

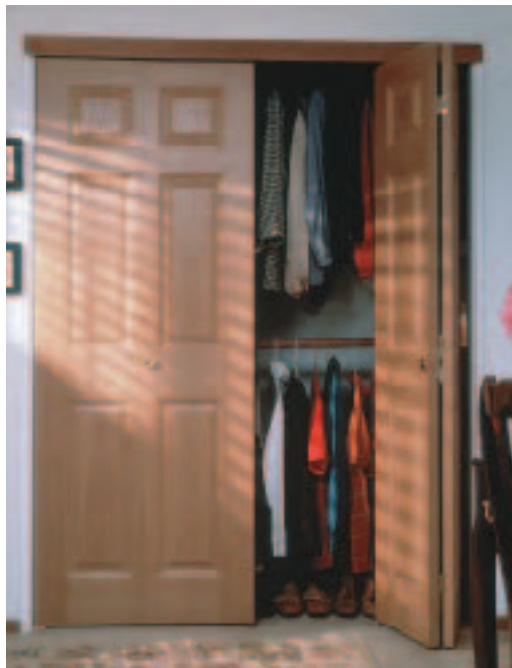
Products

by Joe Stoddard

Better Bifold

Bifold doors can be a nightmare to install — drilling the pins, adjusting the flimsy bottom pivot, and what about the makeshift carpet riser you always have to fabricate out of a scrap of pine? The *Johnson 1700 Folding Door Hardware Kit* promises to make the bifold installer's life easier. For one thing, the top track hangs the entire weight of the door on surface-mounted brackets — no more drilling pivots and guides into the door. The rugged track is easy to mount and adjust, and, best of all, the bottom bracket mounts to the doorjamb, not the floor. The 1700 costs \$15 to \$25 per kit, depending on door size.

Contact: L.E. Johnson Products, Inc., 2100 Sterling Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516; 800/837-5664; www.johnsonhardware.com.



Hip Pocket Protector

I admit, I hung up my tool bags quite a few years ago — mostly because it wasn't worth the full-sized backache when all I needed to carry was a few tools for punch lists or repairs. When the BucketBoss folks sent me a *Rear Guard Tool Sheath* to check out, my wife was happy, too — no more jeans ripped out from jamming tools in my back pocket.

The Rear Guard is made of the same super-tough woven material as other BucketBoss products. You can snap it onto your belt or toolbox with the built-in snap loop, slide the rigid flap into your back pocket, or use both at the same time if you've really loaded it up. The Rear Guard has two large and two small pockets for tools or fasteners, plus a pencil holder and handy clip loop that will hold a couple of rolls of electrical tape, or your keys. Price is \$12.99.

Contact: BucketBoss Brand, Fiskars Consumer Products, Inc., 8300 Highland Dr., Wausau, WI 54401; 715/845-3802; www.bucketboss.com.



Water Blockers

Sherwin-Williams recently introduced two new elastomeric masonry coatings — designed to minimize interior moisture problems by keeping water where it belongs — outside. *Conflex XL High-Build Coating* provides a thick elastic



film that conceals surface irregularities and protects against wind-driven rain even in tough coastal areas. *SherLastic Elastomeric Coating* is



designed for less demanding applications and is vapor-permeable, so it allows trapped moisture vapor to escape. Conflex XL and SherLastic are available in 5-gallon pails for \$33 per gallon and \$27 per gallon, respectively.

Contact: Sherwin-Williams Company, c/o HKM Direct, 5501 Cass Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102; 800/331-7979; www.sherwin-williams.com.

Products

Don't Get Stuck

For the contractor who has everything, how 'bout some *Removable Duck Tape* brand duct tape? According to the company, it has the same strength and holding power of regular duct tape and can be used to secure tools temporarily, seal cracks, hang drop cloths, and perform other duct tape tricks. But unlike regular duct tape, Removable has a UV-resistant coating that allows it to be removed weeks later with no sticky mess. Price: Around \$5 to \$7, depending on the roll size.

Contact: Manco, Inc., 32150 Just Imagine Dr., Avon, OH 44011; 800/321-1733; www.manco.com.



Well-Designed Fireplace

Anyone who has ever tried to trim out a typical gas fireplace insert understands how hard it is to make them look like anything other than an ugly black tin box shoved into the wall. *Lennox Hearth Products* tackles the problem with its LBV-43. The firebox opening of the LBV-43 is a full 24 inches high, with no exposed louvers in the front, allowing finishes to be applied right up to the edge of the firebox. The LBV-43 also offers recessed firescreen

pockets, an open-hearth design with operable glass doors (optional), and a realistic charred oak log set and glowing ember bed — features that add up to a more realistic and traditional design.

Contact: Lennox Hearth Products, 4325 Artesia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833; 800/953-6669; www.lennoxhearthproducts.com. 

