

Products

by Pete Young

Steel Framing Aids

Carpenters who have made the switch to steel framing now have two new options for cutting studs. *Steel Studs* carbide-tipped circular saw blades come in two diameters, 7¹/₄ and 10 inches (\$33.50 and \$61, respectively). Both are designed to make burr-free cuts in up to 20-gauge galvanized steel studs.

Contact: The Oldham Company, 4 The Professional Drive, West Jefferson, NC 28694; 800/828-9000.



For customized cuts, try *Bulldog Snips*. For \$21, you get hardened serrated blades at the end of a long-leverage, short-bite design.

Contact: Klenk Industries, Inc., 20 Germay Drive, Wilmington, DE 19804; 800/327-5619.



Gluing to metal studs has been a problem in the past because the oily film on the metal tends to prevent good bonding. A new adhesive in the *Liquid Nails* product line is specifically intended for use with interior and exterior steel and metal framing. This adhesive is good for gluing metal studs to porous materials such as plywood, drywall, or backer board. It won't adhere metal to metal, however, because at least one porous surface is necessary to establish a good bond. A 29-ounce cartridge retails for around \$4.50.

Contact: MACCO, 925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115; 800/634-0015.

Removable Rack

Sometimes you need a truck rack and sometimes you don't. The 1,000-pound capacity *T-Rac* is a removable pickup rack with front and rear racks that slide onto mounting rails. Pickup bed toolboxes can be installed over the rails after the rack has been mounted. Made from aluminum, the system is rust proof, and one size fits all trucks. T-Rac retails in the low \$400s and is available through truck accessory retailers.

Contact: TracRac Inc., 994 Jefferson St., Fall River, MA 02721; 800/501-1587.



Focus on Safety

Daloz Safety offers a pair of foldable ear muffs that provide 22 decibels of noise reduction. When collapsed, the compact hearing protectors can easily be stored in a toolbox or pocket. The company also has developed a new fall protection harness especially designed for women.

The *Ms. Miller Full-Body Harness* has unique chest and hip straps that are said to provide women with greater working comfort.

Contact: Daloz Safety. P.O. Box 622. Reading, PA 19603; 800/873-5242; www.cdaloz.com.



Job-Site First Aid

A well-stocked first aid kit is essential safety equipment, but finding kits suited to construction job sites is not so easy.

The *Industrial Grade* general purpose first aid kit has supplies for most situations and costs a reasonable \$25.

Contact: MSA Safety Works, P.O. Box 426, Pittsburgh, PA 15230; 888/672-4692; www.msasafetyworks.com.



Residential Lamp Posts

Available in two styles and in heights ranging from 7 1/2 feet to 11 1/2 feet, *Classic* lamp posts accept 1 to 4 luminaries per post with either incandescent, mercury vapor, or high-pressure sodium lamps.

Costs range from \$262 to \$673, plus freight. The polysteel posts, which resemble cast iron, have an industrial grade plastic exterior, a galvanized steel post core, and a structural foam-filled cavity in between.

Contact: Rotocast International, Inc., 3645 N.W. 67th St., Miami, FL 33147; 800/654-5852; www.rotocast.com.



Fabric Forms for Pad Footings

A pad footing can be poured very quickly using bags instead of wood forms. Available in sizes ranging from 2x2 feet to 4x4 feet and priced from \$5 to \$14, these special bags are placed in position and filled with cement to the desired thickness. Bags with zippers are available if horizontal rebar needs to be added; vertical rebar can be driven through the center of the bag before the concrete sets.

Contact: Fastfoot Industries LTD., Unit 300, 14770 64th Ave., Surrey, BC V3S 1X7, Canada; 604/596-3278; www.fastfoot.com.



Combination Grade and Rebar Support Stakes

Especially well-suited to shallow concrete footings where no wood framing is needed, *ReBar Stakes* can be driven to the finish grade height, then used to attach reinforcing steel at appropriate intervals. Steel stakes are 18 inches long and available with either two (\$17.50 per 50) or four (\$22.50 per 50) rebar clips, which will support #3, #4, and #5 rebar. Glass-filled nylon stakes, also 18 inches long, are available with four clips (\$24.50 per 50).

Contact: ReBar Stakes Company, P.O. Box 20668, Louisville, KY 40250; 800/326-8554.



High Early Strength Concrete Mix

For small batches of quick-setting, high-strength concrete, 60- or 80-pound bags of *Quikrete 5000* are the way to go. This mix has a walk-on time of 10-12 hours and reaches 5,000 psi at 28 days.

Contact: The Quikrete Companies, P.O. Box 2836, Norcross, GA 30093; 404/634-9100; www.quikrete.com.



Root Barrier Fabric

BioBarrier prevents tree roots from growing into and damaging foundations, sidewalks, driveways, septic systems, and other in-ground components. The rolls of fabric (about \$2 per sq. ft.) are 12, 19.5, 39, or 58.5 inches wide and are treated with trifluralin, a time-release herbicide that prevents root growth. When placed in a trench or wrapped around a pipe, BioBarrier inhibits root growth into the protected area for a period of 15 years. The manufacturer claims that BioBarrier's toxicity level is only slightly higher than sugar and slightly lower than salt.

Contact: Reemay, Inc., PO Box 551, Old Hickory, TN 37138; 800/284-2780.



Electrical Connections

Stripping electrical cable just got easier. One pass through the *U.F. Safety Stripper* cuts off the outer insulating jacket of multi-conductor U.F. underground-rated wire. Pulling while squeezing the tool engages the vegetable-peeler-like blade, stripping the white and black leads, one side at a time. The remnant of the jacket is pulled off of the center ground wire.

Safe connections have also gotten simpler with watertight *Sealed Underground Connectors*. Intended for use in all indoor and outdoor wet locations, these devices require no junction boxes and are UL-rated for direct underground bury applications. After the wires are pushed through the outer seal of the silicone-filled connector opening, the non-hardening silicone flows around the connection, locking out moisture and air. An internal spring ensures a tight fit.

Contact: King Safety Products, 3801 Lloyd King Dr., St. Charles, MO 63304; 800/633-0232.



Steel Shingle

Two new lines of steel shingles replicate the look of slate or wood roofing. Both the *StoneCrest* and *AstonWood* roofing systems use 12x40-inch interlocking panels with a four-way locking system that the manufacturer claims holds up against 110-mph winds. Weighing 60 pounds per square, the system is light enough to be installed over existing roofs. The panels are available in several colors and are said to be immune to fading for 25 years. The materials cost between \$130 and \$150 per square (higher for some colors).

Contact: MetalWorks, 1005 Beaver Grade Rd., Moon Township, PA 15108; 800/320-0101; www.metal-worksroof.com.

