

Toolbits | by Tom O'Brien



Simplified Crown. The *Cut-N-Crown System* features a plastic jig that replicates a molding's spring angle so that you can cut both sides of a miter without resetting the saw. As long as the miter setting is spot-on, you simply reverse the jig and flip over the crown and you get a perfectly matched miter joint even on an inside corner, says the maker. A deluxe kit — three jigs (for 38-, 45-, and 52-degree spring angles), an angle finder, and roller guides to support long moldings — costs \$200.

Cut-N-Crown, 303/646-2029, cutncrown.com.

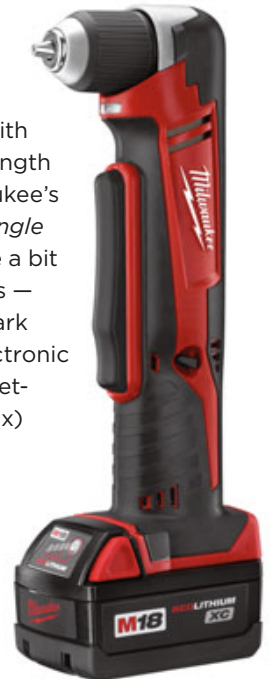


Totally Tool-Free Recip Saw.

If you've ever had to rummage around for a lost Allen key, you'll appreciate Metabo's new *ASE18 LTX 18V* cordless reciprocating saw. Not only does this saw feature a toolless blade-change system, but its shoe can be adjusted without a wrench. An ergonomic handle and a two-finger power switch reduce operator fatigue, says the maker. The saw comes in a kit with two lithium-ion batteries and a 30-minute charger. It costs \$430.

Metabo USA, 800/638-2264, metabo.us.

Tight-Space Drill. With LED lighting and a head length of only $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, Milwaukee's *M18 Cordless $\frac{3}{8}$ " Right-Angle Drill Driver* might make life a bit easier for cabinet installers — or anyone who works in dark cramped quarters. An electronic clutch provides 11 torque settings (125 inch-pounds max) plus drill mode. Users who have already invested in Milwaukee's M18 cordless lineup can buy the drill (without battery) for \$100. A kit containing a charger, one battery, and a carrying case costs \$200.



Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp., 800/729-3878, milwaukeetool.com.

Cooler Than Shorts. When temperatures soar, why not try a distinctive approach to keeping cool? Made from heavy-duty 13-ounce cotton, the *Glasgow Kilt* features expansive pockets for fasteners, a pencil sleeve, a knife holder, and a hammer loop. It comes in black in waist sizes from 30 to 44 inches and costs \$120. What you wear under it is nobody's business.



Blaklader, 800/948-6452, blakladerusa.com.