

Products

by Dave Crosby

Removable Concrete Anchors

This concrete fastener is supposed to eliminate the need for threaded sleeve inserts by combining the vibration resistance and strength of adhesive anchoring technology with the convenience of expansion anchors. Once the adhesive around a full-thread *Chem-Bolt*

has cured, a release agent allows the fastener to be tightened or removed. Available in grade 2 or grade 5 carbon steel and 304 stainless steel, the bolts come in 1/4-, 3/8-, 1/2-, and 3/4-inch diameters, in lengths from 1 1/2 inches to 10 inches. Retail price is comparable to threaded-rod and epoxy systems, ranging from 20¢ to \$2 per bolt.



Contact: Powers Fastening, 2 Powers Square, New Rochelle, NY 10801; 914/235-6300; www.powers.com.

Light Your Site

Here is a weatherproof lighting system that comes totally assembled, travels from job to job, and meets all 1999 NEC and OSHA requirements.

The 100-foot-long *String-O-Light* comes with 10 cage-and-socket assemblies on 10-foot centers, with a 10-foot (15-amp, 120-volt) polarized two-wire supply lead. The impact-resistant cages require no tools to open or close, and the non-corrosive



brass sockets will accept bulbs up to 200 watts. Suggested retail is \$131 each.

Contact: McGill, 1002 North Campbell St., Valparaiso, IN 46385; 219/465-2200; www.mcgillelectrical.com.

Pocket-Sized GFCI

The fines you could incur from OSHA for not using a GFCI are nothing compared to the tragedy of electrocution. But GFCIs built into extension cords or pigtails have been known to trip every time you bump the cord. Then you have to go reset it

before you can keep working. After a few trips, you're done with that game, and the GFCI is history. A less frustrating alternative is the 15-amp *Plug-It GFCI and Surge Protector*. Just plug it in and connect your cord. It could be a real lifesaver at \$16.99.



Contact: General Cable, 4 Tesseneer Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41076; 606/572-8000; www.generalcable.com.

Safety Glasses With Attitude

Maybe your crew will agree to wear safety glasses if they look good. *Attitude* wraparound glasses (under \$5) in clear, smoke, clear 4A (anti-scratch, anti-UV, anti-fog, anti-static) or silver mirror finishes meet all ANSI Z87.1 safety standards as well as Z80.3 standards for sunglasses. In addition, the *Metal Attitude* (\$7 to \$10) offers side shields, an adjustable nose bridge, a choice of lenses in clear or smoke, or silver or blue mirror, and provides excellent peripheral vision, according to the manufacturer.

Contact: Jackson Products, 5801 Safety Drive NE, Belmont, MI 49306; 800/253-7281; jackproducts.com.



High-Test Paint Stripper

Specially formulated to remove oil and latex paints, *PeelAway7* will also safely remove almost all chemical-resistant coatings, including epoxies, urethanes, elastomerics, and chlorinated rubber, as well as marine, automotive, and aerospace coatings. Free of the highly flammable solvents normally found in paint removers, the solution can be used on wood, brick, stone, plaster, metal, fiberglass, graphite, and steel. This stripper adheres to vertical and overhead surfaces, and is recommended for carved and molded areas. Retail price is \$69.95 for 1 gallon, \$225 for a 5-gallon bucket.

Contact: Dumond Chemicals, 1501 Broadway, Suite 515, New York, NY 10036; 800/245-1191; plaway@aol.com.



Toolbox Mount

When you mount a standard toolbox to your truck, you drill a few holes, and bolt it down hard. Not only have you just torn up your paint and weakened the bed, the box is pretty much there for good because it's such a pain in the neck to remove. That means your tools go everywhere you go, and big stuff always hangs out the back of your truck. The 100% anodized aluminum, rust-free, 1,000-pound-capacity



TracRac Toolbox Mount Kit weighs 77 pounds, and mounts to the stake pockets in minutes with no drilling, bolting, or clamping. With the twist of a knob, you can slide the toolbox to the tailgate so you can work off the back of your truck. And when you have to carry an oversized load, you can even slide the box right off of the truck. Accessories include cargo holders, window guards, tie-down anchors, racks, and a cantilevered overhead rack extension. Retail price is about \$69.

Contact: TracRac Incorporated, 994 Jefferson St., Fall River, MA 02721; 800/501-1587; www.tracrac.com.

Pry Bar for Sheet Goods

This innovative pry bar lifts paneling, wallboard, wood, steel, or plastic coverings away from framing up to 2 inches wide. Instead of prying the covering off by forcing the bar between the covering and the stud, *The Gerry Bar* straddles the stud. The blunt prongs lift the covering from underneath at a 90-degree angle, minimizing damage to



the material and to your knuckles. Since the lifting force is equal on both sides, fasteners are supposed to come out straight. Two models are available, one with prongs at an acute angle for general use, and one with a 140-degree angle for working near the edges of floors or ceilings; both sell for \$39.95. The Model 140 can also be used to hold warped studs straight while framing. This zinc-plated tool is also available with sharpened prongs for faster material removal (add \$8.95), and a T-handle for more leverage (add \$7.95).

Contact: Hard-To-Find Bolts, 1537 North Point, Oshkosh, WI 54901; 888/236-9013.

I Don't Dew Windows

Like the thermostat that controls your home's heating system, a humidistat controls the level of moisture added to the air by a whole-house humidifier. Most humidistats, however, maintain a certain relative humidity, regardless of the indoor or outdoor temperature. The result can be foggy, wet, or frosty windows, and the excess moisture from condensation can damage wood frames and sills. The *Automatic Humidity Control* offers dewpoint control, automatically adjusting itself to prevent condensation on windows while maintaining the right humidity level for comfort.

Contact: Honeywell, P.O. Box 524, Minneapolis, MN 55440; 800/345-6770; www.honeywell.com.



Glass Block Without Mortar

Instead of wire reinforcing and mortar, the *IBP Glass Block Grid System* uses an aluminum grid, one-piece vinyl boots, and silicone caulk to create windows, skylights, floors, walls, and even neo-angle or curved showers with real glass block. The assembly is flexible enough to accommodate structural movement or expansion and contraction, and is said to be easy to repair. Installation times are short, according to the manufacturer — about two hours for a shower enclosure, one hour for a 4x4-foot window. Available in a variety of block colors and patterns, as well as in several aluminum finishes, material cost is about \$30 per square foot. An optional video gives instructions for installing windows and showers.

Contact: Acme Brick Company, P.O. Box 425, Fort Worth, TX 76101; 800/932-2263; www.ibpglassblock.com.



Basement Drainage

When used in conjunction with a drainage system, this PVC waterproofing product eliminates the need for an exposed gravel channel in basement slabs where water is a problem. Set adjacent to the foundation wall during the finish slab installation, *Hollow Kick Molding* creates an effective channel for moisture at the perimeter of a floating slab while reducing labor and providing a more attractive detail. This molding can also be used around boilers and hot water heaters, or as a threshold drain at doors. Prices start at 98¢ per foot, with volume discounts to the trade.

Contact: Boccia Brothers, Inc., 168 Broadway, Garden City Park, NY 11040; 516/747-7727.

