

Products

by Dave Crosby

Jamb Extensions

Geometric windows are great until you need an extension jamb. Then it can get complicated, unless you've heard about *Composite Vinyl Jamb Extensions*. Available for 2x4 or 2x6 construction, paintable, stainable, tan or white to match the manufacturer's windows, they can be attached with nails or screws like wood jamb extensions.

Contact: CertainTeed, 750 E. Swedesford Rd., Valley Forge, PA 19482; 800/233-8990; www.certainteed.com.



Get a Handle on It

A good handle on a file provides better control as well as safety and comfort for the hands. Wood handles don't always stay attached under field conditions, and having the handle fall off in mid-stroke can have bad consequences.



Here's a file with a slip-resistant plastic handle that's comfortable, allows for precise control, and looks like it will stay where it belongs. The *Nicholson Ergonomic File Handle* is available on a selection of 6- to 12-inch files and rasps, including half-round, round, mill bastard, flat bastard, slim taper, and chainsaw files. Prices range from \$3 to \$22 per file, with sets available from \$24 to \$94.

Contact: Cooper Tools, P.O. Box 728, Apex, NC 27502; 919/781-7200; www.coopertools.com.

LED Flashlight



Using ten "super-bright white" light-emitting diodes, this new flashlight will shine for over a month of continuous use on three D-cell batteries, according to the manufacturer. The *Lightwave 4000* is said to be water resistant and shockproof, with no filament bulbs to break, and the LEDs are expected to last for over 100,000 hours or 11 years of continuous use. Suggested retail is \$59.95.

Contact: Lightwave, 5665 Hwy. 9, #103-325, Alpharetta, GA 30004; www.longlight.com. To order, call Action Electronics; 800/834-4605; www.action-electronics.com.

Stone-Coated Steel

With no requirement for battens or special tools, these 26-gauge stone-chip-finish metal roof panels can be installed quicker than traditional metal roof systems, according to the



manufacturer. Just 15 of the roughly 2x4-foot 26-gauge DECRA panels will cover 100 square feet. At 1.25 pounds per square foot, the existing roof does not necessarily have to be removed for reroof, and the metal roofing is noncombustible (Class A). The design of these shingles is said to increase the shear strength of the building, and the material is strong enough to walk on after installation. You should expect to pay about \$250 to \$300 retail per square, including accessories.

Contact: Tasman Roofing Inc., 1230 Railroad St., Corona, CA 92882; 909/272-8180; www.decra.com.

Fantastic

If seven different finish combinations and a choice of blades aren't enough in a ceiling fan, you can also have hand-held or wall-mounted remote control of fan speed, direction, and dimming of the



upward-facing mood lighting and optional downward-facing light. The *LX Ceiling Fan* also has a three-speed, triple-capacitor motor control for quiet operation, according to the manufacturer. Six-foot hookup wires are included for long downrods, and the fan can be mounted on sloped ceilings of up to 39 degrees without adapters. At a suggested retail price of \$324, you just have to figure life is too short for cheap, noisy ceiling fans.

Contact: Regency Ceiling Fans, 1760 Gilsinn Ln., Fenton, MO 63026; 877/712-1960; www.regency-fan.com.

Measure Once, Cut Once

Okay, I admit it — sometimes I forget measurements. Yelling them to the cutbench isn't much good if you work by yourself, and the ubiquitous 2x4 scrap is just one more thing to carry. The *FastPad* sticks to the side of your tape measure so you can write the measurement in pencil and erase it with your finger as



many times as you want. At 30¢ each, I have to give it a try. If it actually works and stays stuck to the tape measure, I'm going to buy a bunch of them. You can even have them imprinted with your name, phone number, and Web site as a promotional item.

Contact: Fastcap, 3725 Irongate Rd., Suite 105, Bellingham, WA 98226; 888/443-3748; www.fastcap.com.

When the Chips Are Down

You can get sheet or tile linoleum in a chip pattern with contrasting shades and neutral backgrounds. Available in twelve colors, *Decorette* comes in 2.5-millimeter and 3.2-millimeter thicknesses, with a cost of \$4 to \$4.50 per square foot.



Contact: Armstrong, 2500 Columbia Ave., P.O. Box 3001, Lancaster, PA 17604; 877/276-7876; www.armstrong.com.

Econo-Bull

If you need to open up your concrete and get rid of that bleed water, at \$31.60 the *Solid Wood Bull Float* might just be the economical choice (as long as you're not working with air-entrained concrete). The 36x72-inch float has beveled ends to prevent lines and is designed for use with a clevis-style handle.

Contact: Marshalltown Trowel, 104 S. 8th Ave., Marshalltown, IA 50158; 641/753-5999; www.marshalltown.com.



Post Puller

Temporary fencing is a great thing to have around your site — as long as it really is temporary. If such fencing is part of your routine, this might be the tool to have. The *MP-3 Manual Post Puller* is available for \$620, including the grab bar and chain.

Contact: Rhino Tool Co., 620 Andrews Ave., P.O. Box 111, Kewanee, IL 61443; 309/853-5555; www.rhinotool.com.



Let the Sun Shine in

Tubular skylights are becoming more and more popular, as builders and clients realize the benefits of these easily installed and highly effective devices. The latest addition to the *Brighten Up Series* is a 21-inch model, now available for larger spaces. This model also features a square ceiling diffuser, in frosted, prismatic, or OptiView, which is said to reflect the image of the sky. Cost varies with construction type and specifics of installation.

Contact: Solatube International, 2210 Oak Ridge Way, Vista, CA 92083; 800/966-7652; www.solatube.com.



Surface-Mount Fluorescent

Available in three profile designs, the *Sculpture Series* offers surface-

mounted decorative fluorescent fixtures that provide both direct and indirect lighting. The Deco Oval with cherry finish, Classic Round with oak finish, and Modern Rectangle with white finish are all equipped with three 40-watt compact fluorescent lamps and quiet, energy-efficient ballasts that meet federal Energy Star requirements, according to the manufacturer. Suggested retail price is \$375.

Contact: Lithonia Lighting, P.O. Box A, Conyers, GA 30012; 770/922-9000; www.lithonia.com.

