

Products | by Patrick McCombe



Three-Way Outlet. Leviton's *Acenti Triplex* and *Sixplex* receptacles contain outlets oriented in three directions. Transformer-type plugs can be inserted in the top and bottom outlets without blocking the third one. Prices start at \$15 each.

Leviton, 800/824-3005, leviton.com.

Take a Spin. The classic rotary dimmer has been updated: Pass & Seymour/Legrand's *Decorator* dimmers are controlled by intuitive rotating knobs with LEDs that show the lighting level. An optional snap-in illuminated module makes the devices easy to find in the dark. The dimmers come in 600- and 1,100-watt versions in five colors. The model shown sells for \$27.



Pass & Seymour/Legrand, 800/776-4035, passandseymour.com.

Well-Connected. Interconnected smoke detectors offer extra safety — but retrofitting them usually means fishing three-conductor wires throughout the house. Kidde's *Wireless Smoke Alarm* is different: It gives your

clients the advantages of an interconnected system without the fishing. Instead of wires, it uses radio-frequency signals to sound all the alarms when one is activated. The product has a 10-year



battery and an 85-decibel siren. Prices start at \$50 for a battery model; AC versions start at \$55.

Kidde, 800/880-6788, kiddewireless.com.



Fast Cut. If you ever have to install an electrical work box in wood paneling — or in any tough-to-cut wall surface — consider Arlington Industries' *Hole Saw Box*. Sized for a 3 1/4-inch hole saw, the box has a sturdy, integrated clamping system and 17 cubic inches of space inside. (Note that it requires an oversized wall plate.) It's rated for a 3-pound fixture and costs about \$5.

Arlington Industries, 800/233-4717, aifittings.com.

Products

Pest Control.

Log-builder Bill Averette adds *Bug Juice* to all his deck stains and exterior coatings to prevent wood-boring insects from destroying his clients' homes (see "Building Log Homes," page 75). According to the manufacturer, Bug Juice is the only insecticide additive approved by the EPA for use with interior and exterior paints and coatings. The company also says that the product remains effective for the life of the coating. An 8-ounce bottle costs \$50.

Walla Walla Environmental, 800/247-9011, wwenvironmental.com.



Stick-to-itiveness.

Despite inroads made by composites and exotics, most decks are built with pressure-treated decking. The problem is that getting paint or stain to stick to

PT lumber can feel like a losing battle — but I've had good luck with Penofin's *Penetrating Oil Finish for Pressure-Treated Wood*. It lasts longer and looks better than any other deck stain I've used. Available in three colors, it can be applied with a garden sprayer and costs about \$40 per gallon.

Penofin, 800/736-6346, penofin.com.



Perfect Pitch. Fabricating sill pans on site? There's more than one way to slope the rough sill. The conventional method is to nail on a piece of bevel siding; another option is to use Amico's *Sill Wedge*. Available in both 2x4 and 2x6 sizes, the PVC wedge is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch tall and comes in 10-foot lengths. It's sold in 30-count cartons and costs between \$4 and \$5 per length.

Amico, 800/366-2642, amico-lath.com.



Don't Cut Corners. Compatible with DuPont's other weatherization products, *FlexWrap RW* preformed corners for inset windows work with single-, double-, and open-stud construction. The maker says the butyl-based formula performs well in all climates. The company declined to provide pricing.

DuPont, 800/448-9835, construction.tyvek.com.