

# Products

by David Frane

## Wide-Ripping Portable Table Saw

Most portable table saws have very little rip capacity. To rip sheet goods, you have to put your saw in a stand or add a bulky auxiliary fence. The fence on DeWalt's DW744 portable table saw is connected to rails that telescope



to accommodate rips up to 24½ inches wide. Rack and pinion gears keep the fence parallel to the blade at all times. The DW744 takes a 10-inch blade, but is comparable in size to other portables. At 64 pounds, it's about 15 pounds heavier

than an 8¼-inch saw. Maximum depth of cut is 3⅛-inches at 90 degrees and 2¼ inches at 45 degrees. The DW744 has a cast-aluminum top and is expected to retail for around \$550.

Contact: DeWalt Industrial Tool Corp., P.O. Box 158, Hampstead, MD 21074; 800/433-9258.

## Ventilating Tubular Skylight

Tubular skylights are a convenient way to bring natural sunlight into windowless or dimly lit interior rooms. Now, Solatube has added a way to vent these spaces with the recent introduction of a *Ventilation Accessory Kit* for its line of 10-inch tubular skylights. The skylight captures sunlight with a roof-mounted collector and sends it through a reflecting tube to a ceiling-mounted diffuser. The vent kit pulls room air into a grille in the dif-

fuser and exhausts it through a 6-inch duct and roof outlet. The motor, fan, and damper are mounted at the top of the duct, so room noise is minimized. An auxiliary light kit can be added to produce light after sundown. A 10-inch Solatube with a light and vent kit lists for between \$500 and \$600.



Contact: Solatube International Inc., 5825 Avenida Encinas, Suite 101, Carlsbad, CA 92008; 619/929-6060.

## Fast-Cutting Recip Blades

**M**ost bimetal recip saw blades are made on milling machines that can only cut simple tooth forms. Bosch's *Fleam Ground Reciprocating Blades* are produced on grinding equipment, so they have complex, multifaceted teeth. According to the manufacturer, these bimetal blades cut wood 50% faster than



milled blades with similar tooth spacing. Their tips are 8% cobalt, so they resist heat and stay sharp longer than tips made with standard high-speed steel alloys. Fleam Ground blades will cut wood, plastic, and composition materials, but they won't cut nails or metal. Sizes range from 6 to 12 inches long at a cost of \$5 to \$7 each.

*Contact:* S-B Power Tool Company, 4300 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; 773/794-7495.

## Concrete Funnel

**T**he chutes on concrete trucks are fine for pouring slabs, but can be hit or miss when filling narrow wall or tube forms. The *Funnel Chute* is a steel-reinforced polyethylene funnel that hooks to the end of a concrete chute with a couple of chains. A flexible neoprene rubber sleeve directs concrete into the form, reducing spillage and waste. A single Funnel Chute costs about \$50; an additional 6-foot neoprene extension sleeve costs \$40.



*Contact:* IHI/Everland, 302 Ramah Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302; 800/697-1624.

## Architectural-Grade Garage Doors

**T**he first time I saw some *Carriage House Doors*, I thought I was looking at pairs of old-fashioned swinging or sliding doors. It wasn't till I got close that I



noticed they were really segmented overhead doors. Carriage House Doors are made by applying cedar, fir, or redwood trim to heavy-duty insulated door panels. All doors are made to order, but standard models are available. Delivery takes 6 to 8 weeks, and the manufacturer will quote custom designs in 48 hours. The average installed price is \$2,500 per opening.

*Contact:* Holmes Door, P.O. Box 1976, Auburn, WA 98071; 206/931-8900.

## All-Weather Caulking

**J**ust because you work in all kinds of weather doesn't mean your caulk will. When it's cold, getting sealant through the tip is only half the battle; the



other half is getting it to cure properly. *Lifetime Universal Brand Caulk* has been reformulated so it will cure at temperatures between 0°F and 120°F. (Most water-based sealants will fail if the temperature dips below 40°F before they have time to cure.) The siliconized acrylic sealant will adhere to primed and unprimed wood,

aluminum, ceramic, and masonry surfaces, and can be painted with latex after 2 hours or with oil-based paint after 72 hours. A 10-ounce tube costs about \$2.

*Contact:* Red Devil Inc., P.O. Box 3133, Union, NJ 07083; 800/423-3845. 