

Products

by Dave Holbrook

Hot Wiring

An outlet device should not serve as a splice for the wiring in a continuous circuit; it should be tied in to the wiring



via a "pigtail" from a common wiring terminal. *Term-a-Nut Pigtail Connectors* make it simple, combining a twist-on connector, flexible lead, and spade terminal in a one-piece wiring solution. The connector eliminates wire stripping and forming, and provides neat, uniform splicing inside the box. The connector is sold by

distributors in seven different size combinations; prices vary.

Contact: Ideal Industries, Becker Place, Sycamore, IL 60178; 800/947-3619; www.idealindustries.com.



Sword in the Stone

Concrete work is hard and heavy. Wouldn't it be swell if you could just pull up your stakes and go home? That's the idea behind *StakeSleeves*, a simple moisture-resistant paper sheath specifically made to wrap your round or flat steel form stakes in before the pour. Instead of engaging immovable cured concrete in a futile tug of war, the stakes will slide right out. Instead of your dignity, all you leave behind is the 27¢ paper sleeve.

Contact: StakeSleeves, P.O. Box 398, Soquel, CA 95073; 831/471-2914; www.stakesleeves.com.

UV Cover-Up

As great as the sun feels, it's easy to get too much of a good thing when you're working outdoors. Repeated overexposure leads to burned, damaged skin, which can set the stage for skin cancer. Your best option is a good SPF sunscreen, sunglasses, and UV-blocking clothing, like that from Sun Solutions. The entire line is made with lightweight *Solarweave*, a fabric that blocks 95 percent of harmful UVA and UVB radiation. The company carries a line of comfortable, "breathable" shirts, jackets, sport pants, and hats claimed to keep you covered but cool. Long-sleeved shirts cost \$49, a hooded jacket costs \$58, and a visor cap with a neck drape costs \$15.

Contact: Sun Solutions, P.O. Box 595, Woods Hole, MA 02543; 800/895-0010; www.hlsm.com/sunsolutions.



Water Zapper

Many material installation procedures require the room's conditions to match the equilibrium moisture content of the local region. In new construction, this may mean getting



rid of the moisture contained in newly installed framing, plaster, concrete, or paint. The *DrizAir 1200* is a refrigerant dehumidifier built to travel, said to have a water removal capacity of 15 gallons per day in rooms as cool as 33°F (a hot-gas bypass charge through the refrigerant coil speeds defrosting).

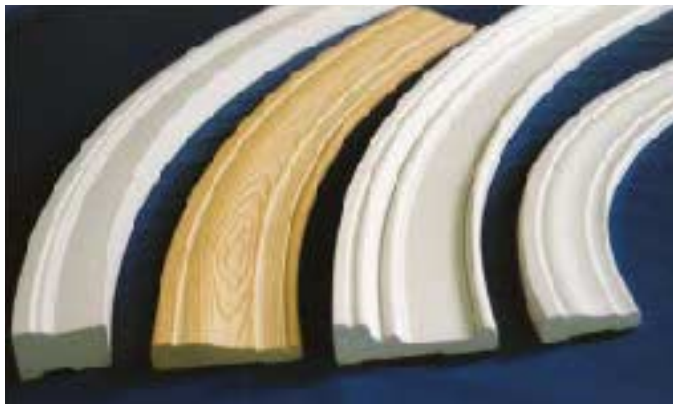
Features include a telescoping handle for transport, soft pneumatic tires, a 25-foot power cord, and a power evacuator. A 4-inch ring for connecting standard duct makes it possible to direct dried, filtered air toward any surface or space. The rotomolded high-density polyethylene housing should stand up to rugged use.

The retail price for the *DrizAir 1200* is \$1,095.

Contact: Dri-Eaz, 15180 Josh Wilson Rd., Burlington, WA 98233; 800/932-3030; www.dri-eaz.com.

Curve Craze

Owning a circular saw does not enable you to handle all the round windows and openings designers throw at the plans nowadays. However, a call to *Custom Bending Services* may provide you with the very profile you need, at the radius you specify, in versatile, cellular PVC. Unlike



wood, the plastic profiles can be "tweaked" slightly to conform precisely to almost any curve they throw you. Quantities from 1 piece to 1,000 are accepted, with a standard five-day turnaround. Prices depend on the size and profile of your order.

Contact: Creative Millwork, P.O. Box 1157, Ashtabula, OH 44005; 888/759-7121; www.creativemillwork.com.

Composite Lumber Fasteners

When ordinary screws are power-driven into wood-poly composite lumber, they disappear below the surface, leaving a small eruptive mound behind. You can smack the mound down with a hammer and call it an invisible fastener, or you can skip that step by using *Fastap Poly2 Screws*. The self-



drilling, self-countersinking screws are specially designed to pull heavy, dense composite lumber down firm to the framing and stop flush with the board surface rather than burrowing in. The result is a clean, completed connection. And, if you ever need to pull the board again, you'll know where the fasteners are. The screws are said to resist corrosion with the company's Duracoat finish. Two screw sizes are available in a number of quantity options, from 250 to bulk Contractor Paks, usually sold by the pound for between \$7 and \$8.

Contact: Faspac, 13909 N.W. 3rd Ct., Vancouver, WA 98685; 800/847-4714; www.fastapscrews.com.

Touch of Glass

In case you haven't noticed, bathroom sinks have begun to rise up out of the countertop. The 15-inch-diameter *Watercolors* sinks are made from 3/4-inch-thick glass with a baked-on, colored protective finish added to the outer surface



of the bowl. The sinks come in five colors plus frosted, and sell for \$900. Other options include matching glass countertops, center-drilled for the drain; chrome wall mount or U-bracket; faucet; and chrome drain and trap assemblies.

Contact: ColorWash, 3143 So. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016; 310/815-4785; www.colorwash.com.

Portable Perch

If you can still hear Mom telling you to get off your knees, that stiff, aching sensation at mid-leg may finally have you ready to admit that it was good advice. The \$60 *Walkstool* collapses into a package about the size of a quart bottle, weighs next to nothing, and supports over 300 pounds. With the legs retracted, the stool pivots for unhindered nonslip side-to-side movement. Fully extended, you have a swell seat for the job site. If you have a lot of low-level details to attend to, sitting down on the job may be the right way to go.

Contact: MAtchneque, 2816 Moonstone Dr., Signal Hill, CA 90804; 562/985-9986; www.scandinavian-touch.se.



Upscale Wood Tiles

Parquet tiles provide an attractive, easily installed, natural wood surface that can be artfully highlighted using *Accent Parquet Inlays*. The designs are produced in solid hardwood and include vines, fruit, leaves, and more. The decorative tiles can be incorporated into the flooring as a border treatment, center medallion, corner, or random accent. Hardwood choices include maple, yellow heart, Brazilian cherry, mahogany, and black walnut. The tiles are sold by distributors in cartons of eight (equal to 2 square feet); prices vary.

Contact: Hartco Flooring, P.O. Box 4009, Oneida, TN 37841; 800/769-8528; www.hartcoflooring.com.

Rolling Work Center

A central, mobile work station for mounted tools and equipment could make life on site easier and more efficient. With its stable three-legged configuration, 5-inch retractable swivel casters, and a 500-pound capacity, the all-steel *Port-A-Shop* provides enough surface for up to six benchtop tools. The included powerstrip keeps the tangle out of the way, requiring just one cord to a wall outlet. I've never seen a flat surface on the job that didn't get covered with workers' half-empty coffee cups. However, if fully taken advantage of, this tightly configured platform won't give them the space. The multi-user shop sells for \$495.

Contact: AGM Container Controls, P.O. Box 40020, Tucson, AZ 85717; 800/995-5590; www.agmcontainer.com.

