

Products | by Tom O'Brien



Spray-Foam Fastener. When I need a powerful gap-filling adhesive, I reach for a can of polyurethane foam. Touch 'n Seal is hoping roofers will do the same. *Storm Bond Roof Tile Adhesive* is a one-component polyurethane adhesive designed to fasten clay and concrete roof tile to an approved underlayment. According to the maker, its bonding strength is superior to that of mortar or mechanical fasteners, and it's been approved by the Florida Building Code for use in hurricane zones. It's sold in a 24-ounce aerosol can (\$15) and a 23-pound cylinder (\$170).

Convenience Products, 800/325-6180, touch-n-seal.com.



Dripless Glue. Titebond says its new fast-drying PVA formulation for interior trim carpentry eases the hassle of assembling vertical joints. *Titebond No-Run, No-Drip Wood Glue* is the highest-viscosity PVA available. It has a strong initial tack and sets up in less than five minutes; cleans up with water; and is easily sanded when cured. It's sold in 8-ounce and 16-ounce bottles for \$4.75 and \$6.70 respectively.

Franklin International, 800/347-4583, titebond.com.

Rot-Resistant Doors. Endura's *FrameSaver Door Frame* is solid wood except for a 4-inch-long piece of composite finger-jointed to the bottom; this material, the maker says, is impervious to rot and insects and doesn't wick moisture. The entire frame is coated with a 180-day primer and comes with a fully transferable lifetime warranty. It's sold in standard sizes for entry and garage doors (mulls and brickmold are also available). Entry doors with the feature cost 5 percent to 10 percent more than doors with traditional wood frames.

Endura Products, 800/334-2006, enduraproducts.com.



Condensed Cooktop.

Dacor recently introduced a scaled-down version of its Distinctive Gas Cooktop. The new 30-inch model features the same scratch-resistant finish and high-power burners as its big (36-inch) brother. The burners are engineered to preserve the finish of the grates and automatically reignite if the flame goes out. With 54,000 Btu of total heat output from five burners, the *Distinctive 30-Inch Cooktop* offers the highest Btu of any similar-sized range, says the maker. It costs \$1,200.

Dacor, 800/793-0093, dacor.com.



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Easy Access. Homeowners who have difficulty reaching items on high shelves or bending down for low ones might appreciate the *AutoPantry*, a vertical closet carousel that brings everything within reach at the push of a button. It's manufactured as a fully assembled cabinet insert in three standard sizes to fit cabinet depths of 18, 24, and 29 inches; custom sizes and complete closet packages are also available. Prices start at around \$2,000.

StorageMotion, 704/746-3700, storagemotion.com.

Two in One. Whirlpool's *Resource Saver Double Oven Range* fits two separate ovens inside the footprint of a standard-size range, for a total capacity of 6.7 cubic feet. The small upper oven preheats in half the time of a full-size unit and uses half the energy; it can also be used as a toaster oven. The appliance comes in white or black (\$1,650) and in stainless steel (\$1,750).

Whirlpool, USA, 800/253-3977, insideadvantage.com.



Straw Doors. Masonite says its new *Safe 'N Sound Interior Doors* are milled from a low-density fiberboard (called DorCor) that uses renewable wheat straw as its primary raw material. The units contain only low-emission adhesives and sealants and no urea-formaldehyde, the company says. Though lighter than conventional particleboard panels, they are billed as more effective sound-deadeners. A stock-size door panel costs about \$65; special-order sizes go for about \$90.



Masonite International Corp., 800/663-3667, masonite.com.

Noninvasive Wiring. *FlatWire* is a paper-thin copper wire approved for use in low-voltage lighting, audio, video, voice, and data applications. It can be fastened directly onto the surface of a wall or ceiling (with spray adhesive) and painted, or it can



be covered with tape and joint compound. It can also run underneath laminate flooring. (The maker is currently pursuing approval for a FlatWire product that can be used in standard 120-volt electrical wiring applications.) Pricing starts at \$2 per foot. Various connectors are also available.

FlatWire Technologies Division, 888/352-8947, flatwireready.com.

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Disappearing Vent Hood.

Miele's stainless steel *Telescopic Downdraft Hood* tucks away beneath the countertop until it's needed, at which point it pops up with the touch of button, topping out at 14 inches above the cooking surface. The four-speed fan includes a 15-minute delayed shutdown feature. The hood comes in 30-inch (DA 6480) and 36-inch (DA 6490) sizes with a 500-cfm or 1,000-cfm blower assembly. Prices range from \$1,700 to \$2,300.

Miele, 800/843-7231, mieleusa.com.



Battery-Powered Shades.

The *QMotion* may look like a simple pull-down shade, but a motor and battery pack are concealed inside its roller tube. According to the maker, the roller's precision steel ball bearings are so effective at reducing friction, the unit can run for up to five years before the standard (D-size) alkaline batteries have to be replaced. The shade is made to order and comes in a wide range of colors and textures. Prices start at \$450.

HomeRun Holdings Corp., 877/849-6070, qmotionshades.com.



Simplified Crown.

Not everyone relishes the challenge of coping and mitering crown molding. If you just want to get the job done, consider *Fypon's Miterless Crown Moulding*. The company sells a variety of lightweight one-piece urethane moldings in lengths up to 16 feet, as well as premitered inside and outside corner pieces and divider blocks that eliminate the need for scarf joints. Moldings run about \$6 per lineal foot; inside and outside corners cost about \$13 per piece.

Fypon Ltd., 800/446-3040, fypon.com.



No-Mess Tile.

Adhesive tile mats — self-adhesive sheets with peel-off liners on both sides — allow you to fasten tile to surfaces without dipping a trowel in a bucket of glue. Its maker says *TileQuilck Adhesive Membrane* creates an instant bond so that installers can grout immediately. The product is suitable for wall and counter tiles as large as 8 inches square. (It's not intended for shower stalls.) A 15-square-foot roll (18 inches by 10 feet) costs \$60.

MP Global Products, 888/379-9695, quietwalk.com.