

Toolbits

Gimme a Lift. Some of us have only a small shop or garage for storing tools, and ladders take up too much valuable wall or floor space. The new *Ladder Lift* helps ease the squeeze by making it relatively painless to store even heavy ladders overhead. It uses a rope-and-pulley system and a fixed hook that mounts on the ceiling. You lift one end of the ladder onto the fixed hook, attach the strap to the other end, and pull on the rope. The lift can handle up to 150 pounds and costs \$50.

Racor, 800/783-7725, racorstoragesolutions.com.



Super Stirrer. The *StirWhip* paint stirrer's "fingers" are much more robust than they look in photos. They're flexible enough to squeeze through the pour spout of a 5-gallon paint can, yet stiff enough to dig up sediment and to mix denser materials like drywall compound. They're easy to clean, too. Though installed to create a 5-inch diameter, they can be cut with scissors or a knife to fit in a small can. They come with an 8- or 18-inch-long rod for \$10 and \$15.

Prazi USA, 800/262-0211, praziusa.com.



Compact Powerhouse.

People who have tried the new *M12 Fuel* drivers say they pack a lot of power for their size. According to Milwaukee, the tools' brushless motors are more efficient than standard motors, and their "Redlithium" batteries provide up to four times more runtime and 20% more power than standard li-ion batteries. The line consists of a screwdriver, a drill/driver, a hammer drill/driver, and three impact drivers. The 1/4-inch Hex Impact Driver Kit shown costs \$170.

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp., 800/729-3878, milwaukeetool.com/brushless.



Force Multiplier. Makita's *LXTX2* rotary hammer is an update of the HRH01, except it uses two 18-volt batteries instead of a single 36-volt — which means contractors who own other LXT tools can use their existing batteries and chargers. It delivers twice the drilling speed of 18-volt rotary hammers and can drill three times more holes per charge. A torque-limiting clutch automatically disengages gears if the bit binds, preventing damage. A multi-port charger would be a good addition, but so far the company hasn't announced plans to add one. Cost is \$350.

Makita, 800/462-5482, makita-usa.com.