

Products

by Dave Holbrook

Collapsible Conveyance

Has anyone ever told you to take your barrow and stuff it? It'll be a lot easier if it's a contractor-grade *Fold-A-Barrow*. The



full-featured, 500-lb.-capacity wheelbarrow has a 16-inch pneumatic tire mounted on a powder-coated folding steel frame. The puncture-resistant tub is made of Dupont's XR5, said to be "the most durable material available." The cutting-edge barrow costs \$120.

Contact: New-Form Manufacturing, 37 Pacific Ave., Milverton, ON N0K 1M0; 800/567-0864; www.new-form.com.

Geriatric Gypsum Fix

A drywall surface isn't all it's cracked up to be after a few years in service. It's easily dented, and the seams and fasteners have a tendency to show through, even on carefully finished work. Brush, roll, or spray *Plaster-Weld* bonding agent onto painted or papered drywall to prep for a smooth, hard plaster, skim-coat finish over the old surface. A gallon of the water-soluble polyvinyl acetate preps up to 400 square feet, and costs about \$20.



Contact: Larsen Products, 8264 Preston Court, Jessup, MD 20794; 800/633-6668; www.larsenproducts.com.

Get Centered

Math is wonderful stuff, but it slows some of us way down. Finding the mathematical center is a common requirement of carpentry layout, made simple with the 25-foot *CenterPoint* tape measure. Inches and feet are marked along one edge, and the same markings are represented on the opposite edge at half-scale. All it takes to find the center is to read the same dimension on the other edge. Save your construction calculator for finding the volume of a tapered cylinder. The 1-inch-wide steel



tape extends 7 feet unsupported without buckling, and costs under \$17.

Contact: U.S. Tape, 217 River Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772; 800/472-8273; www.ustape.com.

Blackout Blues

Emergency power generation is on the want-list of lots of homeowners. Installing a *Powerstation* outside the home meets core power requirements during a temporary power outage. The propane- or natural gas-fired unit powers up automatically when the grid is disrupted, and the UL-approved automatic-transfer switch makes a smooth transition to emergency power. The unit comes in 8,500-, 10,000-, and 15,000-watt versions, from \$3,995 to \$5,500, available through distributors.

Contact: Coleman Powermate, 4970 Airport Rd., Kearney, NE 68848; 800/445-1805; www.colemanpowermate.com.



Peerless Plastic Plug

Linear slits add a new twist to the plastic wall anchor, enabling the *HUD Go Anywhere Anchor* to expand in a predrilled hole for added gripping power in wallboard, aerated concrete, and hollow wall panels. The insert bunches up on



the back side of a hollow wall installation, acting like a toggle anchor. A blister combo-pack includes 100 screws, 100 anchors, and a drill bit, for \$14.50; the 500-count combo-pack sells for \$49.50.

Contact: Hilti, 5400 S. 122nd East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74146; 800/879-8000; www.us.hilti.com.

Engineered Sheathing

Riding the coattails of the well-received tongue-and-groove deck sheathing comes *AdvanTech square-edge wall and roof sheathing* in 1/2- and 5/8-inch thickness. The sheathing resists swelling at the seams when wetted, providing a stable, reliable



substrate for roofing and siding. The 5/8-inch panel is also available in tongue-and-groove profile, eliminating the need for H-clips when applied to 24-inch rafter spacing. Panels are stocked by distributors at a cost competitive with plywood.

Contact: Huber Engineered Woods, 10925 David Taylor Dr., Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28262; 800/933-9220; www.huberwood.com.

Plastic Framing Stock

To complement low-to-no-maintenance plastic-composite decking material, *Carefree Structural Lumber* is available in 2x8, 2x10, 4x4, and 4x6 dimensions. On 12-inch framing centers, a 2x8 will span 74 inches with an 80-psf combined



load. Made of the same material as Carefree decking (recycled high-density polyethylene and wood fibers), but reinforced with oriented fiberglass strands, the lumber is impervious to water and won't rot, split, or shrink. Longevity comes at a premium price: the 2x8 and 4x4 cost \$5.25 per linear foot, the 2x10 costs \$6.60, and the 4x6 costs \$9.10 per linear foot.

Contact: U.S. Plastic Lumber, 2600 West Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608; 800/653-2784; www.carefree-products.com.

Impalement Protection

The last thing you want on your jobsite is an injury. To prevent impalement on exposed rebar, the *Carnie Cap* rebar guard system covers an 8-foot run of #3 to #8 vertical bar ends using only two caps to cradle a 2x4 guardrail. Unlike individ-



ual caps, the railing adds trip, stumble, and fall protection, and takes advantage of lumber already on site. The caps are sold in boxes of 100 for \$250. A larger size fits #5 to #18 vertical bar ends, is available for up to 2-inch-diameter rebar, and uses 2x6 railing stock. CALOSHA approved.

Contact: Carnie Enterprises, 2082 S. Xenia Way, Denver, CO 80231; 888/743-7725.

Slide Stopper

If you're adding a skylight or repairing a leaky valley on an asphalt roof, you may wish to salvage the existing shingles to make an invisible repair. Keeping them up there and organized is easier if you've got a few *Shingle Clips* handy. The powder-coated steel clips clamp onto the exposed edge of installed shingles, providing light-duty support for small tools and materials while you work. Available for \$10 per clip, it sure beats climbing down and up the ladder.

Contact: THOR Systems; 127 Second Ave., Kingston, PA 18704; 800/398-0376; www.thortools.com.



Fan Foundation

How do you mount a round junction box at the peak of a cathedral ceiling? One answer is to use an *FB90 Fan & Fixture Mounting Box*. The UL-listed plastic box fits any ceiling angle up to 90 degrees, supports 35 pounds, and has a textured, paintable surface. The box attaches to a short length of 2x4, which is then screwed to the rafters. The model *FB45* provides a similar solution for sloped ceilings. Expect to pay \$9.90 for the 90, and \$11.50 for the 45.

Contact: Arlington Industries, 1 Stauffer Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18517; 800/233-4717; www.aifittings.com.

