

Toolbits



16-Volt Impact Driver

Rockwell's new 1/4-inch 16V *Max-Lithium Impact Driver* is more powerful than 12-volt tools but lighter and more compact than 18- and 20-volt models. Its headstock is 4.9 inches long (as opposed to 6 inches on other leading brands), giving it a slight advantage in tight spaces. The 2.5-pound tool has no-load speeds of 0-2,400 rpm and 0-3,000 bpm and a variable-speed switch; a built-in LED work light doubles as a low-battery-charge indicator. It comes with two 1.3-Ah batteries and a 30-minute charger and costs \$140.

Rockwell Tools, 866/514-7625, rockwelltools.com.



Clean Cutter

We used the Diablo 10-inch 90-tooth *Ultimate Flawless Finish* blade on a job-site table saw to cut 1-inch-thick white oak. Rips took noticeably less effort than with other carbide blades, and cross-cuts were smooth with no splintering. The manufacturer credits the blade's "Axial Shear Face Grind" tooth geometry — which combines alternate top bevels with faces that are angled to slice more cleanly through the wood surface — and thin kerf design. The blade comes in 10- and 12-inch models for \$60 and \$70 respectively.

Freud, 800/334-4107, diablo tools.com.



Glue Gun

The *PAMtite* hot-melt glue gun lays down a bead of thermoplastic adhesive with a one-minute open time that sets five minutes after application. It's being marketed as an alternative to cartridge applied adhesives, some of which can take hours to set. The glue can be used on nearly any material — the company claims it's strong enough for carpet tack strips — but is especially popular for molding work where the installer doesn't want to have to fill nail holes. Pricing for the gun starts at \$100; a pound of glue (about 18 sticks) costs \$13.

PAM Fastening Technology, 800/699-2674, pamhotmelt.com.



Compatible Vac

Although the *Hammervac Universal Dust Extractor* is part of Milwaukee's M12 line of tools, the company says it's designed to fit most major brands of SDS-plus rotary hammers and AC/DC hammer drills. To achieve compatibility, it comes with three sizes of side-handle collars. Its replaceable filter is HEPA-certified and will remove 99.97% of particles greater than 0.3 micron. The tool has a three-position switch (on, off, and auto-on, which turns it on and off with the drill) and costs \$200.

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

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Versatile Storage

You could offer *ProSlat* wall storage as part of a garage upgrade or use it yourself in the shop. The installed product looks something like a retail slat wall, but the panels are made from 2-mm-thick recycled plastic with a weight capacity of 75 pounds per linear foot. According to the maker, the panels' tested impact resistance is 25 times greater than that of drywall. They're screwed to wall studs and can cover entire walls or just a section. They cost \$3 to \$4 per square foot.

Pro Slat, 888/691-2944, proslat.com.



Not Just for Drywall

The *Jab Saw* comes with a bimetal plunge tip for drywall, but it has many other uses as well. The blade can be removed and replaced with any hacksaw or reciprocating-saw blade — including wood, metal, and specialty blades — which means the saw can handle a variety of materials, from metal to PVC. It costs about \$15.

Ideal Industries, 800/947-3614, idealindustries.com.



Cellular Sentinel

The *GSM Cable Lock* can be used to guard table saws and other stationary tools left on the job site. It has a rugged plastic body and a steel cable; if an unauthorized person cuts or removes the cable, the alarm sends a text message to as many as four cell phones. The lock costs \$200 with a 10-foot cable, \$220 with a 20-foot cable. It works with an AT&T or T-Mobile network for a monthly charge of about \$10.

Nu-Set, 800/606-8738, nuset.com.



Bug Resistant

The company that licenses insect-repellent technology to 30 different outdoor clothing brands has launched its own line of clothing — including socks, pants, shirts, and hats — called *Insect Repellent Work Wear*. According to the company, workers fully clad in its products will be protected against everything from ticks to flies and mosquitoes “unless they’re someplace really bug-infested like the Everglades,” in which case a bit of DEET on the face may be in order. Tee shirts range in price from \$16 to \$24, and cargo pants cost about \$60.

Insect Shield, 866/712-7110, insectshield.com/shop.