

# Products

by David Frane

## LIGHT, POWERFUL FINISH GUN

Carpenters like 15-gauge guns because the fasteners they drive look and hold like real finish nails. Hitachi's *NT65AA* is the latest entrant into this expanding category of tools. Like other 15-gauge nailers, its magazine is angled so you can work in close quarters, but the piston housing is very narrow — only 3.2 inches wide. This increases maneuverability and provides a clear line of sight to the tip. At 4.7 pounds, the nailer is in the same weight class as Senco's *SFN40* and Bostich's *N60FN2*, but Hitachi says lab tests give its gun a higher power-to-weight ratio than either one of these competitors. The *NT65AA* drives 4d through 8d DA nails, has a nonmarring tip, and comes with a leather grip. The nailer is expected to sell for between \$350 and \$390.

Contact: Hitachi Koki USA Ltd., 3950 Steve Reynolds Blvd., Norcross, GA 30093; 770/925-1774.



## CORDLESS CUTOUT TOOL

A few years back, Rotozip developed spiral bits that cut a broad range of materials. The company recently introduced the *SCS02 Spiracut Spiral Saw*, the first cordless tool designed to use its spiral bits. With the right bits, you can use the new saw to make sink and plumbing cutouts in fiberglass, laminate, cement board, and solid-surface material; or use it to cut electrical boxes into drywall,



wood, plywood, or tile. The *SCS02* weighs 3.6 pounds and is powered by a 12-volt battery. The tool comes with a case, charger, and two batteries, and will retail for around \$200.

Contact: Rotozip Tool Corp., 1861 Ludden Dr., Cross Plains, WI 53528; 800/521-1817.

## HAMMER-IN CHEMICAL ANCHOR

Spin-in chemical anchors won't work if you don't spin them long enough to fully mix the components. *Slam-Tite* hammer-in chemical capsules work without spinning, so they're practically fool-proof. Drill a hole in the concrete, blow it out with compressed air, and insert the capsule. When you hammer in threaded rod or rebar, the polyester resin mixes with the hardener and bonds the stud in the concrete. Unlike expanding fasteners, chemical anchors can be placed near edges, because they don't exert sideways pressure. Sizes are available for 3/8-inch to 1-inch rod and #3 to #8 rebar. A 1/2-inch anchor costs around \$3.50.

Contact: Ankr-Tite, 2415 E. 13th Place, Tulsa, OK 74104; 800/343-1264.



## VINYL CROWN MOLDING

Ugly trim details have always been a shortcoming of vinyl siding. False-looking outside corners and nonexistent casings don't fit anyone's definition of attractive trim. Now, a decorative vinyl trim called *Crown Molding* has been added to a line of vinyl running trim that makes vinyl-clad houses look more like those with traditional wood detailing. Designed for use on door and window head casings, the molding comes in 10-foot lengths and costs \$7 to \$10 per piece. The new vinyl molding is white and includes preformed endcaps.



Contact: CertainTeed Corporaton, Vinyl Building Products Division, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482; 800/233-8990.

## COIL-NAILED RIDGE VENT

Roofers who use coil nailers don't want to be bothered with having to hand-nail ridge vents and cap shingles. But most roll-type ridge vents will compress too much if you use a power nailer. One exception is *Rigid Roll*, a ridge vent designed to stand up to pneumatically driven fasteners. The new vent comes in longer lengths than rigid corrugated vents, and its maker claims the material is easier to install and produces straighter, smoother ridge lines than other roll vents. A 20-foot roll retails for \$40.

Contact: Trimline Roof Ventilation Systems, 705 Pennsylvania Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55426; 800/438-2920.



## MORTAR GUN

Tuckpointing goes faster if you can avoid using a hawk and trowel. The *Quickpoint Mortar Gun* pumps standard mortar and grout mixtures into joints and gaps. Model 1764 consists of a hopper and feed mechanism joined to a Milwaukee drill. The abrasion-resistant



polyurethane hopper holds a 1/2-gallon load of mortar, and an auger pushes the mortar through a steel tip and into the joint; final tooling is done by hand. The interchangeable tips are available in three sizes. The 1764 sells for \$439; model 1864, a lighter version that can be attached to an existing drill, sells for \$259.

Contact: Quickpoint Inc., 23B Bradford St., Concord, MA 01742; 800/368-2292.

## ROOF RAIL BRACKETS

For carpenters who balk at using safety lines when working on roofs, the *Guardrail 2000* OSHA-compliant safety rail system can be used in lieu of harness systems. Each unit consists of an aluminum post connected to a bracket that fastens to the roof with four 16d nails; an adjustable brace keeps the post plumb over a range of roof pitches. When outfitted with 2x4 rails and toe boards (not included) between posts, the manufacturer claims the system can withstand three times the load required by OSHA. Units are designed to be installed 8 feet apart and cost about \$135 each.

Contact: Reichel Corp., 2320 N. Larch Lane, Plymouth, MN 55441; 612/557-8943.

