

Products

by Leland Stone

Steel Patio Doors

Now you can get the durability and fire resistance of steel doors and jambs in a style that will appeal to your residential clients. *Vista III* residential patio doors look like wood, but are made from 24-gauge galvanized steel. They hang in heavy 18-gauge jambs that interlock with exterior steel casings formed to look like brick molding. Vista doors install from inside the building, so you don't have to climb over trenches or put up staging to reach the rough openings, and wood casings can be installed over the interior nailing flange. The door panels are insulated, and sills and jambs are made with a thermal break. Insulated glass is standard and is available with removable muntins or with muntins that are sandwiched between the glass. Vista III door units list for between \$680 and \$755.

Contact: Benchmark, Box 7387, Fredericksburg, VA 22404; 540/898-5700.



Standard Graded Glulams

Built-up solid-sawn headers can carry heavy loads, but they twist and shrink as they dry. To avoid problems, builders sometimes substitute LVL for solid stock. Glue-laminated beams are another option, but until recently, builders had to consult an engineer to use them. Earlier this year, the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau certified *RMT* (Rosboro's Manufactured Timber) as interchangeable with the same grade of solid stock. According to the manufacturer, RMT, which is made by gluing together strips of wood that have been dried to 15% moisture content, is stronger and more stable than comparable pieces of timber. RMT is available for use as posts or beams, and costs around \$1.05 per board foot.

Contact: Rosboro Lumber Company, 2509 Main St., Springfield, OR 97477; 541/746-8411.



Double-Bevel Compound Miter Saw

A lim carpenter who wants a top-of-the-line miter saw can't help but consider a dual bevel slide-action model. The recently introduced DW708 sliding compound miter saw miters 50 degrees left and 60 degrees right. There's no need to flip stock, because the head tilts up to 48 degrees in either direction. The DW708 takes a 12-inch blade and can handle stock up to 12 inches wide and 5 1/4 inches thick. A cam-action lever and 11 preset miter stops make for quick and easy setups. The DW708 retails for between \$650 and \$700.

Contact: Dewalt Industrial Tool Corp, P.O. Box 158, Hampstead, MD 21074; 800/433-9258.

Easier Cable Stripping

Sparkies can now get rid of a couple of their electrical tools and replace them with the Strip-All 200SK. This lightweight plastic tool can ring-cut Romex, Coax, and other cables from 1/4- to 5/8-inch diameter; its adjustable depth stop will keep you from nicking any wires. Once you're inside the cable, there's a built-in wire stripper for removing insulation from individual wires. A folding knife blade on one end of the tool is handy for cutting away paper fillers, and there's storage space in the handle for extra blades. The Strip-All retails nationally for \$16.95 and is available direct from the manufacturer.

Contact: Seateck Co. Inc., 392 Pacific St., Stamford, CT 06902; 203/324-0067.

High-Adhesion Paint

When it comes to paint, the resin is what binds the pigment to the substrate. Nowadays, top-quality paint is made with 100% acrylic resin, but not all resin is created equal. The exceptionally small particles of acrylic in Cabot Finish are said to form a superior bond because



more of them come into contact with the substrate.

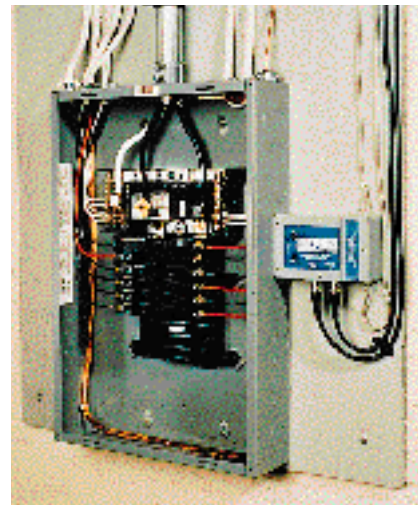
According to the manufacturer, Cabot Finish will stick to virtually anything, including aluminum, brick, vinyl, wood, and previously painted surfaces. The paint is vapor permeable and has excellent color retention and hardness. Cabot Finish is guaranteed not to crack, blister, or peel for 15 years, and it can be tinted to standard or custom colors. The cost is between \$20 and \$25

per gallon.

Contact: Samuel Cabot Inc., 100 Hale St., Newburyport, MA 01950; 800/877-8246.

Integrated Surge Protection System

These days, every piece of electronic equipment and virtually all home appliances contain microprocessors that can be destroyed by power surges. Plug-in style surge protectors are available, but it's impractical to use them everywhere. The recently introduced Erico Protection Device is the first surge suppression system that uses a single device to protect power, telephone, and TV cable. It prevents ground voltage differentials from damaging equipment like fax machines, computers, and stereos by providing them with a single ground. In addition, the surge suppression device automatically shunts power away when voltage or amperage exceeds a preset threshold. The Erico Protection Device is installed at the service panel and lists for around \$200.



Contact: Erico Inc., 34600 Solon Rd., Solon, OH 44139; 216/248-0100.