

# Toolbits | by Tom O'Brien

**Nicer Knife.** Builders who prefer a fixed-blade utility knife might want to check out the *VR-Series* from Tajima. Its key feature is a large thumbscrew that lets you change blades without using a screwdriver — or worrying about dropping the screw. Also handy are its one-piece hinged design and the magnet and spring clip that prevent the blades from tumbling out when the case is opened. The knife costs \$10.

**Tajima Tool Corp.**, 888/482-5462, [tajimatool.com](http://tajimatool.com).



**Knock-Down Fixer.** Spray-on textured drywall finishes are easy to install but tricky to patch. The *Drywall Repair Tool* is a template that makes it possible to replicate a knock-down texture using joint compound and a taping knife (instead of a messy hopper or spray can). For \$18, you can buy an individual template to match fine, medium, or heavy textures, or you can spend \$36 on a multipack containing all three templates.

**Template**, 800/331-6637, [drywallrepairtool.com](http://drywallrepairtool.com).



**Consistent Cuts for Cans.** Ideal's *Adjustable Can Light Hole Saw* is designed to carve perfect circles in drywall and ceiling tile. Its cutting range extends from 2½ to 7 inches, so it can bore holes for fire sprinklers as well as for most recessed lights. Features include self-sharpening carbide-coated stainless steel blades and a built-in ⅜-inch arbor and pilot drill. The saw (with two removable dust shields) costs \$27.

**Ideal Industries**, 800/435-0705, [idealindustries.com](http://idealindustries.com).



**Versatile Nail Puller.** Cleaning up old lumber typically requires an arsenal of tools, but the *Nail Jack* extraction pliers combine several functions in one: They can extract like a cat's paw, clamp like bullnips, and pry like a crow bar. According to the maker, they pull staples and brads as easily as they pull common nails. The 11-inch-long tool sells for \$30. An 8½-inch-long version, the Nail Hunter, costs \$25.

**Nail Jack Tools**, 877/785-5624, [nailjack.com](http://nailjack.com).

