



# THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

A Builderburg Group Publication

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JLC's

# Letters

## Gearing of DeWalt's Framing Saw To the Editor:

Regarding the innovative DeWalt Framing Saw (model DW378G) mentioned in your April 1999 article, "Tool Test: In-Line Circular Saws," I would like to make one major correction to the description of the gearing. Rather than a belt drive, the Framing Saw uses *offset spiral bevel gearing*, which accommodates the repositioning of the motor to achieve superior ergonomics. These gears are made from hardened steel, making them as durable as worm gearing without the added size and weight. Additionally, the gears generate less friction than worm gearing, so they are more efficient. Together, these features make the DW378G 3 pounds lighter and 2 amps more powerful than the other saws.

Tony Nicolaidis  
 Assistant Product Manager (Saws)  
 DeWalt Power Tools

profitability, and the result is complaints, angry consumers, bad press, and another black eye for our industry.

The large home centers should leave installed sales to the professionals and stick to what they do best: retail. Instead of trying to grab it all, they should be satisfied with selling materials to our industry and stop trying to put us out of business.

John T. Heagy, Vice President  
 Welsh Construction Remodeling Co.  
 Baltimore, Md.

## Flexible Base Flashing

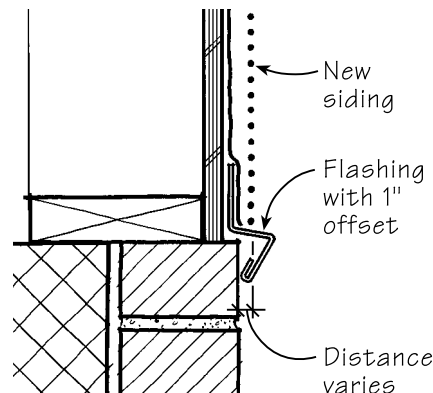
To the Editor:

Regarding the letter about stucco screeds (*Letters*, 1/99), I use a similar technique with all my siding, whether stucco, wood, steel, or vinyl. In my area, several feet of snow are sometimes piled against the siding for months. When it melts, water can easily wick up into the sheathing, fram-

## Leave Remodeling to the Pros

To the Editor:

Instead of embracing Home Depot's Expo Centers as your article implies (*Notebook*, 3/99), I believe kitchen and bath professionals, large or small, will be adversely affected. In the past, other large home centers that have pursued installed sales have failed because they employed inexperienced designers and installers, and lacked supervision. Without all of the above, there is no



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ing, and siding, causing rot in only a few years.

I never place siding closer than 8 inches to the ground, even if the area below must be replaced with masonry, stucco, or other water-resistant material. The wall above the flashing must also be properly papered, with the bottom left open for any moisture under the siding to escape.

Most of my base flashing is prefinished steel or aluminum coil stock, brake-bent on site to allow for a tight fit to everything from new concrete walls to rubble foundations more than 100 years old (see illustration). In a recent siding job on a school building built in the early 50s, replacement of the badly rotted sill plate and base trim resulted in a brick veneer that varied from flush with the siding to recessed  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Bending all of the flashing in aluminum left it flexible enough to vary with the brick, yet the 1-inch offset let the flashing appear uniform.

Jim Glover  
Glover Construction  
Pierre, S.D.

### Pros and Cons of Forced-Air Zoning

To the Editor:

Gary Bailey's clear explanations of how he installs zoned forced-air systems ("Zoning Forced-Air Heating Systems," 2/99) helped me understand this new technology. But I couldn't help but wonder how the cost of equipment and labor to install a zoned system compares with installing two separate furnaces.

One of the main appeals of zoning to homeowners is the energy savings from not having to heat areas of the house that aren't occupied. If so, it would seem that heat wasted in

"dump zones" and "bypass loops" to protect the equipment could substantially reduce this benefit.

It is unfortunate that the article described using building cavities as ductwork. It's penny-wise for the heating contractor, but pound-foolish for the homeowner, who may end up paying dearly for reduced efficiency due to duct leakage. In addition, building cavities used as ducts are often found to be the culprit in distribution throughout the house of dust and pollutants from basements, crawlspaces, and attics. Such ducts would never qualify for any of the advanced energy programs now being offered by utilities or the State of Oregon residential tax credit.

Dave Brook  
Extension Energy Agent  
Oregon State University  
Portland, Ore.

### Treat the Disease, Not the Symptom

To the Editor:

I have more than a little concern about the practice described in "Rebuilding an Old Attic Space" (3/99). The sagging and settling floor is now concealed under sleepers, seemingly without addressing whatever issues led to the sagging and settlement. We now have a greater dead load, plus whatever live loads are added.

Good practice, in my opinion, requires first addressing the causes of such distress. While I don't know that this was not done in this case, it certainly was not mentioned, when it should have been highlighted. I would advise any builder to proceed with great caution when budget constraints begin to overwhelm due caution.

Robert Randall, P.E.  
Mohegan Lake, N.Y.

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