

# Products

by Dave Holbrook

## Touch-Free Tester

**B**efore you start fiddling around with old electrical wiring, it's wise to make sure there's nothing "current" about it at all. Unlike many testing devices, which require unsafe contact with bare leads or terminals to identify a live wire, the *Circuit Alert* inductive voltage tester has a flashing red light and emits a noisy chirp when it gets within a few inches of AC voltage. No contact is necessary to get a reading, taking the nerve-jangling anxiety out of safety checks. The shirt-pocket-sized tester costs \$10.

Contact: Gardner Bender, 6100 N. Baker Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53209; 800/624-4320; [www.gardnerbender.com](http://www.gardnerbender.com).



## Underground Splice Kit

**Y**ou called Dig-safe, and still managed to slice through that feeder wire. Delete the expletives with the *Underground Feeder Splice Kit*, a UL-listed repair kit for UF-B underground copper cable from #8 down to #14 AWG gauge. The kit comes in two versions: The *UF-1 Standard Kit* includes a 1.8-inch-long terminal connector and an 8-inch-long heavy-wall, adhesive-lined heat-shrink tubing; the *UF-2 Stretcher Kit* has an 11.7-inch terminal connector, which replaces a 7- to 10-inch section of damaged cable, eliminating the need for additional cable and a second splice. The kits list for around \$13 and \$26, respectively.

Contact: 3M Electrical Products Division, P.O. Box 3064, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406; 800/276-0049, ext. 766; [www.3M.com](http://www.3M.com).



## Compact Cooling

**W**hole-house cooling doesn't have to involve ductwork or window units everywhere. The *High Wall Mini Split* system leaves the condensing unit outdoors for quiet operation. Small-diameter concealed refrigerant lines and control cables run to remote locations throughout the home. The indoor units come in two sizes (40x12x7 inches, and 31x11x7 inches) and can be individually controlled using a hand-held remote. The system is available in



1-, 1.5-, and 2-ton capacities. Sold through distributors, prices are said to be the lowest available for this type of system.

Contact: York International, 5005 York Dr., Norman, OK 73069; 405/364-4040; [www.york.com](http://www.york.com).

## Rustic Doors

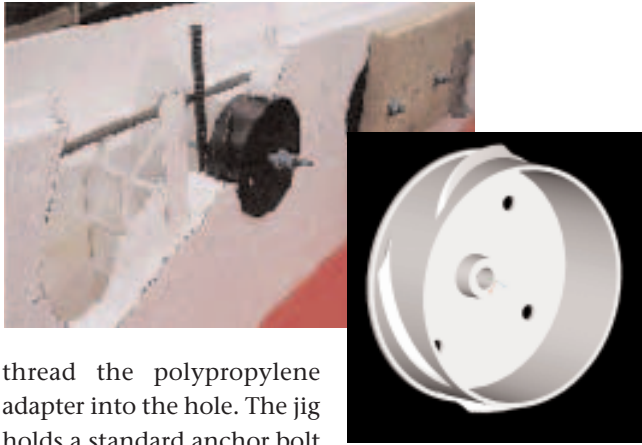
**S**olid-panel doors are to hollow-core Sprehungs as Mona Lisa is to Monica Lewinsky. At least, I think so. Rustic-appeal *Knotty Hemlock* doors will dress up Western rough-hewn and reproduction antique interiors alike. The natural light color of Western hemlock doesn't darken with age, so it's a good choice for a clear finish. And, being free of pitch and resin, hemlock also takes to paint like a duck to water. Both 4-panel and 6-panel doors are available through local distributors, priced by style and size.

Contact: Nord, 300 W. Marine View Dr., Everett, WA 98201; 800/900-6673; [www.jeld-wen.com](http://www.jeld-wen.com).



## ICF Solution

Attaching a rim joist to an ICF wall requires a firm connection to the concrete core. The *Anchor Tunnel* solves the problem before you pour. Cut a 6-inch hole in the foam form with a hole saw, and



thread the polypropylene adapter into the hole. The jig holds a standard anchor bolt squarely in place, and isolates the rimboard from direct contact with the concrete. The cost is \$2 each in quantities over 100; even less for high-volume purchases.

Contact: ICF Accessories, P.O. Box 269, Longville, MN 56655; 888/203-7655; [www.icfaccessories.com](http://www.icfaccessories.com).

## Gunnable Ridge Vent

The peak of a roof is not a comfortable place to be holding material in place with one hand, swinging a hammer with the other, and reaching for a nail with the third. The *Rapid Ridge* vent can be pneumatically nailed without deforming. Made of a 3-D nylon matrix, the vent features a visible compression-resistant nail line, comes in 20-foot rolls, and can be self-finished at the ends, without a cap. A roll retails for about \$40.

Contact: Benjamin Obdyke, 65 Steamboat Dr., Warminster, PA 18974; 800/523-5261; [www.obdyke.com](http://www.obdyke.com).



## Ghost Buster

There are plenty of older floors out there that squeal at every step. Replace creak with sneak on carpeted floors with *Squeeeeeek No More*, a special fixture-guided screw that pins



the subfloor down hard, then snaps off just below the surface. For vinyl and hardwood floors, *Counter Snap* works the same magic. Invisible through carpeting, the small hole that remains in a hardwood floor can be easily repaired with a colored filler. A kit of 25 screws and the fixture retails for about \$30.

Contact: O'Berry Enterprises, 664 Exmoor Ct., Crystal Lake, IL 60014; 800/459-8428; [www.oberry-enterprises.com](http://www.oberry-enterprises.com).

## Undercabinet Halogen Light

Halogen bulbs give bright, white light, and outperform ordinary incandescent bulbs in life-span and efficiency. Modular *Line Voltage Light Bars* measure 1 inch in depth, can be combined for continuous runs, and are individually equipped with a high/low dimmer switch. Replace those hard-wired fluorescent fixtures and dump the flicker factor. The bars come in bronze or white, and 2-, 3-, 4-, and 6-light sizes, ranging in price from \$50 to \$100.

Contact: W.A.C. Lighting, 615 South St., Garden City, NY 11530; 800/526-2588; [www.waclighting.com](http://www.waclighting.com).



## Cool Heat

For homeowners wishing to dress up their thermostats, the *Round Creative Series* might be a dream come true. Six interchangeable “decorator”



color trim rings bring new life to existing round controls, but look their best on the new series' white base. The thermostat costs \$50, and a package of three rings about \$10.

Contact: Honeywell Home and Building Control, 1985 Douglas Dr. North, Golden Valley, MN 55422; 800/345-6770, ext. 501D; [www.honeywell.com/yourhome](http://www.honeywell.com/yourhome).

## Pool Power

Outside at the pool or hot tub, you want accessible ground fault protection. The corrosion-proof polymer *Non-Metallic 2-4 Circuit QO Load Center* provides cover for up to 60 amps, using standard or tandem breakers, in a weatherproof, lockable enclosure. The panel retails for \$65.

Contact: Square D, 1415 South Roselle Rd., Palatine, IL 60067; 800/392-8781; [www.squared.com](http://www.squared.com). 