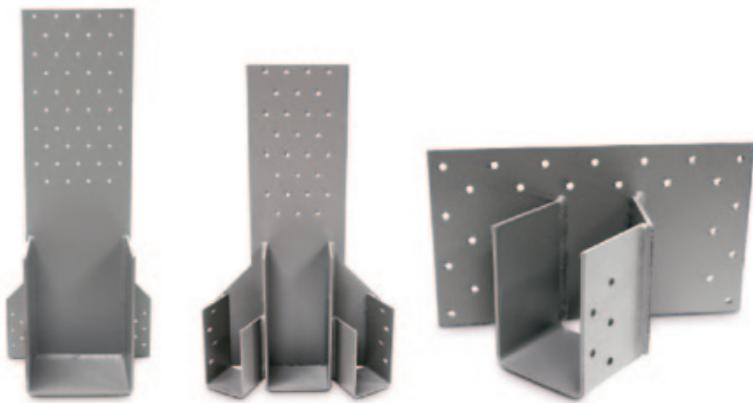


Products



Heavy-Duty Truss Hangers

This year's Simpson catalog has three new lines of truss hangers that the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations says have "some of the highest loads in the industry." *HTHGQ Heavy Girder Truss Hangers* (\$350 to \$400 each) will support two- to five-ply girder trusses on structural posts. *HTHMQ Heavy Multiple Truss Hangers* (\$650 to \$750 each) are designed for hip-jack connections and will support two or three trusses at angles of 30 to 60 degrees. *HHSUQ Heavy Severe Skew Truss Hangers* (\$100 to \$125 each) are truss-to-truss connectors for hanging single hip trusses at angles of 45 to 84 degrees.

Simpson Strong-Tie, 800/999-5099, strongtie.com.



Shim With a Drill

The $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-diameter, $3\frac{1}{8}$ -inch-long *Top Star Shim Screw* has a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-diameter thread around its head. You drill a pilot hole, then — using a special bit made by the company — drive the threaded cylinder and screw into place as a unit. Although the cylinder stays firmly locked in the jamb, the inner screw will turn freely within it, so the installer can drive it in or back it out to adjust the distance between frame and jamb. Since the cylinder sits flush with the surface, you may want to hide it behind a hinge leaf. A six-pack costs \$14.

GRK Fasteners, 800/263-0463, grkfasteners.com.



Sleek Faucet Option

For people who like a touch of drama, Moen has added a *Matte Black Finish* option to its Arbor and Ascent kitchen faucet collections. It's the least costly finish offered on these faucets. The Arbor costs \$352 in black matte — about \$45 less than the next-highest option.

Moen, 800/289-6636, moen.com.



No-Sag Concrete Patch

Aboweld is a two-part epoxy for concrete repair. It's impermeable, can be applied under water, and bonds to old concrete — which means it can patch anything from swimming-pool walls to concrete stoops. The maker says it won't sag when wet and can be ground with an angle grinder, then sanded to a finish when dry. Standard and "cold weather" (for use below 50°F) versions are available. A two-quart kit costs about \$60.

Abatron, 800/445-1854, abatron.com.

Products

Adjustable Column

The *Lally Lock* system is a height-adjustable Lally column. It has three parts: a steel-encased concrete column with a coupling nut embedded at the top, a steel top plate, and a steel baseplate/bearing-plate combination with 3-inch adjustment bolts. You bolt the top plate to the coupling nut and fasten the base plate to the bottom of the column with concrete screws. Then you position the base plate over the coupling plate and tighten the bolts to secure the column at the correct height. Columns are sold in 3-inch increments; an 8-foot by 3½-inch column plus hardware costs around \$90.

Dean Column, 800/442-3455, deancolumn.com.



Condensation Killer

It's easy to forget to turn off the bath fan after taking a shower. The *DewStop* switch can help by turning the fan on or off automatically in response to humidity and dew-point levels so it runs just long enough to prevent condensation from forming on the walls and ceiling. The switch can also be operated manually and has a 30-minute timer. A fan-only switch costs about \$50, a fan-and-light switch about \$60.

GTR Technologies, 360/876-2974, dewstop.com.



Luxury Mini Fridge

True Manufacturing's new 15-inch *Undercounter Refrigerator* is aimed squarely at the luxury market. It's being positioned as a "professional grade" product with precision temperature control — not surprising, since it's made by a company known for commercial refrigeration. It comes with two adjustable shelves and four door options — solid stainless or wood overlay, and stainless or wood overlay with glass — and costs \$2,600 to \$2,770.

True Manufacturing, 888/616-8783, true-residential.com.

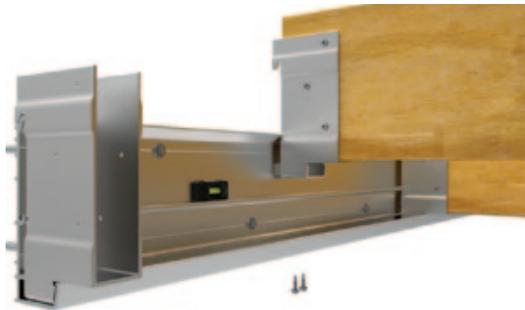


Roof-Friendly Solar

Certainteed's polycrystalline *Apollo Solar Roofing* uses solar cells protected by a layer of plastic rather than glass, making it lighter than many other products. The panels integrate with the roof shingles, so they should be less stressed by wind uplift than rack-mounted systems. At \$6 per watt, a 4-kw system costs about \$24,000, but tax credits and utility incentives could reduce that considerably.

Certainteed, 800/233-8990, certainteed.com.

Products



No-Rot Ledger

The new *Deck Ledger* system consists of extruded aluminum ledger boards and joist hangers. The hangers snap onto the ledger and, once in place, can't be lifted out (though they can be moved side-to-side until locked in place). Single and double hangers are available. Ledgers are 8 inches wide and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, and come in 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, and 10-foot lengths. They include built-in bubble levels and ship with 66-millimeter LedgerLok fasteners. The system is compatible with lateral hold-downs, but you will need to drill additional holes. Average cost is about \$24 per linear foot including the hangers.

SigmaDek, 403/239-4448, sigmadek.com.



Corner Storage

The *Magic Corner II* is a blind cabinet storage system with front and rear shelf pairs. When you pull the front unit out of the cabinet, the rear automatically positions itself inside the door opening. Other features include a vertical handle that lets you pull the front unit out without bending over, shelves on the rear unit that slide in and out individually, and wire-basket or solid-tray shelving. Left- and right-swing units are available with a storage capacity of 1,138 square inches. The frame and solid shelves shown here cost about \$1,530.

Häfele America, 800/423-3531, hafele.com/us/.



Against the Wind

GlassCraft's new *Impact Fiberglass Entry Doors* have been approved for use in the high-wind zones of Florida and Texas. They come in classic French and Prairie Style designs, single- or double-door configurations, and with or without sidelights. The laminated glazing can be left clear or fitted with simulated divided lights or powder-coated wrought-iron grilles. Prehung units include multipoint locking hardware and are priced from \$3,215.

GlassCraft Door, 800/766-2196, glasscraft.com.



Easy Wrap

Cutting, aligning, and gluing square-edged post wraps can be a pain, and even interlocking products may require two sets of hands to install. *KleerWrap* eliminates a lot of the hassle and can be put in place by a single worker. It consists of a pre-assembled wrap with one loose panel; you simply remove the loose panel and then glue it back in place once the wrap is on the post. The interlocking joint makes the panel self-aligning. A 4-by-4-by-8-foot wrap costs about \$75, an 8-by-8-by-10-footer around \$165.

Kleer Lumber, 866/553-3770, kleerlumber.com.