

Rubber Roof Slates

by Charles Wardell



Want the look of slate without the cost or weight? The people who make *Authentic Roo* take 100% recycled and re-engineered polymers and rubber materials, mix them together, then injection-mold them into dark gray, 12x18-inch pieces patterned after 100-year-old slates. The rubber makes the slates flexible, while the plastic adds strength. *Authentic Roof* slates weigh about the same as equally-sized asphalt shingles, cut easily with a utility knife, and are fastened to a standard plywood roof deck with 1½-inch galvanized roofing nails. (No batten strips are needed.) The slates can be installed with up to a 7-inch exposure, and the tabs at each end maintain a ¼-inch spacing between slates. The cost is approximately \$250 per square and \$2.50 per linear foot for hips and ridges.

Contact Post Harvest Developments P.O. Box 11, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6C3 Canada; 613/722-4548.

Plastic Joist Bridge



The carpenter who invented *The Bridger* did so after hammering his fin-

gers while installing 2-by joist bridging. The *Bridger* is a molded plastic joist bridge that requires no nailing; it slips into place between two joists and is held tight by the floor decking. There's a 6⅛-inch hole in center to accommodate HVAC ducts, along with 2½- and 1¾-inch spaces for piping and wiring. The *Bridger* is made for 16-inch-on-center framing and fits 2x10 and 2x12 joists. Cost is 90¢ each.

Contact Zeke's Inc., P.O. Box J, Delano, MN 55328; 800/255-0134.

Hook-and-Loop Carpeting



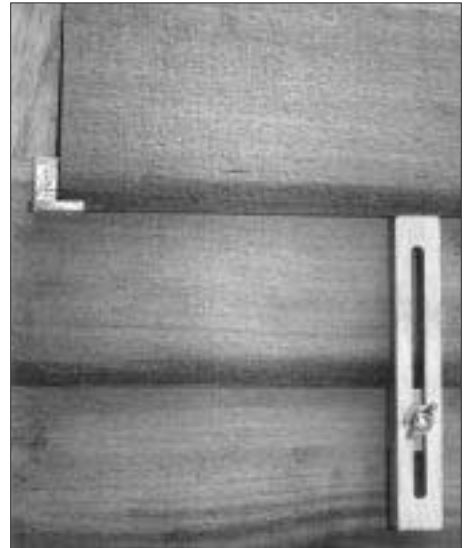
Hook-and-loop fasteners have been used on everything from sanding disks to sneakers. Now they've showed up on *TacFast*, a standard carpet bonded to a dense polyurethane foam cushion faced with a loop fabric. When you roll the carpet out, the loops catch on hook tape applied to the floor with pressure-sensitive adhesive, and hold the carpet in place.

The manufacturer claims that installation requires no adhesives or tack strips, and no special tools for stretching or knee-kicking — good news for those with sore knees and a stiff back. Although it's easy to peel the carpet back from the edge, the hooks and loops to keep it from sliding around or wrinkling during normal use. (A helper and I tried to forcibly pull a piece of carpet across the tape; it wouldn't budge.) Damaged sections are easily cut

out and patched, and you can even remove the carpet when you paint the room. A number of U.S. manufacturers have been licensed to produce the system. Price varies with the particular manufacturer and carpet.

Contact 3M/TacFast, 2200 W. County Rd., C, Roseville, MN 55113; 800/440-2965.

Clapboard Jig



The *Clapboard Ki* is a wooden jig that lets you set lap siding reveals anywhere along the course — not just near story poles or the ends of the wall. The jig is basically a 7½-inch-long hardwood block with an adjustable stop that slides up and down a channel routed along the length of the block. A wing nut locks the stop at any course reveal up to 6 inches. To install a clapboard, rest one end on a separate metal clip that hooks over the top of the preceding course. Then check the reveal at the other end and begin nailing, always working toward the clip (be sure to remove the clip before nailing too close to it). Price is \$9.95.

Contact Envision Products, 42 Ramshorn Rd., Charlton, MA 01507; 508/248-4309.

Nonslip Membrane

Bituminous eaves flashing membranes are a common backup water-shed on low-slope roofs, since they



prevent any water that gets under the shingles from reaching the sheathing. Their only drawback is that the smooth surface can be slippery, especially when damp or wet. This makes them dangerous to walk on. But that's not a problem with *Sure Grip* ice and water guard. *Sure Grip* consists of a peel-and-stick bituminous membrane with a mineral granule top surfacing. The granules make installation safer and easier — walking on *Sure Grip* is like walking on an asphalt shingle roof. It's sold in 3-foot-wide rolls that come in lengths to cover either one or two squares. According to the manufacturer, prices are competitive with other membranes.

Contact: Nord Bitumi U.S. Inc., P.O. Box 13678, Macon, GA 31208; 800/523-0179.

Auto-Closer for Sliders



Barrier codes in some states require self-closing and self-latching doors on house walls that serve as one side of a pool enclosure. The intent is to keep small children from wandering out the door and falling into the pool. *Glidestar* is an automatic door closing and latching system for sliding doors. A weighted piston slides up and down a 1¹/₈- or 1¹/₄-inch-diameter aluminum tube mounted on the door stile. The piston

is connected to a cable that's threaded through a pulley mounted on the door's head jamb. When you open the door, the cable lifts the piston to the top of the tube; when you let go of the door, gravity pulls the piston to the bottom of the tube, closing the door. A safety catch at the bottom of the tube slows the piston at the end of its fall so the door doesn't slam. When the door closes, it engages a latching device that's located above the door handle where a small child can't reach it. Tubes are painted brown, white, or aluminum, or are wrapped with a clear pine or oak veneer.

The *Glidestar* costs \$339 installed, and must be installed by a certified installer. Though *Glidestar* is still available only in the Northeast, the company plans to expand to other areas over the next year.

Contact: Glidestar, 215A Halladay Ave. West, Suffield, CT 06078; 203/668-1833. ■