen-Tech Inc., 431 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54880; 715/392-9500.

Concrete Additive



Here's a good source for concrete reinforcing fibers to help control cracks: the Forta Corporation. The available fibers range from 1/4-inch monofilaments to 2 1/2-inch collated fibrillated polypropylene fibers — a synthetic fiber that branches out to distribute the forces that try to crack your concrete slab as it shrinks. Dosage rate is about 1 1/2 pounds per cubic yard, and the installed cost is between 6¢ and 10¢ per square foot in a 4-inch-thick slab.

Contact: Forta Corp., 100 Forta Dr., Grove City, PA 16127; 800/245-0306.

Remote-Site Circular Saw



Designed for Amish carpenters who avoid using electricity whenever possible, this conversion kit turns a chain saw into a gas-powered circular saw. The maintenance and operation of the *Power Saw* are just like that of a chain saw, but it spins a 10-inch circular saw blade at 5,400 rpm. The power and vibration of the chain saw motor, combined with the weight (21 pounds), mean that it defi-

nately takes two hands to use this saw.

The power of this saw is truly awesome. It doesn't even think about slowing down when cutting at full depth (3 5/8 inches). The heavy-duty machining of the blade housing is necessary to withstand the vibration of the big engine, but this does make for somewhat awkward adjustment of the depth-of-cut and bevel settings.

I had a little trouble cutting a crisp, straight line with the saw — even revving it up when approaching the piece, it was difficult to hold the shoe still enough to get a good start on the line. But then, this isn't a finish saw. It's close enough for rough work — and that's what this saw is designed for. It would be ideal for ripping green lumber on site and for beam work.

The chain brake feature of the original saw still works on this modified version so you can safely lock the blade in place to make changes to depth and bevel settings while the engine is still running. List price for the conversion kit is \$369. Kits are available for several popular chain saw brands.

Contact: Glick Industries, 1534 Main St., East Earl, PA 17519; 800/489-3772.

T-Handle Screwdriver



Here's a compact ratcheting screwdriver that you can store almost anywhere. The *Judson T-Handle* comes with six hex bits — #1 and #2 Phillips, 1/4- and 3/16-inch flat, and T-15 and T-20 star drive bits — but you can store any bits you like in the slots on the handle. It will ratchet in forward and reverse, and the spindle will also lock up tight for use as a regular screwdriver. The price is about \$13, including shipping.

Contact: Judson Enterprises, 1642 Baltimore Pl., Escondido, CA 92025; 619/741-9895. ■