

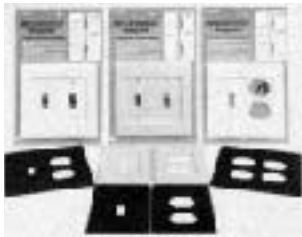
Fast Flashing for Decks

by Clayton DeKorne



We've all seen the details showing an aluminum flashing along the top of deck joists. It makes a lot of sense to keep water off the deck framing, especially where pressure-treated lumber is not used. But when it comes to bending a drip edge on a long strip of 24-gauge aluminum, our enthusiasm begins to wane. That's where *Deck Seal* comes in. Deck Seal is an asphalt rubber strip laminated to aluminum foil with an adhesive backing. It's 45 mils thick (about 1/16-inch), comes in 33-foot-long rolls, and is available in 1 1/2-, 3 1/2-, and 6-inch widths. Deck Seal bends easily by hand and cuts readily with a utility knife. The 6-inch material would work well for counterflashing along the rim joist and any of it would make an easy L-flashing over exterior doors, window trim, and skirt boards. For more information, contact Heckman Industries, 405 Spruce St., Mill Valley, CA 94941; 415/3817849.

Remodeler's Wall Plates



Recessed Wallplates might save you the hassle of moving electrical boxes forward in a newly paneled room. The indentation on the face on

these electrical covers is only a fat 1/8 inch, so they will reach back over new paneling, or, if you loosen the outlet or switch screws a little, over tile. According to the manufacturer, deeper plates that can be used over 1/2- and 5/8-inch drywall will be available later this year. The plates are made of a high-impact plastic that is noticeably tougher than conventional wall plates. They are currently available in single and double switch and outlet combinations in white, ivory, and brown. For more information, contact Trailblazers, Inc., 48 Purnell Place, Manchester, CT 06040; 203/645-6980.

Professional Work Light



Maybe the only thing worse than working in the dark is messing around with flimsy clamp-lamps that tip over and fall apart. The *Portable Quartz Light*—a very bright, 500-watt quartz-halogen work light—may provide some relief. The housing and stand are made of heavy-gauge steel and the light is short and well-balanced, so it isn't likely to tip over. On the other hand, it won't serve easily as an overhead light since it is designed to flood a wall or ceiling. The lamp is adjustable to any angle in a 180° radius and can be hung on the wall by the handle. For more information contact Electrical Specialties, 1104-06 South 20th St., Philadelphia, PA 19146; 215/985-0120.

Intense Tape



VHB (Very High Bond) Joining Tape from 3M, is no ordinary Scotch tape. It's a line of double-sided, clear acrylic tape for bonding metals, plastics, glass, wood, and composites. VHB is reportedly used in a variety of demanding industrial applications. For example, the manufacturer claims it is used to replace spot welds in the assembly of steel air conditioning housings, to adhere rubber strips to aluminum boat ladders, to bond stainless steel "scuff plates" to airplane wings, and to attach brass trim to cast-iron wood stoves. If this stuff can do all this, I'll bet it would be worth keeping a roll in the truck to solve all kinds of remodeling problems. The tape is marketed to the building trades under the name *CBT (Contractors' Bonding Tape)* for installing glazing, curtain wall panels, mirror... For more information, contact 3M Industrial Specialties Division, 3M Center Bldg. 220-7E-01, St. Paul, MN 55144-1000; 800/362-3456.

Slate Lookalikes

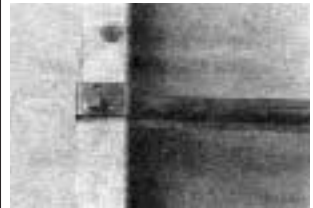
Several companies—*FiberCem*, *EterSlate*, and *SupraSlate*—are producing roof tiles that look remarkably similar to slate. These tiles are made of fiber-reinforced cement and carry a Class A fire rating. All of them have at least one style that is textured to look like quarried slate. The colors tend to look authentic but are a little more uniform than natural slate. According to the manufacturers, all are considerably lighter than real slate, and can be nailed without predrilling and cut with a carbide blade. And all claim to be



more durable to freeze/thaw conditions than natural slate.

For more information, contact *FiberCem*, 7 Woodlawn Green, Suite 212, Charlotte, NC 28217; 704/527-2727; *Eternit, Inc.*, Village Center Drive, Reading, PA 19607; 215/777-0100; and *Supradur Manufacturing Corp.*, P.O. Box 908, Rye, NY 10580; 800/223-1948 or 914/967-8230 (in N.Y.).

Truss Bracing



Truss Spacers are to trusses what snap-in steel bridging is to joists. These individual, 20-gauge steel braces are laid in one at a time while the trusses are set to space and brace the trusses. One nail and a steel finger, such as you find on joist hangers, hold each end of the *Truss Spacer* on the chord until the roof is sheathed over. Currently, only 24-inch spacers are available, but 16-inch spacers are expected out this fall. According to the manufacturer, the new spacers eliminate the need for temporary bracing, which slows down crane work. The cost is about 60¢ each. For more information, contact *Nanney, Inc.*, 11097 E. 9 Mile Rd., Warren, MI 48089; 313/757-4500. ■