

Products

by Pete Young

This month's innovative products all appeared at the 1998 National Hardware Show in Chicago (For tool coverage, see "Sneak Preview: New Tools for '99" in this issue). Manufacturers of all types and sizes had booths set up at the show with pumped-up PR and sales pitches. Working through all the hype, there actually were a bunch of newsworthy products.

Spray Adhesives

Adhesives have been used in the manufactured housing industry for everything from drywall and shower surrounds to countertops and carpet. However, spray adhesives have not always been practical for on-site use. One-time-use spray canisters, like some foam insulation products, required that the entire can be used at once; reusable spray guns were difficult to keep unclogged. TACC International has devised an innovative spray-adhesive dispensing system that promises to solve these problems. Pressurized cylinders supply adhesive to a



spray gun which accommodates several tips. TACC claims the spray gun is virtually maintenance free. The cylinders are available in 12- and 40-pound disposable sizes or 21-, 37-, and 375-pound returnable/reusable sizes. TACC has several sprayable contact, pressure-

sensitive, and water-based adhesive products that can be used with this dispensing system.

Contact: TACC International, Air Station Industrial Park, Rockland, MA 02370; 800/503-6991.

Tool Storage

Stanley has come out with a *Rolling Workshop*, a mobile storage system that functions as three units (toolbox, drawers, deep storage bin) stacked on a custom dolly. The dolly also has a built-in 50-foot retractable cord holder. At \$60 retail, this seems like a great way to move a lot of tools and supplies quickly off the truck to exactly where they need to be.

Contact: Stanley Works, 1000 Stanley Dr., New Britain, CT 06503; 800/782-6539; www.stanleyworks.com.



New Screws

A new line of fasteners features a star-head drive cavity that resembles Torx-head products and will not strip out like Phillips and even square-drive screws can. Yellow zinc-plated *self-tapping* screws with countersunk heads are available in 6- to 14-gauge sizes in lengths from 3/8 to 12 inches. Most sizes wholesale for between \$5 and \$10 per pound. *Structural screws* are available in lengths from 1 1/2 to 16 inches with shank diameters of 1/4, 5/16, and 3/8 inch. These structural screws wholesale for between \$7 and \$19 per pound.



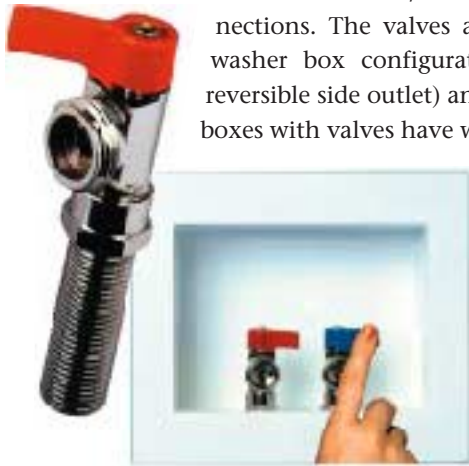
Teflon-coated *trim head* screws are available in 8- and 9-gauge sizes; 1 1/2-, 2 1/2-, and 3 1/8-inch lengths wholesale for around \$8 per pound (5-inch lengths jump to \$16 per pound). Various T-star bit sizes accommodate the wide range of screw sizes.

For efficiently hanging doors, you'll want to check out *adjustable distance* screws. These white zinc-plated screws have two threaded portions, one that sinks into the door jamb and another, housed inside the first, that screws into the rough framing. After the entire system has been driven through a door jamb to the point where the anchor has set into the jamb, the inner screw can be adjusted to plumb the door frame. Even though shims still need to be added for stability, these adjustable screws can definitely save time. After the door is set, colored caps snap into the star heads of the screws to cover the anchor ends. The screws are available in 2 1/2- to 16-inch lengths; the 2 1/2-inch screws wholesale for about \$1 each and longer lengths get more expensive.

Contact: GRK Canada Ltd., RR#1, 1499 Rosslyn Rd., Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4T9 Canada; 800/263-0463; www.grk-canada.com.

Plumbing

New $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn ball valves developed for use in washer boxes or ice maker boxes can be easily adjusted with a fingertip and come color-coded for hot and cold water supplies. Different valves are available for $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch sweat, CPVC, and PEX connections. The valves are built into three different washer box configurations (standard, dual drain, reversible side outlet) and one ice maker box. Washer boxes with valves have wholesale prices just over \$20.



The ice maker box wholesales for around \$14.

The company also developed a single-nail pipe strapping product for clamping $\frac{1}{2}$ - and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipes to wood framing. The *RightStrap* clamps attach by driving one pre-loaded ring shank nail

into wood framing. The plastic clamps can be oriented three different ways to permit different installation scenarios. These clamps support piping and isolate it from wood framing, thereby eliminating potential clanking noise problems.

Contact: IPS Corporation, P.O. Box 220, Collierville, TN 38027; 800/888-8312; www.ipscorp.com.

Job-Site Security

Kryptonite has introduced a few new super-strong devices that might improve security on construction sites. The *Our Strongest* (\$48) padlock is rated to withstand 20,000 pounds of cutting force. The *Cinch Ring Security Chain* (\$55 for 3 ft., \$90 for 5 ft.) is a triple-heat-treated boron manganese steel chain precut to a useful length. Buying both of these products packaged together can save you \$10 or \$15. In the near future, Kryptonite will be introducing a security anchor that sets into cement.

Contact: Kryptonite Corp.
320 Turnpike St., Canton, MA
02021-2703; 781/828-6655.

