

Products

by Joe Stoddard

Two Pneu Nailers

Hovering around two pounds each, the *Paslode T200-F18* and *T125-F18* finish nailers are the lightest 18-gauge shooters available, but they're no lightweights when it comes to features. Both models include a depth-of-drive adjustment, a quick-clear nose, an indicator that lets you know when a whole nail clip will fit (no more breaking off the last five nails), and a vent cap



that allows both left- and right-handed users to direct the exhaust toward

their helpers. The T125

and T200 will shoot fasteners from $\frac{5}{8}$ inch to 1 or 2 inches, respectively. They list for \$99 and \$119.

Contact: Paslode, 888 Forest Edge Dr., Vernon Hills, IL 60061; 800/682-3428; www.paslode.com.

In the Mood

The *Regency Solaira Ceiling Fan* can do more than provide a breeze; it can also help your customers set the mood by lighting up the ceiling. The Mood Glow upward lighting is separately adjustable from a wall control (if you remembered to run enough wires) or a hand-held remote control. Mood lighting aside, the fan comes with a 6-inch down rod in the box for standard installations and 6 feet of wire so you can make the hookups without rewiring the fan when a long down rod is required. The 52-inch Solaira comes with either a satin steel or appliance white finish and "maple wood" blades. Prices range from \$250 to \$350, depending on options.

Contact: Regency Ceiling Fans, Dept. SR, P.O. Box 730, Fenton, MO 63026; 877/712-1960; www.regencyfan.com.



Space Invader

GE is getting into the foam sealant business with *Space Invader*, an aerosol polyurethane sealant that can be



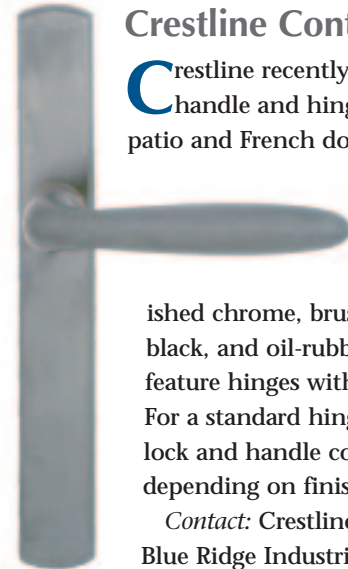
used to plug up all those cracks and gaps in your building envelope. According to GE, the new foam beats the competition in a couple of key ways: It will dispense at any angle — no more standing on your head while foaming. You'll have to work fast, though — Space Invader is

tack free in under five minutes, giving you less time to get it all over clothes and hands. Price is about \$4 per 12-ounce can.

Contact: GE Sealants and Adhesives, 16325 Northcross Dr., Huntersville, NC 28078; 704/655-2000; www.gesealants.com.

Crestline Contemporary

Crestline recently introduced a new line of handle and hinge hardware for its exterior patio and French doors. The *Contemporary style hardware* features a multi-point locking system and is available in brass, antique brass, polished chrome, brushed chrome, white, matte black, and oil-rubbed finishes. Swinging doors feature hinges with a matching finish as well. For a standard hinged door, the multi-point lock and handle cost between \$315 and \$580, depending on finish.



Contact: Crestline Windows and Doors, 4150 Blue Ridge Industrial Pkwy., Norcross, GA 30071; 800/552-4111; www.crestlinewindows.com.

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A Better Barrow

Anyone who has ever dumped a load of concrete onto the ground by accident will appreciate the design of



the new *Sterling RSU Wheelbarrows*, which replace the old dirt-grabbing squared-off nose with a rounded design that promises to make it easier to drop your load exactly where you want it. The RSU (Rollbar Support Unit) design also features a chute support bar and a choice of "poly-U" no-flat tires. The RSU option is available on both Sterling General Purpose and Industrial wheelbarrows with capacity from 3³/₄ to 10³/₄ cf. List prices start at around \$145.

Contact: Sterling Handling Equipment, Inc., P.O. Box 090438, Milwaukee, WI 53209; 414/228-7728; www.sterlingtoughguy.com.

Setting the Scene

Home automation is getting more popular, and automatic lighting control is part of the package. Leviton's new DHC line of *scene-capable dimming receivers* with one-button programming makes it easy to give your customers what they want. The high-tech devices install in place of standard wall switches and use the existing electrical wires to communicate with a central scene controller and lighting fixtures. Use the



X10-based system anywhere you need full control over a room full of lighting — home theatres, dining rooms with chandeliers, and formal entryways, to name a few. Prices start at around \$50 per device.

Contact: Leviton Mfg. Co., Inc., 59-25 Little Neck Pkwy., Little Neck, NY 11362; 800/323-8920; www.leviton.com.

Reasonably Priced Untangler

No doubt your customers are starting to ask about home automation, sharing an Internet connection, and home theatre wiring. How do you organize all that spaghetti without spending a fortune on a proprietary system? The

Structured Wiring Panel from M&S Systems is one solution. The \$369 Gold model provides built-in termination for ten phone, six video, four data, and five audio runs, as well as all the associated incoming cabling from the street. Features include a locking cover and the choice of surface or stud mounting. Other, basic models start at \$149, and additional modules can be added as necessary.

Contact: M&S Systems, 2861 Congressman Ln., Dallas, TX 75220; 800/877-6631; www.mssystem.com.



New Aluminum Columns

Everyone's looking for low-maintenance exteriors, but it's a pretty good bet that crinkly aluminum coil stock nailed over a treated wooden post isn't what your customers have in mind — especially the first time a weed-eater chews up your handiwork. Why not use a structural aluminum column that will look good for a long time and can carry up to 15,000 pounds? *Superior Aluminum Products* makes square-smooth, round, and fluted columns in sizes from 6 to 16 inches and lengths from 8 to 24 feet, with several complementary cap and base styles. The two newest additions to the lineup are 10- and 12-inch square models with a Charleston-styled cap. They're available prefinished in white, brown, almond, and sandstone or primed so you can paint to suit yourself. Prices start at \$100 to \$150 for the smaller standard sizes.



Contact: Superior Aluminum Products, P.O. Box 430, Russia, OH 45363; 937/526-4065; www.superioraluminum.com.

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Shaker Style

The Simpson Door Company has introduced the *Shaker Series* of solid western hemlock doors that reflect the simple flat-panel Shaker styling that is enjoying a surge in popularity. The hinged doors are available in two-, three-, and four-panel designs in standard widths from 2-0 to 3-0 feet; four-panel bifolds are available in 2-0, 2-6, and 3-0 feet. Pricing is comparable to any quality solid wood door, according to the company.

Contact: Simpson Door Company, 33650 6th Ave. South, Suite 102, Federal Way, WA 98003; 800/952-4057; www.simpsondoor.com.



Innovative Undermounts

Looking for something different to offer in the kitchen department? Moen's *Lancelot undermount stainless-steel sinks* come in a variety of new shapes, such as oval, round, and trapezoid, and in depths of 6, 8, and 10 inches. By combining individual bowls,



you can create a custom configuration. Lancelot sinks are fully soundproofed and carry a 15-year warranty. Prices range from around \$280 to \$390 for a single 10-inch-deep bowl.

Contact: Moen, Inc., 25300 Al Moen Dr., North Olmsted, OH 44070; 800/289-6636; www.moen.com.

Automatic Gate

So your latest reclusive client wants automatic gates at the end of her 2-mile driveway but doesn't want to pay you to trench the electrical service out there? No problem — the *Mighty Mule E-Z automatic gate opener* runs on a 12-volt battery that can be charged by either solar panels or a low-voltage transformer (if within 1,000 feet of the AC).



A remote control means that nobody gets wet opening the gate in bad weather. A sudden power failure shouldn't lock you out either: The Mighty Mule can open and shut 50 times on a charge, according to the company. A single-opener package runs under \$500, and the two-gate setup is under \$800. The solar charger adds approximately \$125 per gate.

Contact: GTO, Inc., 3121 Hartsfield Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303; 800/543-4283; www.gtoinc.com.

Made to Fit

Over a quarter of new homes are being built with 9-foot ceilings, but until now builders have had to scratch their heads (not to mention everywhere else) to figure out



how to insulate the 9-foot walls with 8-foot insulation. Luckily, Johns Manville (JM) has released a new 105-inch-long by 15-inch-wide insulation batt.

"Installers will love these batts," says John Smith, foam and sheathing market manager for Johns Manville. "This product will help reduce installation time and provide a better fit in 9-foot-high wall cavities." Fewer pieces should mean higher energy efficiency as well.

The 105-inch batts are available faced or unfaced as R-11, R-13, R-15, and R-19. Pricing is the same as for other fiberglass insulation products.

Contact: Johns Manville, P.O. Box 5108, Denver, CO 80217; 800/654-3103; www.jm.com.