

Products

by Martin Holladay

Slab Eater

If you need to demolish a concrete slab, you should know about Bobcat's new attachment, the *Cutter Crusher*. The jaws on this machine cut through rebar and mesh and reduce a slab to bite-size pieces for easy disposal. When it's not demolishing concrete, it can be used to cut rebar, angle iron, or I-beams. Model CC30, the smaller of the two Cutter Crusher models, has a maximum jaw opening of 12 inches. Look for this demo



demon at your rental shop or buy a new one from Bobcat for \$9,100.

Contact: Bobcat, P.O. Box 6000, West Fargo, ND 58078-6000; 701/241-8700; www.bobcat.com.

Solid-Wood Garage Doors with a Swing-Open Look

These overhead garage doors are perfect for customers who like the look of old-fashioned swinging doors. All of the garage doors from Designer Doors have solid-wood rails and stiles made of 1³/₈-inch Douglas fir. The manufacturer offers several options for the door panels, from a simple flat MDO panel to a sandwich of 5/8-inch western red cedar boards, 1³/₈-inch rigid polystyrene insulation, and 1/4-inch luan.

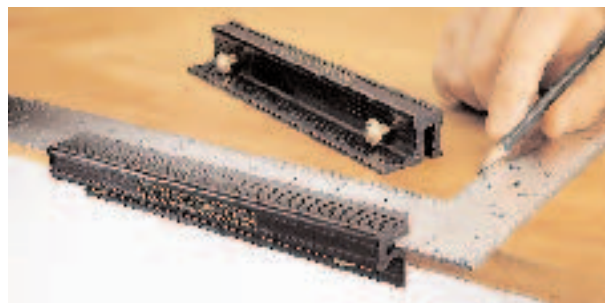
Single-wide (9-foot) garage doors range in price from \$3,000 to \$6,000, while double-wide (16-foot) garage doors cost from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Contact: Designer Doors, 183 E. Pomeroy St., River Falls, WI 54022; 800/241-0525; www.designerdoorms.com.



Putting a Lip on Your Steel Square

Did you ever wish your steel square had a lip to catch the edge of a piece of lumber, like a Speed



Square? The *Square Fence* is a gadget that lets you add a lip to your framing square. Once the fence is attached, just remember that the dimensions along the top edge of the square are now offset by 3/4 inch. The Square Fence (part #O5N5401) sells for \$13.

Contact: Lee Valley Tools, P.O. Box 1780, Ogdensburg, NY 13669-6780; 800/267-8735; www.leevalley.com.

A Better Utility Knife

Twenty years ago, utility knives were fairly primitive — simple steel handles that required a screwdriver to change the blades. The latest version of this essential tool, the *MaxxGrip utility knife* from Hyde



Tools, has a large, comfortable, curved plastic handle sized for an adult hand. Since the head of the tool is angled, your hand is in a more natural position when you apply pressure on the knife.

If you pull back a spring-loaded clasp at the bottom of the tool, the two halves of the knife body open up for easy blade changes. The tool's only drawback: There is no room in the handle to store spare blades. The MaxxGrip utility knife with holster sells for \$12.

Contact: Hyde Manufacturing, 54 Eastford Rd., Southbridge, MA 01550; 800/872-4933; www.hydetools.com.

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Colorful Stud Finders

Here's a stud finder that will stand out in your toolbox. The compact *iSensor* is only 4¹/₂ inches long but is able to locate both wood and steel studs up to ³/₄ inch deep.



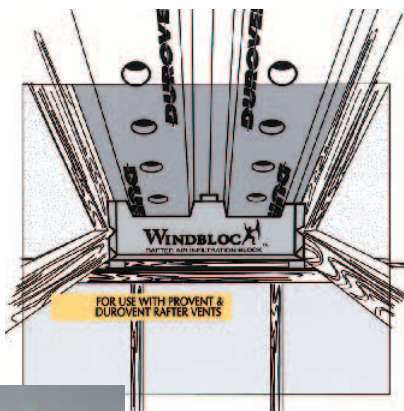
An LED lamp indicates the location of the edge of a stud. Since the *iSensor* is available in red, purple, blue, amber, turquoise, green, and yellow, you can probably buy one to match your pickup truck. The *iSensor* costs about \$10.

Contact: Zircon, 1580 Dell Ave., Campbell, CA 95008; 800/245-9265; www.zircon.com.

Insulation Dam

Unless prevented, the cold air from soffit vents can blow against the attic insulation, resulting in unnecessary heat loss. If the attic is insulated with cellulose, the breeze can even lift the insulation right off the ceiling drywall.

The *Windblock* is a waxed cardboard baffle designed to block the soffit-vent wind by fitting snugly between 24-inch on-center roof trusses. The *Windblock* has side flaps that allow the baffle to be stapled to the trusses. The upper edge of the *Windblock* is contoured to follow the profile of a Durovent 22-inch polystyrene insulation channel; there are also knockouts



provided to allow it to conform to either 14-inch- or 22-inch-wide Provent polystyrene ventilation channels. *Windblock* is sold in packages of 10 for \$8.

Contact: ADO Products, P.O. Box 236, Rogers, MN 55374; 800/666-8191; www.adoproducts.com.

Classy Garage Doors

Clopay Building Products is offering a "semi-custom" line of quality garage doors in three wood species: redwood, western red cedar, and hemlock. The doors are built by gluing 1¹/₄-inch-thick stiles and rails and ³/₄-inch panels to a backing of ¹/₄-inch lauan plywood, for a total door thickness of about 1¹/₂ inches.



A 8x16-foot garage door in red cedar costs between \$2,400 and \$3,200, depending on the style.

Contact: Clopay Building Products, 312 Walnut St., Suite 1600, Cincinnati, OH 45202; 800/282-2260; www.clopay.com

High-Tech Entry Door

Here's a new twist on an old problem: You come home late at night, and as you approach the front door, you think — darn, where's the remote control? A remote-controlled electronic lock strike is one of the components that make up the *WelcomeWatch* system, a package of security features that Stanley is selling as an option on their entry doors. The system also includes low-voltage lighting fixtures mounted in the door jamb head. The pocket-sized remote control activates the lights

as well as the keyless door strike. The *WelcomeWatch* system works with any style of Stanley door, and any standard deadbolt hardware. When an entry door is ordered with the system, the jamb comes prewired with 12-volt DC wiring to the lock strike



and low-voltage lights. The 120 VAC power supply must be installed in a remote location, and low-voltage wiring is run to the door jamb. The suggested retail price varies by region. In New England, not including the entry door, it's about \$350.

Contact: The Stanley Works, 1000 Stanley Dr., New Britain, CT 06053; 800/521-2752; www.stanleyworks.com.

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Protection for Pressure-Treated Posts

Post-frame construction is often used for rural utility buildings. But many customers worry that pressure-treated posts in contact with the soil will rot. To address these concerns, a Pennsylvania builder has invented *Post Protectors*, which are 5-foot-long rigid polyethylene "socks" that slip over the bottoms of 6x6 posts. About 12 to 18 inches of the Post Protector is designed to extend above grade.

Of course, this raises questions about uplift resistance and whether the posts can "breathe." To help resist uplift, each Post Protector comes with four 1/2x3-inch stainless-steel lag bolts, which are inserted into the post at designated below-grade locations. The manufacturer asserts that the polyethylene makes a watertight seal around the bolts. According to the manufacturer, special vertical channels in the protectors are designed to allow air to circulate around the buried posts.

Post Protectors cost \$65 each and come in two sizes: one for 6x6 posts, and one for 4-ply 2x6 glue-laminated posts. *Contact:* Post Protector, P.O. Box 187, Pottsville, PA 17901; 877/966-8768; www.postprotector.com.

Cordless Compound Miter Saw

Bosch has released a new cordless compound miter saw. The 24-volt model 3924 uses Bosch's Ni-Cad battery, and takes a thin-kerf 10-inch-diameter blade.

The 3,600-rpm saw weighs 30 pounds and comes standard with two batteries. The saw costs around \$460; additional batteries cost about \$130 each.

Contact: Bosch Power Tools, 4300 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; 877/267-2499; www.boschtools.com.



Getting Organized

The *Permit Caddy* is a clear vinyl envelope for protecting your building permit and organizing the rest of your job-site paperwork. It includes clips to hold receipts and has separate pouches that can hold business cards and a calculator.



The envelope is weather resistant, so your papers will stay dry, even if the roof hasn't been felted yet.

The Permit Caddy has been designed for the job site; to make it easy to nail to your studs, it has two large mounting grommets spaced 16 inches on-center. It also comes with two suction cups, so your permit can be mounted in a window. The Permit Caddy costs \$27.

Contact: Conarroe Companies, P.O. Box 184, Lafayette, CO 80026; 303/665-3140; www.permitcaddy.com.

Dryer Vent Solution

The *Dryerbox* is a 22-gauge steel box that recesses a dryer's flexible vent hose between the studs. This provides a finished appearance and allows a dryer to be installed closer to the wall without kinking the vent.

The Dryerbox is installed in just one direction, venting vertically out of the top of the box. The standard Dryerbox is 13x21x4 1/4 inches and is designed for installation in a 2x6 wall. This leaves room for 1 or 1 1/4 inches of rigid foam insulation behind the box, if desired. The shallower 3 1/2-inch-deep box, which can be installed in a 2x4 wall, requires the use of oval vent pipe. The Dryerbox is available for about \$20 from many hvac suppliers.

Contact: In-O-Vate Technologies, 17368 S.E. Conch Bar Ave., Tequesta, FL 33469; 888/443-7937; www.dryerbox.com.

