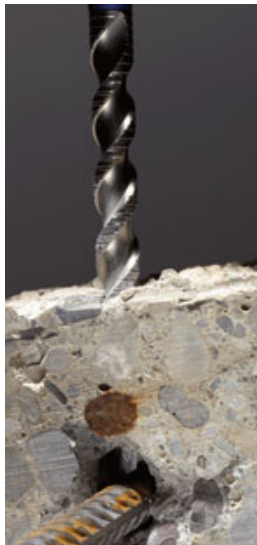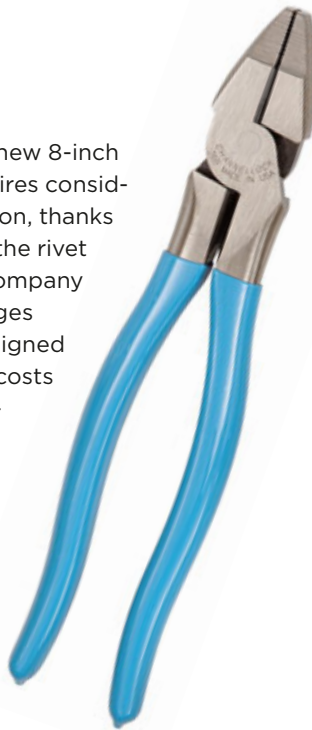# Toolbits | by Tom O'Brien

Powerful Pliers. Channellock says its new 8-inch *High-Leverage Lineman's Plier* (#368) requires considerably less cutting force than the competition, thanks to increased leverage achieved by moving the rivet forward, closer to the cutting edges. The company also says that "knife-and-anvil" cutting edges ensure a clean cut that won't become misaligned over time. The tool is made in the U.S. and costs about $24; a 9$\frac{1}{2}$-inch version (#369) introduced last year costs about $32.

Channellock, 800/724-3018, channellock.com.

Tough Bits. If you accidentally hit rebar with a *SpeedHammer Power SDS-plus Masonry Bit,* you might be able to keep the cursing to a minimum. This new bit — which purportedly contains twice the carbide of a standard masonry bit — has a tip engineered to chew through rebar at high speed without losing its edge, says the manufacturer. The bits come in 6-, 8-, and 12-inch lengths, with diameters ranging from $3/16$ to $3/4$ inch. They cost $8 to $40.

Irwin Tools, 800/464-7946, irwin.com.

Convenient Containers. Festool has upgraded its stackable carrying cases by replacing the old thumb-busting latches with easy-to-turn knobs that open, close, and connect boxes. *T-Loc Systainers* can be opened while connected to one another, so you don't have to dismantle an entire stack to get at a tool on the bottom. The new cases are compatible with older Systainers. Currently a limited number of Festool products leave the factory in T-Lock Systainers. Prices for empty Systainers range from $60 to $82.

Tooltechnic Systems, 888/337-8600, festoolusa.com.

Improved Recip Blades. Lenox says its *T2* demolition and wood-cutting reciprocating-saw blades now cut 25 percent faster than earlier models and last twice as long. According to the company, a change in the shape and pattern of the teeth reduces friction and helps the blades cut faster in nail-embedded wood. A five-pack of T2 blades costs $14 to $25, depending on the size and specification.

Lenox, 800/628-3030, lenoxtools.com.