

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Mahogany Veneered Beams

by Bill Brockway

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



It may look like a solid mahogany beam, but the *Precision Frames* made by this Vermont company are really 1/4-inch veneer applied to laminated timbers. The company has a unique fastening system that uses concealed bolts so nothing mars the look of the mahogany. The timbers are available in lengths up to 18 feet, but the only real limit is the length of the veneer. The price is a little more than twice what typical laminated beams would cost, but the value is in the popular look of mahogany.

Contact: Green Mountain Precision Frames, P.O. Box 293, Windsor, VT 05089; 802/674-6145.

Cool Weather Paint



Why do painters get hot when the weather gets cool? Because they can't apply most latex paint when the temperature is below 50°F, and down time means less profit. A new paint from Sherwin-Williams helps extend the painting season and keep those blood

pressures low. *LowTemp 35* is an exterior latex house paint that can be applied to wood or masonry in temperatures as low as 35°F. The new paint has the same durability and hiding qualities as other S-W paints, according to the manufacturer. Prices on the new paint will be in line with the company's other products.

Contact: Sherwin-Williams Company, c/o HKM Direct, 5501 Cass Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102; 800/336-1110.

Instant Office



These prefabricated buildings from *Speed Space* come fully assembled and prewired for 120-volt service. The unit pictured is 10x20 and has steel siding, insulated walls, and thermal windows. Other options include sloped roofs, steel and wood doors, office furniture, even bathrooms. Several units can be bolted together to make bigger rooms, and a two-story version is also available. Prices vary with the options.

Contact: Speed Space, 65213 County Road 31, Goshen, IN 46526; 800/418-2666.

Simpler Plumbing Vent

An air admittance valve that will save you the trouble of popping a second vent stack through the roof is available from Studor. It comes in two models — the *Mini-Vent* and *Maxi-Vent* — that will supply air to pipes from 1 1/4 to 2 inches and 2 to 4 inch-

es in diameter, respectively. The vents can be installed in the attic, inside a wall cavity, even in a cabinet under a sink, because they allow air to flow only one way. Air comes in to equalize the drain pressure, but no sewer gases escape into the house. The *Mini-Vent* and *Maxi-Vent* sell for



about \$25 and \$35, respectively.

Contact: Studor, 2030 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698; 800/447-4721.

Paper-Faced Corner Bead



Drywall mud adheres better to paper than it does to metal. That's why a small impact on traditional corner bead can sometimes cause a large section of mud to flake off. *Sheetrock Paper-faced Metal Drywall Bead* from US Gypsum features paper tape laminated to a metal form. The bead comes in both tape-on and nail-on styles. The tape-on style is especially useful on metal framing because no fasteners are required; the nail-on style is fastened like traditional bead. Several corner profiles are available in 8-, 9-, and 10-foot lengths.

Contact: US Gypsum Company, P.O. Box 806278, Chicago, IL 60680; 800/874-4968.

New Compressors

Campbell Hausfeld has introduced two new air compressors for the con-



struction market. The *Workhorse 3404* has a $\frac{3}{4}$ -hp motor and a 4-gallon pressure tank. It delivers 1.8 cfm at 90 psi and would be good for a small crew running a few guns intermittently. The 3404 lists for \$349. For larger operations, consider the *Workhorse 1504*, which has a 1.5-hp motor, a 4-gallon tank, and delivers 4.4 cfm at 90 psi. List price on the 1504 is \$389.

Contact: Campbell Hausfield, 100 Production Dr., Harrison, OH 45030; 800/543-6400.

Low-Profile Ridge Vent



Typical shingle-over ridge vents are about an inch thick. Trimline's *Low Profile Ridge Vent* is just $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick and still manages to provide 13 square inches of ventilation area per linear foot. The vent comes in 4- and 8-foot sections and sells for about \$1.50 per linear foot.

Contact: Trimline Roof Ventilation Systems, 705 Pennsylvania Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55426; 800/438-2920.

Masonry Primer

Before you paint masonry, you need to seal the porous surface. Bonsal's



Premium Block Filler can be used as either a fill coat or primer on concrete, block, stucco, backerboard, plaster, brick, or stone. It can be sprayed, rolled, or brushed on walls or ceilings both inside and outside. Premium Block Filler accepts any kind of finish coat, and it's available in either 65-pound buckets or 650-pound drums. Call for prices and availability in your area.

Contact: W.R. Bonsal Company, P.O. Box 241148, Charlotte, NC 28224; 800/334-0784.

Anti-Vibration Gloves



These leather gloves might help reduce the injuries common among operators of pneumatic hammers, breakers, drills, and other high-vibration equipment. The OK-FAV anti-vibration gloves feature waffle-pattern padding on palms, fingers, and thumbs, stretch nylon backs, and Velcro tab closures. The gloves come in sizes from small to XX-large and sell for \$13.50.

Contact: OK-1 Manufacturing Company, P.O. Box 736, Altus, OK 73522; 800/654-3955. ■