

The Journal's pick of curious, interesting, and useful products

Flexible Drywall

by Bill Brockway



Wallboard that bends can really help in rooms with "soft" corners. National Gypsum Company's *1/4-inch High-Flex Wallboard* is typically double-layered and can handle a 15-inch-radius bend when dry. Wet it down with a water-soaked paint roller and you can get a 7-inch-radius bend. High-Flex comes in the standard 4-foot width and lengths of 8, 9, 10, and 12 feet.

Contact: National Gypsum Co., 2001 Rexford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211; 800/628-4662.

Painter's Sandpaper



When used on surfaces painted with water-based paints, sandpaper typically "loads" quickly. This means that the grit gets clogged with the chips it has rubbed off and it can't cut any more. 3M's *Professional Painters' Abrasive* has an antiload coating that keeps the chips from filling up the aluminum oxide grit. Pricing is set by local retailers.

Contact: 3M Center, 225-4S-08, St Paul, MN 55144; 800/480-1704.

Pivot-Jaw Spring Clamp



These powerful clamps from Wolfcraft have a pivoting jaw that adjusts to the surface of the work to avoid gouging. The *Quick-Jaw* spring clamps come in three sizes — 1-inch, 2-inch, and 3-inch jaw opening. They sell for \$2, \$3, and \$4.50, respectively, or you can pick up a set of six — two of each size — for \$20.

Contact: Wolfcraft, 1222 W. Ardmore Ave., Itasca, IL 60143; 708/773-4777.

Fall Protection Training



This new series of courses and videotapes from the Construction Safety Council helps you certify crew members as "competent" for purposes of fall protection. The *Fall Protection Training Program* includes a Competent Person Manual (\$20), a Field Guide (\$30), a Reference Manual with a 10-minute video (\$150), and a 30-minute "Fall

Free: Toolbox Talk" training video. (That was "fall free," not "free fall.") Half-day, one-day, and two-day courses are also available at the council's head-quarter's in Hillside, Ill.

Contact: Construction Safety Council, 4415 W. Harrison St., Suite 407, Hillside, IL 60162; 800/552-7744.

Toilet Elevator



One of the really tough jobs for a one-person crew is pulling or setting a toilet. It's easier if you take the tank off first, but that makes the job take a lot longer, too. The *Johnny-Lift* from Roll-Lift Corp. might be a good alternative. Once it's clamped onto the bowl, the crank can lift a toilet 10 inches off the floor. The Johnny-Lift is just 19½ inches wide when assembled and breaks down easily into three pieces. It sells for around \$280.

Contact: Roll-Lift Corporation, P.O. Box 22861, Lincoln, NE 68542; 402/423-5530.

Rough Hand Repair

I know guys in the trades who cultivate a handshake that feels like gravel. They seem to think that it makes them more authentic. Personally, I don't enjoy lac-



erating people with a high five. These days, I'd pass out a few tubes of *Rough Hand Repair* after each day of demolition or concrete work. The odorless ointment is said to rejuvenate skin damaged by working with chemicals, water, or rough building materials. Rough Hand Repair sells for \$7.95 for a 2-ounce tube, including shipping.

Contact: RHR Distributing, 100 S. Sunrise Way, #359, Palm Springs, CA 92262; 800/590-1821.

Air Intake

A plumbing system needs to pull air in through the vent stack when water drains out the waste line. In a big



house with drains far apart, you usually either need to run a long pipe to the main vent or pop a second vent stack through the roof. Now the *Durgo Air Admittance Valve* lets you terminate a vent in the attic, inside a hollow wall with a grille to room air, or inside a sink cabinet. Since air can only flow one way through the valve, no sewer gases can escape. Durgo comes in two diameters: 1½ and 3 inches. It's approved by ASSE, BOCA, CABO, and a few others.

Contact: Enerjee Corporation, 24 S. Lafayette Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067; 215/295-0557.

New Workstation



The *TracMaster* workstation was designed by a former shipbuilder who was not impressed by the products on the market. The 8-foot-long aluminum beam on retractable legs supports 300 pounds, but weighs only 35 pounds. The TracMaster comes with a tool mount that fits most chop saws, an adjustable work support, and a sliding stop. The system retails for about \$300.

Contact: TracRac Inc., 77 Weaver St., Fall River, MA 02720; 800/501-1587. ■