

Product Watch

// BY DOUG MAHONEY

Magid CutMaster Armax AX5100 Work Gloves

Magid's new CutMaster Armax AX5100 Work Gloves offer both cut protection and a non-slip palm. The machine-knit gloves have no seams and are made of a proprietary moisture-wicking yarn, giving them an ANSI level 5 cut protection, the highest attainable level. This is up to twice the cut protection of yarns of similar weight, according to the manufacturer. The palms of the gloves have a latex coating that helps with grip and heightens abrasion resistance. **COO: China / Price: \$129 for a dozen (available only in larger quantities) / magidglove.com**



Ergodyne 4010 ProFlex Wrist Support

Strains and sprains are common in construction, so to reduce discomfort and downtime, Ergodyne developed the 4010 ProFlex Wrist Support. The Neoprene wrist wrap limits both upward and downward wrist movements and has an anti-odor treatment. It has a three-stage hook-and-loop closure, and the support is contoured to the hand with an open center, eliminating pressure on the palm nerves. An orange indicator line helps with the proper placement of the wrap. Light-duty models are also available. **Price \$14 / COO: China / ergodyne.com**

Wolverine Overman CarbonMAX Boots

Wolverine has recently released a new spin on the safety-toe work boot. Its Overman CarbonMAX boots are equipped with a toe made of a strong resin-coated carbon fiber. Unlike a standard steel toe, the CarbonMAX toes are nonconductive to heat or cold. They're also lighter and thinner than a traditional safety toe, giving the foot more room without sacrificing strength. The boots are made from full-grain leather with a nylon shank and removable foot-bed cushioning. **Price: \$180 / COO: China / wolverine.com**

Paslode 21-Degree Framing Nailer

Paslode's new 21-degree Framing Nailer accepts plastic-collated nails (from 2 to 3½ inches), weighs just over 8 pounds, and has features such as a top-loading magazine, a dry-fire lockout, and a belt hook. The gun accepts many manufacturers' nails—as well as Paslode's, which are designed to reduce strip breakages and eliminate jams. They also don't create annoying flying bits of plastic, according to the maker. **Price: \$289 / COO: Made in U.S. from U.S. and imported components / paslode.com**



Ridgid Gen5X Hybrid Fan

Staying cool on a jobsite isn't always easy, but Ridgid's new Gen5X 18-volt Hybrid Fan should help solve the problem. The variable-speed fan is controlled with a dial and can rotate 240 degrees up and down, directing the airflow where you want it. The rubber handle makes it easy to carry and two metal hooks extend from the base to grab a pipe or 2-by material. The fan is compatible with Ridgid 18-volt slide battery packs, but it can also be plugged directly into an outlet. On a 4.0-Ah battery, it can run for more than 30 hours, according to the manufacturer. **Price: \$60 (bare tool) / COO: China / ridgid.com**



Milwaukee 3-in-1 Ripstop

The Milwaukee 3-in-1 Ripstop Jacket Kit consists of two parts (a sweatshirt and a jacket) that can be worn together or independently, depending on the season or changes in weather during the day. The base layer is a water-repellent hoodie sweatshirt with three internal heating elements located at the chest and back, and powered by a Milwaukee M12 battery. For chill and rain, the second piece, an insulated jacket, can be worn over the hoodie. The jacket has four pockets and is made of 900 Denier ripstop fabric. **Price: \$299 / COO: China / milwaukeetool.com**



Makita XNB01Z 18V LXT Cordless Brad Nailer

Makita's cordless brad nailer has all the features of an air-powered nailer, but it's fully portable and doesn't require a compressor. The gun shoots 18-gauge brads, up to 2 inches long. It has a capacity of 110 nails and comes with a tool-free depth-of-drive adjustment and a dry-fire lock out. Rubber bumpers on the body protect delicate surfaces when the gun is put down. It can be toggled between sequential and contact nailing, and a battery gauge shows the charge level. A built-in LED completes the package. **Price: \$299 (bare tool) / COO: Japan / makitatools.com**



DeWalt ToughSystem Music Player and Charger

DeWalt's new jobsite stereo comes in the shape of a ToughSystem storage container, and doubles as a battery charger, accepting 12- and 20-volt batteries as well as a USB port that charges a laptop or a smartphone. Music can be controlled by smartphone via a 100-foot Bluetooth connection. The six-speaker system is waterproof and dustproof. To lug it around, either attach it to another ToughSystem case or use the handle. It has an internal storage compartment and can be powered by battery or plugged into a wall. **Price: \$230 / COO: China / dewalt.com**



Senco FinishPro 18BMg

Senco's new FinishPro 18BMg distinguishes itself by having the capability to shoot 18-gauge nails from $\frac{5}{8}$ inch to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Because of a magnesium housing and composite nail magazine, the gun is durable and light (less than 3 pounds). The oil-free motor and adjustable exhaust increase the convenience of the tool, and the swivel air inlet helps prevent tangled air hoses. There is also a toggle between firing modes and an adjustable depth of drive. The magazine can hold 100 nails, and the tool comes with a carrying case. **Price: \$80 / COO: Taiwan / senco.com**



Kett KL-200 Double-Cut Shears

These double-cut shears have a unique way of cutting metal and plastic that prevents the finished piece from wrinkling. The tool actually makes two cuts at once with a $\frac{7}{32}$ -inch waste piece between them. The tension of the cut is absorbed in this strip, leaving the other pieces flat and even. The KL-200 can cut mild steel up to 18 gauge; stainless up to 20 gauge; and plastics and laminates up to $\frac{3}{32}$ inch. It can slice 300 inches per minute, according to the manufacturer. **Price: \$285 / COO: U.S. / kett-tool.com**



Klein NVCT-3 Non-Contact Voltage Tester With Flashlight

Klein's NVCT-3 combines a non-contact voltage tester and an LED flashlight. The tool registers high and low voltage (12 to 100V AC) with a 5-LED bar graph and an audible indicating power level. Sealed buttons and an O-ring on the battery cap make it dustproof and waterproof, and the durable casing can handle a drop of up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, according to the maker. The tool has a CAT IV 1000V safety rating, an auto-power off, and a pocket clip. **Price: \$25 / COO: China / kleintools.com**

Hilti PM 2-LG Line Laser

Laser levels are now an essential part of any construction project, but it's sometimes difficult to see the projected line. Hilti's new PM 2-LG Line Laser projects a green line, making it four times more visible than a traditional red line laser, according to the manufacturer. The tool has a self-leveling pendulum that emits two beams: one level and one plumb. The rubberized housing protects the laser from falls, and it has a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch threaded tripod connection on the bottom. The Hilti has an operating range of 66 feet and runs for eight hours on two AA batteries. It comes with a storage bag. **Price: \$570 / COO: China / us.hilti.com**



Crescent X6 Pass-Thru Adjustable Wrench

Combining three tools in one, the Crescent X6 Pass-Thru Adjustable Wrench is bound to free up space in anyone's tool bag. First, the 8-inch adjustable wrench comes with laser-etched measurement markings in both standard and metric. Second, the lower jaw can be reversed, giving it a serrated jaw ideal for pipe work. Finally, at the base of the handle is a pass-through reversible socket system. The tool comes with 10 compatible combo sockets that fit both standard and metric sizes ranging from 3/8 inch (10mm) to 3/4 inch (19mm). The sockets fit hex, square, 12-pt, E-Torx, partially rounded hex, and spline. The pass-through feature makes the tool ideal for threaded rod and long bolts. **Price: \$30 / COO: China / crescenttool.com**



Festool Syslite Uni Worklamp

Festool's new work light contains three LED lamps, and has high and low settings and a pivoting head that locks in position with a series of positive stops. The light has a keyhole at the rear so it can be hung from a nail or screw. Festool batteries are also equipped with onboard belt hooks. A fully charged 18-volt battery gives the lamp approximately 9½ hours of runtime, according to the manufacturer. The light is compatible with both nickel and lithium Festool batteries. **Price: \$57 (bare tool) / COO: Germany / festoolusa.com**



Bosch RH745 Rotary Hammer

For breaking up concrete or drilling holes for anchors, the new Bosch RH745 is built for power and convenience. The tool has two modes of operation: chipping and drilling. A third setting, the Vario-Lock, puts the gearbox in neutral to allow the user to adjust the chisel end. A dial changes the speed of the tool and an indicator light turns on when it's time for maintenance. To increase user comfort, there is a fully rotating front handle and a padded rear handle that absorbs vibration. The Bosch has an SDS-Max tool-free bit change-out.

Price: \$719 / COO: Germany / boschtools.com

Blaklader 3225 Flannel Shirt

Blaklader, known for multipocket work pants, has recently brought its 3225 flannel shirt to the U.S., and it looks like a good way to take the chill off. The shell is 100% cotton with a fleece-lined body and quilted sleeves to prevent snagging if you wear it over a long-sleeved shirt. It uses durable snaps, not buttons, up the front and on the chest pockets. There are also side pockets. The shirt is longer in the back than in the front, to keep the draft out while the wearer is crouching or bending. **Price: \$50 / COO: China / blaklader.com**



Flir One

Thermal cameras are great diagnostic tools, but they can be expensive. The new second-generation Flir One is a small camera that connects to a smartphone and uses the phone's large screen as the monitor. It has a resolution of 160x120, four times that of the previous version. The unit actually has two cameras, one thermal and one regular. It takes a picture with both and has the capability to blend them into a single image, giving solid outlines to the objects in the thermal image. The Flir has an onboard battery, so while it's operational, there is no drain on the phone power, yet all captured images and video are stored on the phone. Models compatible with Apple and Android platforms are available. **Price: \$250 / COO: China / flir.com**



CLC Power Distribution Tool Bag

The Power Distribution Bag combines tool storage with a power source. The duffel-style bag has 10 pockets inside and 24 outside, plus a removable four-outlet surge protector that can be mounted to the inside or outside of the bag. The unit gets its power from an extension cord and provides four outlets, each with a cord clip to prevent accidental unplugging. The bag has padded feet and can be carried with its adjustable shoulder strap or handles. **Price: \$70 / COO: China / goclc.com**



PacTool Face Gauge

The sliding face gauge offers a quick and inexpensive way to install even rows of siding. When held against a course of siding, it creates the reveal for the next course, or a shelf for a shingle ledger. The sliding reveal loosens with two wing nuts and is fully adjustable between 1/8 inch and 9 inches. The thumb hook is easy to hold, and the tool also can be used for scribing a parallel line. **Price: \$9 / COO: U.S. / pactool.us**

Kreg Precision Router Table System

The Kreg Precision Router Table System has an aluminum fence with a "T" shape so it locks in like a table-saw fence. It always stays parallel to the table and the magnified measuring scale makes adjustments fast and easy. The built-in vac port handles dust. The MDF tabletop is reinforced with steel struts to prevent warping, and it sits on a metal stand that can be adjusted in height from 31 to 36 inches. At 85 pounds, the setup is still light enough to be moved from jobsite to jobsite. **Price: \$500 / COO: U.S. / kregtool.com**

