

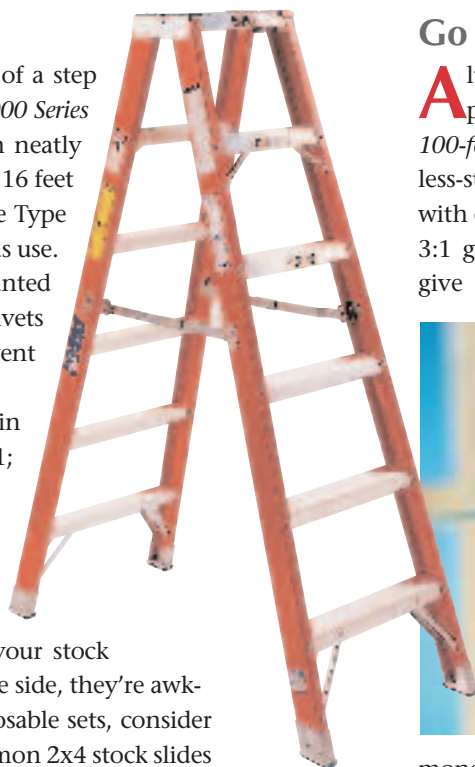
# Products

by Dave Holbrook

## Two-Step

I've always wondered why the other side of a step ladder wasn't put to better use; the *FM-1000 Series Twin Front Stepladder* answers that question neatly with a professional line of ladders from 4 to 16 feet long. Both sides of the fiberglass ladders are Type 1A, duty-rated up to 300-lb. for simultaneous use. The attachment points of the inside-mounted spreader braces are secured with oversized rivets and reinforced with backer plates to prevent breakout. Prices range from \$216 to \$919.

Contact: Louisville Ladder, 1163 Algonquin Pkwy., Louisville, KY 40208; 800/666-2811; [www.louisvilleladder.com](http://www.louisvilleladder.com).



## Hi-Yo, Silver

Nothing organizes a job site or treats your stock better than a sawhorse. On the negative side, they're awkward to transport. Instead of building disposable sets, consider a pair of *Sawhorse Connection* brackets. Common 2x4 stock slides neatly into the welded aluminum tubing, which can be secured with nails or screws or left loose for quick disassembly. Slotting the ends of a 2x6 gives you a high-rise cross-member that'll keep your sawblade out of harm's way. A single bracket is rated for 750 pounds; one kit makes two horses and costs \$65.

Contact: The Sawhorse Connection, P.O. Box 1373, Anacortes, WA 98221-6373; 800/320-0003; [www.sawhorseconnection.com](http://www.sawhorseconnection.com).



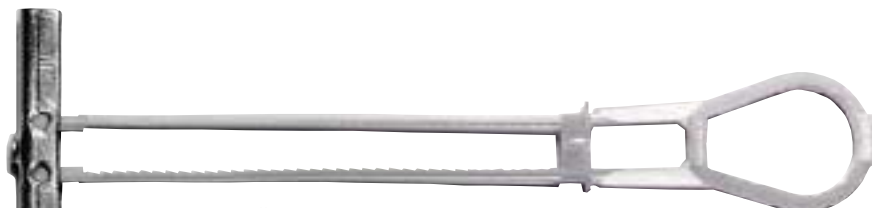
## Go Long

Although it won't fit comfortably in my back pocket like my old 100-footer, the *Fat Max 100-foot tape measure* has a bright yellow, stainless-steel blade and large, easy-to-read digits with calibrations in 1/8-inch increments. With a 3:1 gear ratio, the hand-cranked retriever will give any spring-loaded tape a run for the



money. A wrap-around rubber grip makes the tape easy to handle. The 100-footer costs \$30; a 50-foot version costs \$20.

Contact: Stanley Works, 1000 Stanley Drive, New Britain, CT 06053; 800/782-6539; [www.stanleyworks.com](http://www.stanleyworks.com).



## Better Bolting

Common toggle bolts have a common drawback: Once installed, you're committed — withdraw the bolt and the toggle's lost inside the cavity. The *Strap-Toggle* secures snugly against the interior surface, held in place by the ratchet-style plastic legs and locking installation cap. You can reinstall the bolt as often as needed. The strap is available in four hole diameters: 3/16, 1/4, 3/8, and 1/2 inch. Prices vary.

Contact: Powers Fasteners, 2 Powers Square, New Rochelle, NY 10801; 914/235-6300; [www.powers.com](http://www.powers.com).

## Chill Out

**L**ow temperatures normally spell the end of the outdoor painting season, which is just too bad for some sched-



ules. *LowTemp35* caulk, primer, and paint stretch the season by allowing finishing work to continue down to 35°F, according to the manufacturer. The top-coat is available in flat and satin finishes in 400 colors. The caulk costs \$3, the primer costs \$29, and the paint retails for \$24 per gallon from local distributors.

**Contact:** Sherwin-Williams, HKM Direct, 5501 Cass Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102; 800/524-5979; [www.sherwin-williams.com](http://www.sherwin-williams.com).

## Flame-Proof Fixture

**I**f you want recessed lighting in a fire-rated assembly, such as in multi-story housing or in the ceiling of an attached garage, the fixture must be shielded by a drywall box enclosure. Site fabrication is common, albeit cumbersome, but the flame-tight, UL-listed *Firebox* offers a



“sure-fire” economical solution. Because its primary application is between floors, the housing is non-IC-rated. The incandescent fixture costs \$81.

**Contact:** Progress Lighting, P.O. Box 5704, Spartanburg, SC 29304; 864/599-6000; [www.progresslighting.com](http://www.progresslighting.com).

## Be Pushy

**S**ending a long screw into the framing through the hinge leaf should fix a rubbing door; if not, you can try the



*E-Z Spread N' Lift*. An easy twist of the turnbuckle on the hefty, all-steel assembly will forcibly spread a misaligned jamb just enough to restore clearance. Use the tool vertically to correct a settled head-jamb on door heights up to 6 feet, 8 inches. With the included attachments, you can also support and adjust wall cabinets during installation. The heirloom-quality tool costs \$129, with an optional carrying case for \$36.

**Contact:** E-Z Spread N' Lift Industries, 1815 Buck Road, Feasterville, PA 19053; 888/893-3001; [www.e-zspreadnlift.com](http://www.e-zspreadnlift.com).



## Cool Cat

**B**eing at the controls of a skid-steer loader is already fun, so it's not entirely fair to make you more comfortable than the rest of the crew, too. However, *Bobcat* now offers optional factory-installed air-conditioning (and heat) in a “deluxe” cab



enclosure for models 773 turbo, 863, 873, 963, and the 864 track loader. The AC unit draws no more than 3.5 hp from the engine and can lower the cab temperature by 30°F. The cushy package adds \$2,995 to the base price of the loader.

**Contact:** Bobcat, P.O. Box 6000, W. Fargo, ND 58078; 701/241-8740; [www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com).

## Bang Stick

The performance of hammer-actuated stick guns can be less than thrilling. For the occasional PAF, the *Twist-R* .22



caliber powder-actuated tool may be what you're looking for. To drive a fastener at any of the four power levels (which are color coded), press the barrel against the surface being fastened and give the top knob a quarter-turn clockwise. Fasten it the first time with no missed swings or half-hits. The *Twist-R* costs \$45.

Contact: Jamerco, 18088 Cortney Court, City of Industry, CA 91748; 800/526-5020; [www.jamerco.com](http://www.jamerco.com).

## Silent Spring

If you don't think of raindrops as things that go bump in the night, you



don't have aluminum gutters. The *RainQuiet Downspout Insert* muffles the sound of impact at the bottom sweep of the downspout. Keep your customers singin' in the rain and sleeping through the night for \$6 per two-pack.

Contact: RainQuiet, P.O. Box 992479, Redding, CA 96099; 888/799-7246; [www.rainquiet.com](http://www.rainquiet.com).

