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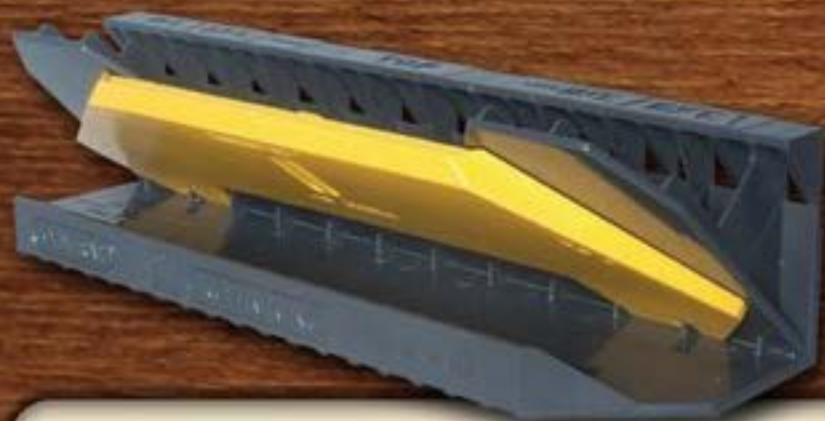
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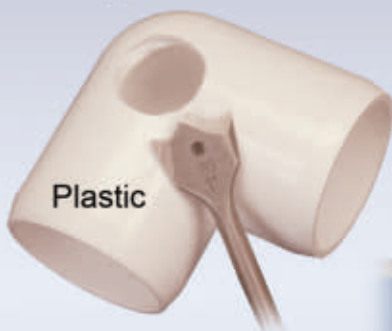
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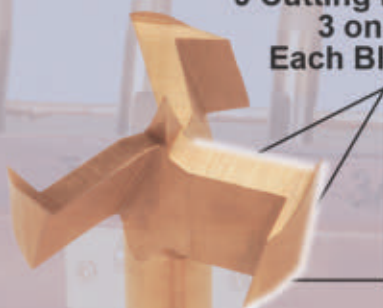
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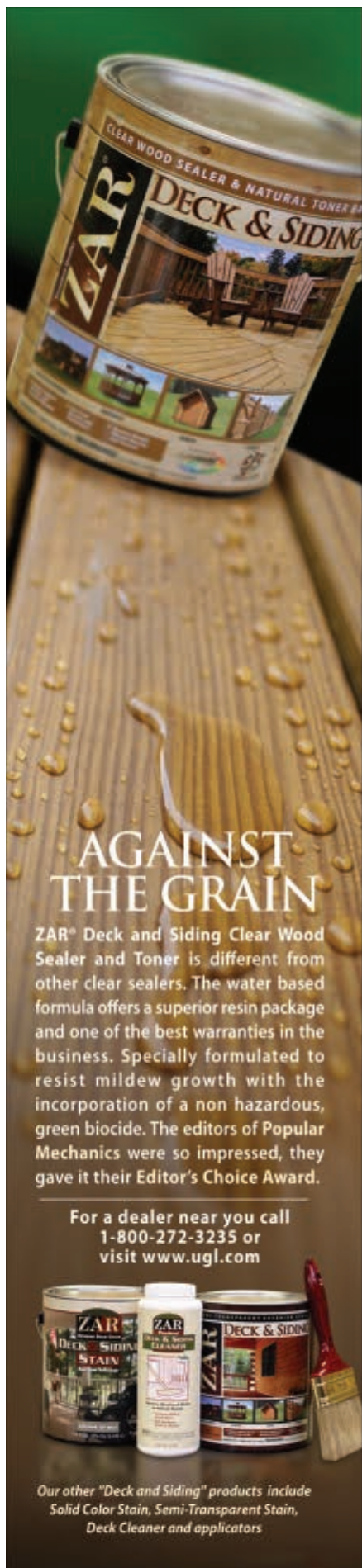


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This month's issue of *Extreme How-To* offers a preview of good things to come. Each year the *EHT* staff makes the trip to the National Hardware Show, where more than 250,000 hardware, DIY and lawn/garden products are put on display. This year the event will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 6-8. Even if you're not a hardware professional, the convention offers a first look at the many new innovations that will soon stock the aisles of your local store, which makes it a fun show for tool hounds and gadget geeks of all sorts. Check out this issue's extensive preview of what will be exhibited at the convention.

We also share seasoned carpenter Rob Robillard's professional insight on designing and installing wainscoting. This classic wall-trim treatment can give a new dimension to a drab interior, imparting a more formal appearance with raised panels or adding the style of country décor with a beadboard design. Homeowners have a wide array of options with wainscoting, and Robillard even shows how to install faux wainscoting on a curved wall.

But that's not all. Home projects range from a big to small, and this issue shows how to address a few smaller jobs that, once accomplished, make home life more pleasant. Check out our tutorials on how to reseal a stone countertop and how to fix a bubble in loose wall-to-wall carpet. We also offer a feature on installing a pet door.

There's something for everyone in this issue of *EHT*, and I hope you enjoy reading it.



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Q: What's an easy way to fix a door that won't latch?

A: If a door no longer latches, then either the frame or the door has shifted causing the bolt to miss the hole in the strike plate. One trick is to coat the bolt with lipstick and then shut the door. The lipstick will mark the spot on the strike plate that is interfering with the bolt. The easiest fix is to remove the strike plate and file down the hole in the strike plate along the area that shows the lipstick. You may also have to chisel out some wood in the door jamb to match the expanded strike plate and allow room for the bolt to penetrate the hole.

Q: Why is the brick on my home turning white?

A: If you're seeing a white, powdery discoloration on the brick, then it's called efflorescence. This is the common result of mineral salts leaching out of the brick. The good news is that it's not harmful to the brick. To remove the efflorescence, mix a heavily diluted solution of water and muriatic acid. While wearing goggles and rubber gloves, mop the solution onto the wall with a stiff-bristled brush and scrub thoroughly. Rinse with water.



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Q: We dropped a piece of furniture on a sheet vinyl floor and caused a large tear. I have some leftover flooring that matches. What's the best method to apply the patch?

A: It sounds like you'll need to perform a surgical removal and replacement of the damaged area of flooring. Use a straight edge and a utility knife to cut out a square section of the flooring that surrounds the damage. If you have faux grout lines in the pattern of the floor, then hide your cuts in the lines. Peel up the damaged flooring and use a paint scraper to remove the old backing and adhesive. A hair dryer will help soften the adhesive. With your leftover vinyl flooring, cut a replacement piece that exactly matches the removed section. (Use the old piece as a template.) Test-fit the patch. Then, spread flooring adhesive on the subfloor using a notched trowel. Set the patch in place and roll out any air bubbles. After the adhesive sets, carefully apply a vinyl seam sealant to the edges.

Q: Are there any home remedies for cleaning mold out of a shower stall?

A: You'll find a variety of effective "anti-mold" sprays available at hardware stores and home centers. However, for a homemade recipe, find a bucket and mix together two parts ammonia, one part baking soda, one part white vinegar and 30 parts warm water. Soak a sponge in the mixture and scrub away the mold. This recipe is effective and environmentally friendly. **EHT**



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Reseal a Stone Countertop



By Matt Weber

Countertops made of granite, marble, travertine or other natural stone are popular for their distinct, timeless appearance and durable low-maintenance performance. Available in thousands of colors, natural stone countertops can be polished to a smooth, lustrous finish that holds up well to heat and can potentially last a lifetime. However, all stone is porous to some degree and should be protected with a quality stone sealer to prevent water, oils or other liquids from soaking in and leaving stains. To get the most vibrant life from a stone countertop, it's smart to re-seal the surface every three to five years.

Over time, general-purpose cleaners that aren't specifically formulated for stone can break down the sealer. This chemical agitation combined with the daily abrasive wear and tear that comes with a heavily used countertop can degrade the polish, discolor and even scratch the stone. A quality sealer can restore the stone's luster, reinforce protection and make the countertop easier to clean.

The travertine countertop in this article had last been sealed five years ago, and the surface had since become dull and patchy with bare spots where the sealer had worn away. This article shows the steps we took to sand away the

old sealer and apply a new coat to give the countertop a like-new appearance.

Note that the matte-finished travertine shone in this article had not been polished to a glossy sheen upon installation, and any gloss on the surface was due to the sealer on top. I know this because I installed the countertop myself. This is important to note because if your contractor-installed stone countertop has a high-sheen polished surface then you should probably skip sanding the surface and just clean the countertop thoroughly before applying a new coat of sealer. Sanding a shiny, polished countertop will dull the finish, and to repolish the surface to a high gloss will require wet-sanding with very fine abrasives—and a lot of practice. The polishing process progresses through finer and finer abrasives until finally graduating to a hog's hair polishing pad with a polishing compound. It's quite a chore to achieve that professional sheen, so don't bother sanding it if you don't need to.

STEP BY STEP



Clean the countertop thoroughly, paying particular attention to the grout joints. You don't want any dirt or grime to be sealed onto the countertop.



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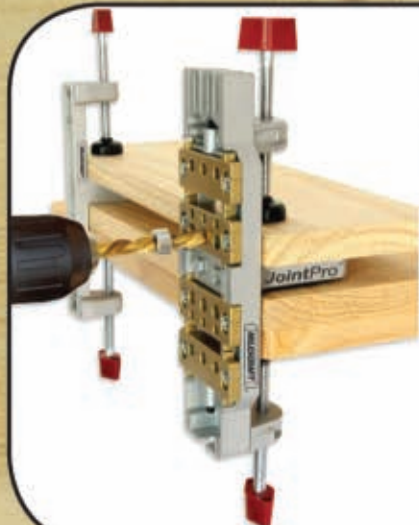


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The countertop in this article had patchy bare spots where the sealer had worn away. I decided to sand away the old sealer and start from scratch. Again, if your countertop is polished to a glossy finish, then you should skip sanding and go straight to cleaning and re-sealing.



Mask off all surrounding areas that you don't want exposed to the sealer.

Select a variety of progressively finer bits, the coarser abrasives to remove the old sealer and the finer ones to smooth out the surface in preparation for the new sealer. The finer your abrasives,



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I began removing the old sealer with a random orbit sander equipped with 100-grit abrasive. I made three steady passes to remove the old coating.

A handheld detail sander can easily fit into narrow spaces.

A quarter-sheet sander like the Porter-Cable Speedbloc can get right up to the edges of corners.

I made several passes graduating from 100-grit, to 220 to 350 until all traces of the old sealer were gone and the surface felt perfectly smooth to the touch.

If you decide to sand your countertop surface, keep a hand broom and dustpan ready because the abrasion will generate a lot of messy residue.

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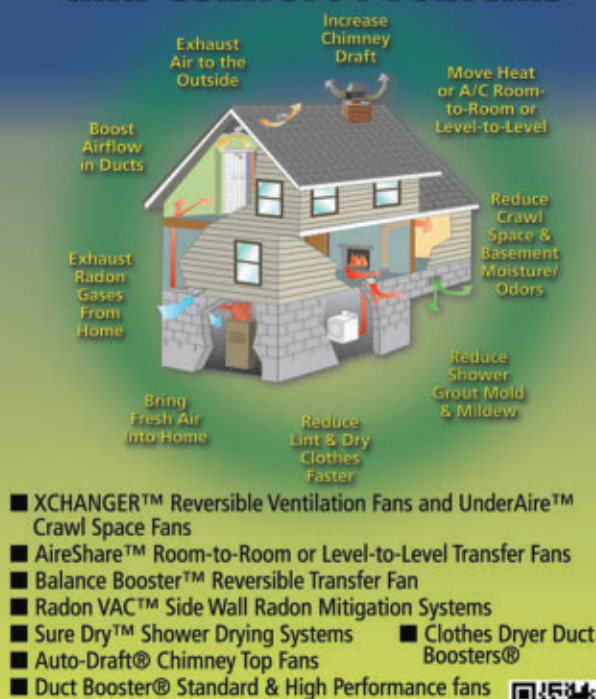
DO IT YOURSELF

I chose to use a water-based penetrating sealer from DuPont that can last up to 150 percent longer than a regular sealer. Always follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions for application.

I applied the product with a paint pad. Specifically, I used an edging pad from Shur-line that conveniently fit into the narrow places around the stove and other obstacles.



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For best results, spread excess sealer over the entire area for even penetration. Allow the liquid to penetrate the surface for 15-30 minutes.

Remove excess sealer by wiping the surface with clean, dry towels. Avoid using cheap shop towels or paper towels, which can leave dye, lint or fibers in the sealer. I recommend using white cotton knit rags specified for "paint and cleaning".



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Most stones and grout will require two coats. A few of the more absorbent stones may need additional coats to be properly sealed. Wipe away excess sealer from the final coat. A full cure is achieved after 24-72 hours, but the sealer will dry to the touch in only about an hour. **EHT**



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Patio Floor Profile

Enhance your outdoor living space with a durable hardscape.



By Tom Matthews

A hot trend among homeowners is to design an area of the yard as an outdoor living room that's perfect for relaxing, entertaining and barbecuing. Patios, walkways and even drive-ways are projects suited for savvy do-it-yourselfers, and they create a strong foundation for an outdoor retreat.

CLAY PAVERS

Clay paver patios provide a classic brick appearance and last about a hundred years. Pine Hall Brick Company, the largest

manufacturer of clay pavers in the United States, advises that new clay pavers represent the best value for the money because they're manufactured with the intention to be pavers. Years ago, clay pavers were made at the end of a "batch" of face bricks—the bricks that are used to build the walls of homes and businesses. As a result, they were fired in a kiln the same length of time as the face bricks. And while face bricks do a fine job of holding up a wall when they are expertly laid by an experienced bricklayer, they

were not engineered to support vehicular traffic.

Clay pavers that are meant to be pavers are more durable than face bricks (they withstand up to 13,000 lbs. per sq. in. of pressure, which is greater than concrete). They're colorfast, they do well in extreme heat and freezing cold, and they are a consistent size, which makes installation easier.

For a conventional paver patio with a flexible base, you'll need to dig out the space, apply a "crusher run" (gravel course) followed by an inch of sand. Then, install the edge restraints and pavers, and sweep sand into the joints.

If you want a permeable pavement installation (which is required in some places), you dig deeper, put in precise layers of different sizes of aggregate to allow drainage, and then install permeable pavers.



Shown is a classic herringbone pattern from Pine Hall Brick Co.

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MATERIAL MARKET

Pine Hall Brick offers two types of permeable pavers, RainPave (residential) and StormPave (commercial). Permeable pavers are designed to be installed just a bit farther apart than conventional pavers. The pavers are installed over layers of aggregates, so when it rains the rainwater seeps in between these pavers and is stored in the spaces between the aggregates, where it is gradually released into the ground.

In some cases, you might want to dress up an existing concrete patio or walkway with pavers. To do so, use a thinner paver specifically made for this purpose. Begin by laying a line of pavers perpendicular to the edge of the concrete to form a "sailor course", gluing them to the concrete with masonry cement. Then, lay standard roofing

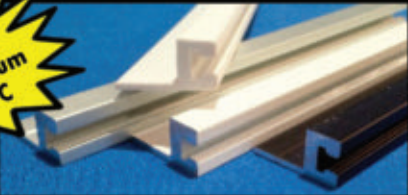


Unlike face bricks, clay pavers are designed for ground usage and engineered to withstand vehicle traffic. (Photo courtesy Pine Hall Brick Co.)




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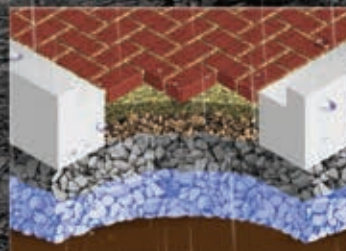
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felt on the concrete, put in the pavers and sweep sand into the joints.

A DIY paver patio provides a reasonably priced place to relax, without the maintenance of a wooden

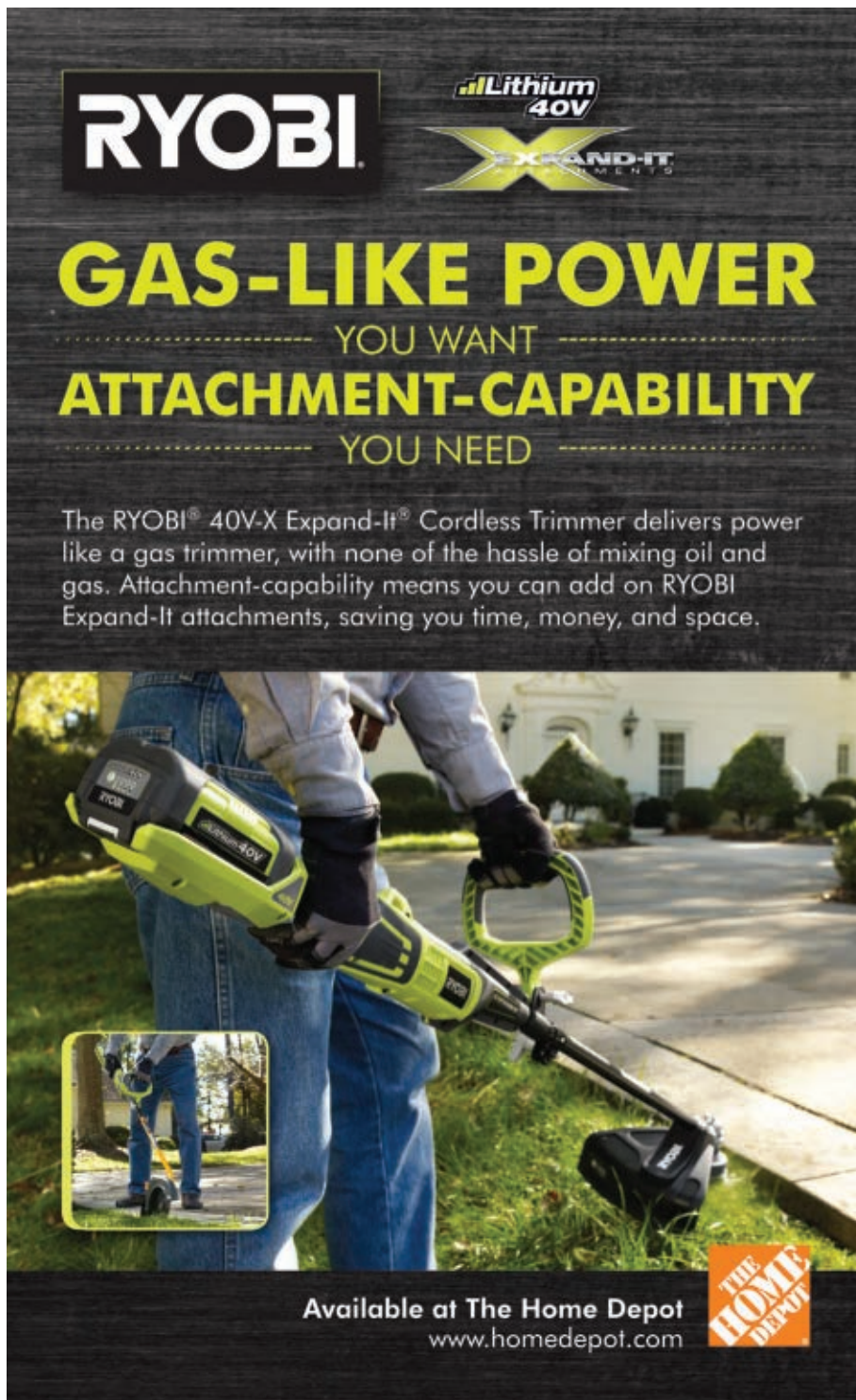
deck. *Smart Money* magazine says that landscaping and hardscaping can increase home values by as much as 15 percent. And the National Association of Realtors estimates that outdoor rooms can

deliver 77 percent return on investment at sale time—and they're less expensive per square foot than additions or kitchen or bath remodels. Learn more about clay pavers at www.pinehallbrick.com.

COMPOSITE PAVERS

AZEK composite pavers are easy to fit together quickly and neatly on a grid. Available in permeable and non-permeable versions, the AZEK pavers are made from up to a 95-percent composite blend of post-consumer recycled automobile tires and plastic containers. The composite pavers are one-third the weight of concrete and use a patented grid system for installation that dramatically reduces installation time and makes it easier than manually setting and aligning heavy traditional pavers. The 16-by-16-in. grid ensures straight lines and assists with a level layout. Plus, the pavers can be cut using a regular miter saw or jigsaw.

AZEK recently introduced several new paver products. The addition



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AZEK pavers weigh much less than concrete and install on a grid.

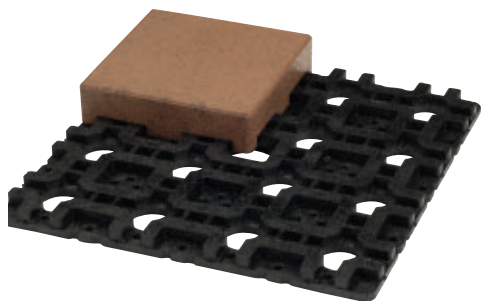


Permeable pavers allow water to pass for easy drainage.

of a larger 8-by-8-in. paver size answers the demand for both larger paver aesthetics and multi-sized paver patterns. When used in conjunction with the 4-by-8- and 4-by-4-in. standard pavers, this new size creates the opportunity for additional design options.

The Resurfacing Bullnose Paver provides an attractive, rounded finished perimeter edge to any paver area—such as a deck surface, flat roof application or any project that uses resurfacing pavers.

The new AZEK Resurfacing Transition Paver includes a slanted edge that acts as a mini ramp to transition from the paver height down to the level of the ground, substructure or walkway. Learn more at www.azek.com.



AZEK pavers come in a variety of sizes, including a new 8x8" size.

TILE A DECK

If you'd like to convert your exterior deck to a tiled surface, DexSystems Inc. manufactures an outdoor floor system called GratedeX. The system consists of

modular subfloor components along with fasteners, connectors and adhesives that provide a durable method for placing thin gauged stone or tile in an exterior flooring application without the

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Tips for Installing Concrete Pier Footings

Here are some useful tips to ensure your footings are installed properly and the integrity of your project is maintained:

- You should always make sure that a qualified engineer has designed your footing forms and that they have been tested by an accredited organization.
- Select a footing form that can carry the weight of your new construction and has met the proper building codes.
- Select a footing form made of environmentally friendly, sturdy materials.
- Ensure you are placing the footing form on solid ground. The more solid the ground the less likely movement will occur.
- Install your footings 4-6 inches below the frost line to avoid potential movement. If you are in an area without frost, then the form should be back filled 2 feet to hold it in place when it is being filled with concrete.
- Should rebar be required pour concrete into the system first. Insert three or four number 4 or 5 rebar rods into the tube. To determine the length of rebar, measure the distance from the top of the tube to the air holes located on the Bigfoot Systems® Footing Form before you place the system in the excavation and backfill.
- Purchase the amount of concrete stated on the form label. You will use all of it.
- Use a Bigfoot Systems® Footing Form as a funnel to pour concrete into the system by placing an inverted Bigfoot on top of the construction tube.
- For a marine application, such as constructing a wharf, pour the concrete into the footing and tube on shore and have an excavator set them in place in the water. The other option will entail using a diver and pumper truck.
- Footing forms should always be used when installing footings as they provide added stability, strength and safety to your new construction.
- Don't risk having to redo the job, do it right the first time!

Visit our web site
www.bigfootsystems.com
to view a complete set of
our installation instructions.



The GratedeX system can convert traditional deck joist framing into a tiled walking surface.

use of cement-based mortars, grouts or adhesives. This flooring technology creates a lightweight stone floor over traditional joist framing. In addition to thin-gauged stone or tile, the flooring system also supports the placement of modular pavers in a dry-laid installation without a mud set or sand bed. Use the GratedeX system on



Shown is a completed tile patio from DexSystems.

any traditional deck in all weather conditions and all temperatures.

DexSystems also offers the PierdeX system for installation over waterproof rooftops. PierdeX is a rooftop pedestal system to create a level outdoor floor on a roof. Learn more about DexSystems at www.outdoorfloorsystem.com.

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Created 27 years ago, the original Buzon pedestals create an elevated support system for the construction of roof terraces, pedestrian areas, walkways, roof gardens, pool decks and green roofs. The pedestals can be used with any type of decking material, such as natural stone, concrete slabs, wooden tiles or slates, or industrial gratings. To support all sorts of raised flooring applications the Buzon pedestals are adjustable in height from 3/4 to 42 in., depending on type, and can support 2,200 pounds. In addition, they're provided with a unique slope corrector that adjusts up



The Buzon pedestal system enables elevated floors even on pitched roofs.

to a 10-degree slope to create a level surface while the roof slopes below. The Buzon pedestal is made of high-strength recycled polypropylene to exact specifications that satisfy the precision requested by architects and contractors. Learn more at www.buzon-world.com. **EHT**

PATIO DESIGN TIPS FROM A PRO

Laura Schwind, a licensed landscape architect on the staff of Pine Hall Brick Company, says it's best to think about how you plan to use the space. In the case of a patio, for example, some simple experiments beforehand will help you figure out how much space you will need.

One way is to gather everything that you will regularly want on your patio—the grill, the children's toys, the patio furniture—and place everything where you will want it to go. Or if you regularly have dinner parties, put some chairs out in the back yard and then imagine how big the patio would have to be to accommodate everyone. You could then use a garden hose or spray paint on the grass to outline the size of the patio.

Beyond size, shape and patterns will also make a difference. A curved patio is less formal than a rectangular or square one. Paver patterns can also help define or change the scale of the space. From a functional standpoint, the choice of a pattern can minimize cutting. A basketweave pattern is ideal because full pavers can be used throughout in a square or rectangular shaped installation. Using a running bond or 90-degree herringbone in rectangular areas will only require half-cuts, while a 45-degree herringbone requires cuts around the entire perimeter.

Sometimes, the design of the patio will depend on what's already there. Keep in mind where the utilities are located and remember that you will need a way to get materials in and out of the construction site. Visit www.pinehallbrick.com for more information.



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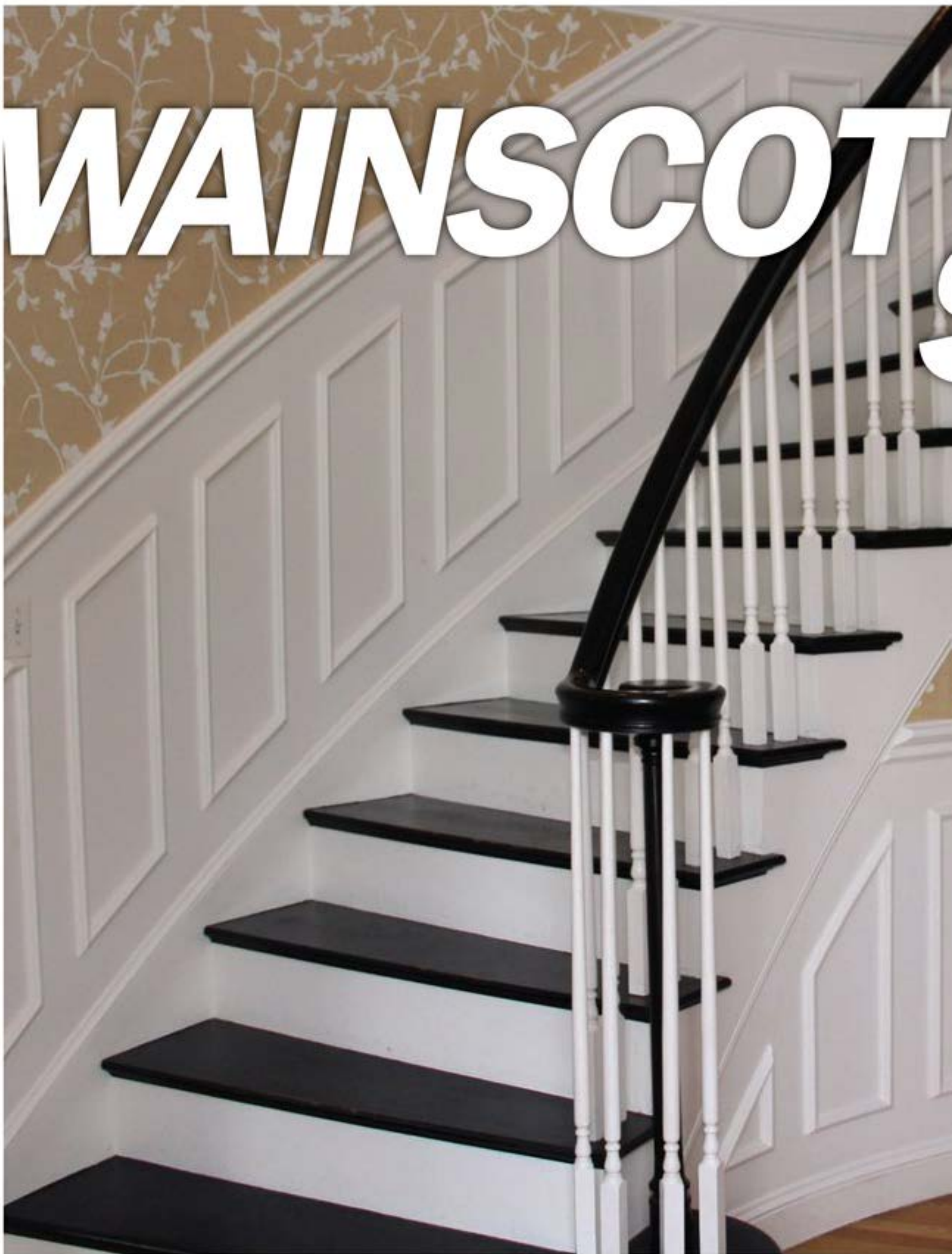
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US PATENTS

6,945,004 AND 8,087,207

WAINSCOT





ING SOLUTIONS

By Robert Robillard

Wall Trim Tips *from a Professional Carpenter*

One of my favorite finish carpentry activities is to make and install wainscoting. Wainscoting is a broad term referring to trim that is added to the bottom quarter of the wall.

Wainscoting helps enhance the structure and design of the room by splitting the wall into two sections and giving the eye a line to follow. When placed at the right level, wainscoting can also give height and presence to a room by elongating the look of the wall or tying in a high ceiling.

Wainscoting functions to give formality and balance to a room. It can also give a room a textural interest that ordinary, flat painted walls cannot achieve.

The term wainscoting actually refers to the application of decorative paneling that's placed between a baseboard running along the floor and a chair rail or wainscot cap on the wall. Wainscoting has been around for centuries and is a very popular finish trim option in the New England area.

TYPES OF WAINSCOTING

The type of material used for wainscoting can be wood paneling, cope and stick panels, overlapping boards or applied moldings. Wainscoting can be as elegant and formal as a raised panel, or as simple as a flat panel with a chair rail.

A chair rail is a horizontal molding attached to the wall above the wainscoting. I've never seen wainscoting installed without a chair rail of some sort. The height of a chair rail typically ranges from 32 to 48 inches above the floor.

Wainscoting that consists of raised, flat or recessed panels provides a simple, clean look popular in Mission style and Arts and Crafts style homes.

Beadboard wainscoting consists of vertical tongue-and-groove boards that interlock to create vertical lines, as often seen in pantries, cottages or country style homes. This look has become very popular in mudrooms, kitchens and baths.

Often times you will see vertical beadboard wainscoting measuring 42 to 72 inches high, especially in dining rooms.

Finish carpenters and designers have used wainscoting for architectural design and visual appeal since the late 1500s. Although there is no structural purpose for wainscoting, the extra feature adds contrast and design to the living space.

Wainscoting is commonly painted to match existing trim in a home; however, employing different paint colors and treatments can add character and personality to a home's interior. For example, a raised panel wainscoting gives a room a more formal appearance. Dark stained wainscoting adds a masculine touch for a man's room. White painted wainscoting against pastel walls becomes a youthful, feminine combination.

How the wainscoting is designed and finished makes it usable in almost any room in the house.

And then, there is faux wainscoting.

WHAT IS FAUX WAINSCOTING?

Faux wainscoting has recently made its way into today's homes due to its easy installation and cost savings in time and material. It's a very affordable and interesting solution to blank walls.



Wainscoting is available in a variety of styles. A raised panel wainscoting gives the room a more formal appearance. (Photo courtesy Wainscoting America)

Faux wainscoting basically entails attaching moldings to the wall to create the look and effect of solid wainscoting panels. Faux wainscoting can look as good as the real thing and is cost-effective when compared to solid wainscoting. Either way, both methods add instant elegance to almost any room.

The goal with installing faux

wainscoting means gluing and securing molding, as well as chair rail molding, to create the look of solid wainscoting.

The moldings are mitered to create a square or rectangle, and the wall and moldings are painted one color to look like solid wainscot. It's basically the process of using picture-frame molding to create panels.

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ADDING WAINSCOTING TO A CURVED WALL

Recently, a friend of mine wanted to dress up the front entryway of his home. A stairway near the door had a curved wall that was

very bare and rated "blah at best" on the interior design scale.

Because of the curves, faux wainscoting was a great solution to add some instant class to this entryway and also stay within

budget. New paint and wallpaper will dress it up once finished.

On this job we kept the existing baseboard trim and bought a larger version of the faux molding to use as the chair rail.

After identifying and procuring the moldings needed, we cut lauan strips to use for layout and made an acute-angle jig before setting up our laser level to mark the walls.

Materials Needed

- Carpenter's calculator
- Solid wood molding
- Flexible molding
- 1/4" strips of lauan ply
- Latex Adhesive caulk
- Polyurethane construction adhesive
- Wood glue
- Pneumatic finish and brad nailers, compressor
- Levels, laser level
- Miter saw
- Acute-angle Jig
- Painter's tape

DESIGN AND LAYOUT THE PANELS

For any type of wainscoting to look proper, the panels must be laid out so that each of them is the same size and equally spaced on the wall. When installing panels on more than one wall, this

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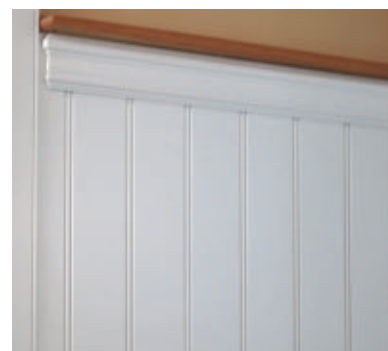
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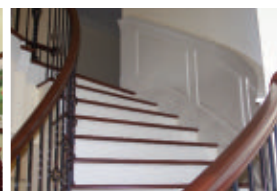
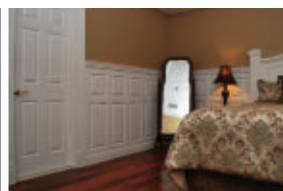
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Beadboard wainscoting consists of tongue-and-groove boards that interlock to create vertical lines. (Photo courtesy American Beadboard)



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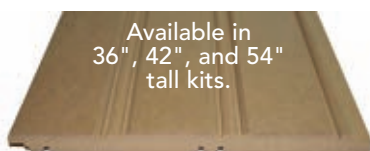
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WAINSCOTING SOLUTIONS



Determine your panel layout based on the size of the wall, and draw a full scale template on the wall to guide the installation. We used flexible lauan strips pressed against the curved wall to guide our pencil.

means that different walls may have a different size and number of panels, depending on the wall's length.

We used a calculator to determine equal spacing of the vertical molding and panels that were pleasing to the eye of the homeowner.

Note: Generally, the bottom rail is taller than the top rail. However, on our project we chose equal spacing on all sides of the faux panels.

To calculate the layout of the panel spacing, always begin with an estimate of the panel size, then run your numbers to determine the exact panel number.

Add your stile measurement to your panel size and divide the wall's length by your number. Remember



The chair rail is made of a flexible molding that is a larger and slightly different profile than the wainscoting molding.

that there is always one more stile than there are panels. This is because the corners should begin and end with a stile.

Tip: When laying out the wainscoting, look around the house for design clues. I often use the width of vertical stiles on paneled doors for my wainscot vertical panel spacing.

We purposely laid out the panels so any switches or outlets would either land on a rail (area between two vertical moldings) or inside a faux panel, taking care not to have it land too close to the molding's edge.

Once you have your layout established, I suggest you make a full scale drawing on the wall to eliminate any confusion and to discover any layout problems.



We laid out the panels so any switches or outlets would either land on a rail (area between two vertical moldings) or inside a faux panel.

DRAWING YOUR LAYOUT ON A CURVED WALL

We needed a straight edge for drawing our panels and marking the curved wall. We used lauan plywood ripped down to 3-in. strips as a template and tracing material. It works amazingly well to measure, mark and lay out the curved wall.

Note: Lauan plywood is a cheap version of mahogany plywood and comes in a 4x8 sheet in 1/8- and 1/4-in. thicknesses. It is very flexible and perfect for curved wall applications.

We set up two laser levels both with horizontal lines and were able to mark the entire rooms top and bottom molding lines, which pinpointed the placement of the lauan we used to guide our drawing.

On this project the homeowner chose 4-in. spacing for everything. We applied this 4-in. measurement for spacing the faux panels from each other, the base-board and chair rail.

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WAINSCOTING SOLUTIONS



Flexible molding bends to the contour of the wall, perfect for trimming out a curved stairwell.

The flexible molding matches the standard wood molding exactly but costs three times the price. For this reason, we used wood molding on the vertical pieces that didn't need to bend.



CUT THE MOLDING

The molding can be cut easily with standard wood-working tools, and a miter saw works best for cutting accurate angles.

Each wall will have a slightly different "panel" size based on the distance between wall corners and door openings. If the math is correct, all of the molding for a single wall can be cut at one time, which speeds production.

FASTEN THE MOLDING

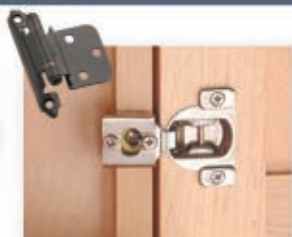
Most of these moldings will not land on a wall stud, so we needed to glue them to the wall and use finish nails to hold the molding in place while the glue dried. We used latex adhesive caulking and polyurethane adhesive for gluing the molding to the wall.

Six-penny finish nails driven at opposing angles into the dry-wall were installed to cinch the molding tight to the wall while the adhesive set. Molding frame corners were mitered and nailed

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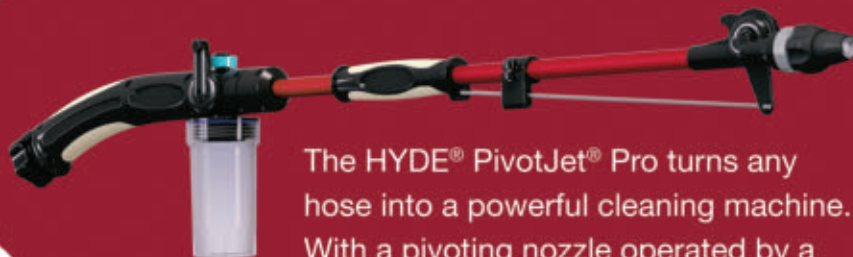
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WAINSCOTING SOLUTIONS



The flexible molding cuts easily on a miter saw.

The molding is installed with a combination of adhesive and finish nails. For wood molding we used latex adhesive caulk. For the flexible molding we used polyurethane construction adhesive.

to each other conventionally with finish or brad nails.

The chair rail molding was installed the same way, but because it spans across wall framing we could fasten them to the studs with finish nails. On a curved wall, I recommend using the adhesive caulking as well.



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FLEXIBLE MOLDING TO THE RESCUE

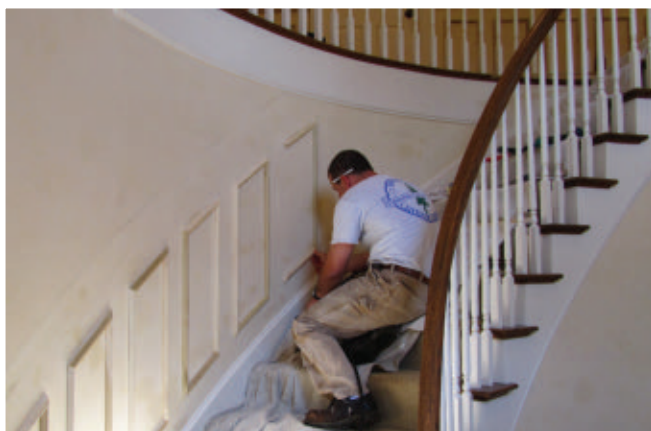
Installing molding to a curved wall meant using Duraflex moldings from ResinArt. These flexible moldings are a simple and economic alternative to curved applications where wood moldings won't work.

It's important to pick a flexible



Drive finish nails at different, opposing angles for the most holding power.

Each wall must have panels of equal width, therefore panel size will be determined in part by the length of the wall between doors or corners.



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Toggle Video



WAINSCOTING SOLUTIONS

molding that also matches the solid molding. We chose an astragal style molding for this project. The moldings come in a box, in 10-ft. sections. When I compared the flexible molding to the wood

molding they were nearly identical.

The flexible molding has the appearance of real wood and installs with standard woodworking equipment. It cuts, sands, shapes and finishes like

wood. When cutting these flexible moldings, take care to provide additional support. If not, the molding flops and bends, which can affect the quality of the miter cut.

Since the flexible molding costs three times that of the wood, I used the wood on all of the vertical molding pieces on the curved wall.

I used polyurethane construction adhesive to glue the flexible moldings to the walls, and adhesive



Many of the sharp angles on this project were acute angles that weren't possible to cut on a regular miter saw.



To make this cut you need an acute angle jig (see sidebar).



Painter's tape and a wood wedge help hold hard-to-clamp miter joints tight until the glue dries. This is also a perfect place for a spring clamp.

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- 3 Install



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On the lower stair wall the panels had to be modified to follow the angle of the stairs. We also had to cut back the chair rail where it terminates into the stair skirt board. To do this we applied a bevel cut to soften the molding profile and have it die into the narrow molding on the skirt.

latex caulk for the wood. Both types of moldings were also secured with a pneumatic 16-gauge finish nailer.

Tip: Drive the finish nails at different opposing angles for better holding power. The angle holds the drywall or plaster better than installing the nail straight into the wall.

Flexible molding can also be used on half-round windows, elliptical windows, arches, arcs, radius drywall corners, round columns and more.

PAINT AND CAULK

After installing the moldings, apply caulking to all the seams. If you want to make the faux

ACUTE-ANGLE JIG

There are many times when I need cut trim or molding at an angle greater than my miter saw is designed for. Most miter saws cut to 45 degrees or slightly larger, usually 50 degrees.

But what if you need to cut 55 degrees or greater? One very dangerous way is to hold the piece to be cut perpendicular to the saw's fence and freehand this cut. I do not recommend cutting trim this way.

A safer solution is to make an acute-angle cutting jig and keep it with your saw. I made this one out of scrap wood, and it creates a new fence perpendicular to the saw's fence, which gives you greater control when cutting the sharp angle.

I arbitrarily chose 12-by-12 inches for the jig. I cut a 12-in. square of 3/4-in. plywood and then cut it diagonally to make a brace for the jig.

Scrap 5/4 trim makes up the edges. I chose 5/4 sides because the raised edges give me plenty of space to clamp or screw the jig. I screwed the parts together at 90 degrees, then I clamped the jig to my saw fence.

Tip: Have scrap material on hand to practice using this jig and to help determine the correct miters.



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wainscoting look like solid wainscoting, then paint the wall from the chair rail down a color that differs from the upper portion of the wall. Some folks also paint the

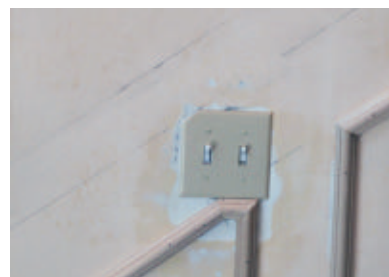
panel interiors different colors for a more dramatic look. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Robert Robillard is editor of A Concord Carpenter and

principal of a full service carpentry and remodeling business located in Concord, Massachusetts. Visit www.aconcordcarpenter.com.

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Despite our best layout, we ran into a problem with the light switch location at the bottom of the stairs. To make the faux wainscoting and chair rail lay out correctly, we had to raise the light switch. Even then, we still had to modify our wainscoting panel slightly by flattening one of the sharp corners.



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This photo shows how we maintained our spacing pattern between two doors that were located closely together.



Here's how we dealt with the obstacle of a wall-mounted air register.



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WAINSCOTING RESOURCES

WainscotingAmerica.com is a great source for ordering wainscoting panels online in minutes. The company has advanced manufacturing techniques that allow it to make custom complex panels very efficiently, delivering premium wainscoting at affordable prices that ship in 5 business days. The company offers a one-piece MDF custom wainscoting panel up to 9 feet with no seams. The innovative online design system allows DIY customers to design and order complex custom panels without the need for an expensive carpenter. The design tool will automatically try to determine the optimal number of inner panels for a given panel size. It uses the golden ratio of 1.618, which is the height of the panel to the width of the inner panel. There are books written about the golden ratio, how it is found in nature

and that the Egyptians and Greeks used it in their ancient architecture. Most of the literature on the golden ratio states that rectangles with this ratio are more appealing to the human eye. However, you can modify the design as you see fit. Visit www.WainscotingAmerica.com.



AmericanBeadboard.com is an online source for high-demand beadboard wainscoting. The reasonably priced beadboard panels are cut from 5/8-in. thick premium MDF and will ship in 3 to 4 business days. A 36-in. tall 8-ft. kit starts at just \$119. Visit www.AmericanBeadboard.com.

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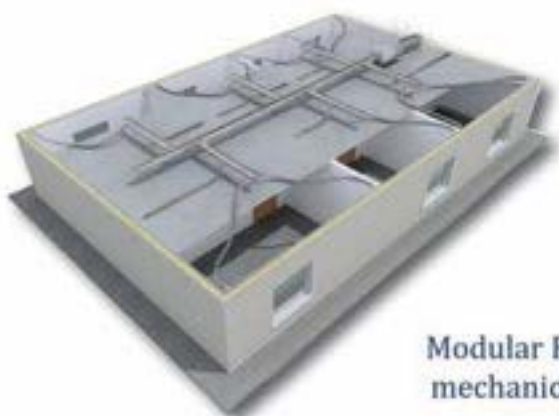
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'14 SHOW PREVIEW

Industry insights, product trends, and new technologies—you'll find it all May 6-8 at the 2014 National Hardware Show held at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The NHS is an enormous trade show where companies such as General Tools and Black+Decker unveil the new products that will soon stock the aisles of your local hardware store. The *EHT* staff attends every year to check out more than 250,000 hardware, DIY and lawn/garden products collected in one place. Here's a preview of what will be exhibited at the convention.

GENERAL'S MULTI-PRO SCREWDRIVERS

General's new "Made in America" Multi-Pro Screwdrivers—the 15-in-1 Standard Driver, 15-in-1 Tamperproof Driver, and 14-in-1 HVAC Driver—offer several exceptional features. The retractable in-handle cartridge with built-in bit clips makes storing, selecting and changing bits quick and easy while saving toolbox space and reducing the risk of lost parts. The Palm Saver Cap remains stationary while turning the driver handle to provide comfort, prevent blisters and enable one-handed use. The EZ-Guide Collar delivers greater control by maintaining alignment between the screwdriver and the fastener. An alloy steel shaft and engineered nylon/ABS handle

make these tools nearly impossible to break. And the 1/4-in. shaft opening also serves as a hex driver. The Standard Driver (8140) is loaded with seven double-ended professional quality bits, providing the 14 most popular standard bits. The Tamperproof Driver (8141) contains seven double-ended tamperproof bits, including the most popular security bits—spanners, hex pins and torx pins. The HVAC Driver (8142) is loaded with six double-ended bits and one single-ended bit, including Shrader Valve Stem and Square Awl Reamer bits, to fit most HVACR applications. General's Multi-Pro Screwdriver line will be available for purchase concurrently with the National Hardware Show in May 2014. Visit general-tools.com or NHS booth 6240.



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17-IN-1 PAINTER'S TOOL

Carrying tools—or worse yet, struggling to find tools on a work site—can really slow things down. Eliminate the hassle with the new Hyde 17-in-1 Painter's Tool. Made from durable .075-in. thick carbon steel, the new tool combines a high-quality, lightweight design with a tool that can (1) scrape paint, (2) spread compound, (3) open cracks in plaster, (4) pull nails, (5) set nails, (6) open cans, (7) open bottles, (8) clean regular rollers and (9) clean mini rollers. The 10th and 11th applications are the 3/4-in. and 11/16-in. wrenches you need to connect your whip hose

to both your spray gun and your main airless hose. The remaining six applications are securely stored in the tool's handle:

Four different screwdriver bits securely fitted in the Hammer Head end and a tool that can be used as either a scribe or a nail set. This rugged multi-tool has an

overmold handle with a thumb stop for safety and a stainless steel blade that resists rusting and is guaranteed forever. Visit hydetools.com or NHS booth 5915.

DRYLOK CONCRETE TONER & DRYLOK MASONRY WATERPROOFER

UGL will unveil two new products at the 2014 National Hardware Show. The company's DryLok Concrete Toner is designed as a concrete tone coat to even out discolorations, stains and blotches with ease. Concrete Toner will penetrate at an even ratio, eliminating uneven color. It enhances faded concrete with a little color without hiding the concrete texture or stamping. The second product, DryLok Clear Masonry Waterproofer, is the ideal choice for new and existing construction. Clear Masonry Waterproofer can also be applied on floors, an application that traditional waterproofer were unable to accomplish. This patent-pending product can be used interior/exterior, above or below grade. Stop by the UGL booth 5921 or visit drylok.com.





SMART SINK STOPPER

Smart Sink Stopper is an easy DIY replacement drain trap that eliminates the hassle of slow running drains. This three-part device includes a cap, a trap and a Clearzyme tablet to offer an affordable solution to sink drains that clog easily. This recyclable hair trap eliminates time-consuming mess without hazardous chemicals, and prevents items from being lost down the drain. Visit drainfixt.com or booth 2248.

GARDNER FLEX-N-FILL

Gardner Flex-N-Fill is a premium, all-purpose patching compound with a built-in primer. Tough enough for use inside or outside, Flex-N-Fill fills holes, cracks and indentions in drywall, wood, plaster and masonry surfaces. This premium spackling paste can be sanded and stays



flexible to prevent cracks. And Flex-N-Fill's high strength polymer formula has better adhesion and paintability than traditional spackling compounds. Paintable in 30 minutes and mold and mildew resistant, Flex-N-Fill is available in 8- and 32-oz. square containers for easy access and use. Visit Gardner-Gibson at booth 5212 or online at www.gardner-gibson.com.

STONEBREAKER WORK GLOVES

StoneBreaker is manufacturer and distributor of premium work gloves designed to deliver the best fit of any glove on the market without sacrificing protection or appearance. After consulting contractors, mechanics, landscapers and trades professionals, the company designed a work glove that combines the highest quality



goat skin with back-of-hand synthetics to maximize fit and breathability for superior comfort and protection. Visit booth 7357 or stone-breaker.com

DUST-FREE SPONGE SANDER

Even the smallest sanding jobs can create a big mess. Keep your floor, household items and lungs free of dust with the help of the new Hyde Dust-Free Sponge

Sander. The new sander cuts down on cleanup time by eliminating up to 95 percent of the dust caused by sanding, making it ideal for projects such as refinishing cabinet and molding, restoring



furniture and patching drywall. The sander has a small profile, easy-to-grip sanding head for use on flat surfaces, edges and corners. It can be used to sand any wood, drywall or metal surface. In place of sandpaper, the sanding sponges are both washable and replaceable. The Dust-Free Sponge Sander kit includes a lightweight hand sander with two medium-grit sanding sponges and a vacuum hose that will fit any standard shop-type or industrial vacuum. Visit www.hydetools.com or booth 5915.

KELVIN.23 MULTI-TOOL

Hanging pictures, putting up shelving, assembling flat packed furniture—these are the types of jobs that homeowners face most often. The Kelvin.23 is a single tool to fix hundreds of jobs and it is compact enough to fit in the palm of your hand. The tool packs 23 of the most commonly used tools and features into a compact and stylish urban design. Its cast aluminum body and rubber handle are ergonomically integrated



to act tough and feel good. The Kelvin.23 includes a SnapAction screwdriver with 16 accessory bits, alloy magnet, LED flashlight, bubble level, 6-ft. tape measure and a hammering surface. Stop by booth NEW25 or visit kelvintools.com.

TUB O'TOWELS

Tub O'Towels is billed as the "World's Toughest Wipes" and are quickly becoming one of the most common cleanup tools found in



garages, households and jobsites. Each extra-large Tub O'Towels scrubbing wipe includes nine powerful cleaning ingredients, durable fiber-weave technology and twice the cleaning surface of comparable wipes. Originally created for contractors who encounter nearly impossible jobsite messes, Tub

O'Towels feature a thicker, towel-like construction that is 100-percent solution-soaked to quickly and easily clean messes from paint, permanent marker, grease, scum and other tough soils. The unique citrus formula also includes lanolin, aloe vera and vitamin E, leaving hands clean and soft. Tub O'Towels are available in several convenient package sizes: 10-by-12-in. wipes in a convenient 90-count re-sealable canister; 10-by-12-in. individually wrapped wipes; and a 40-count re-sealable portable container (7-by-8-in. towels). Visit www.tubotowels.com or booth 4831 (inside) or TG300 (outside).

RAPID CORE EJECT HOLE SAW KITS

Spyder Products will be introducing their new Rapid Core Eject Hole Saw Kits. The company's bi-metal HSS hole saws have a variable tooth pitch for fast and clean cut-outs, and the TCT (Tungsten Carbide) hole saws cut five times faster than traditional hole saws and last nearly twice as long. Both sets of hole saws are equipped with Spyder's Rapid Switch and Rapid Core Ejection features. Users need only press a button to quickly swap out hole saws. Removing the core has never been easier; simply press the button and move the blade back to remove the plug. Furthermore, by clicking and pulling the hole

saw backward, the pilot bit is extended, allowing users to cut on an angle. Don't worry if the first cut was too small. Spyder's system allows the smaller hole saw to act as a guide while a larger diameter saw will make the right cut. Visit spyderproducts.com or booth 5510.

SECURE-A-TANK

Designed to prevent leaks and damage caused by the gap between the toilet tank and wall, Secure-A-Tank is a fully adjustable brace which secures the toilet to prevent take movement. Without the support of the wall, any pressure against the tank produces



significant strain on the bolts that connect the tank to the bowl. Over time the stress can crack the tank or deform the gaskets that keep water from leaking through the bolt holes. Secure-A-Tank can be cut to size so that it fits the gap to enhance stability and support. The extension and clip pieces are



quick to assemble, and the brace is easy to install on the back edge of the tank. The lid fits over the clips and hides the already clear Secure-A-Tank braces. Visit secureatank.com or booth 2149.

RAPIDFIX DUAL ADHESIVE SYSTEM

RapidFix Dual Adhesive System incorporates an Instant Adhesive and Welding Powder that can instantly repair almost anything. The RapidFix professional-grade adhesive instantly bonds most materials, including rubber, glass, china, metal and most plastics. When combined with the RapidFix welding powder it can be used to repair all types of cracks, holes, splits and gaps. It can be instantly drilled, sanded, filed and painted. Bond and fill copper, steel, aluminum, brass, cast or pot metals, ceramic, glass, fiberglass, plastic or wood. RapidFix can also produce strong weld seams to support the repair, just like solder or welded joints. Plus, the adhesive product is guaranteed to not dry out in the bottle, unlike other super glues. The dual system combines both applications into one product. Other bonding products like epoxy-based adhesives require a cure time from 5 minutes to 24 hours, while body filler or putty can take approximately 30

minutes or longer to set. RapidFix can be used for both bonding materials or filling materials and it works instantly. Learn more at www.rapid-fix.com or booth 4710.

FROGTAPE SHAPE TAPE

More than ever, consumers are longing to personalize their homes with DIY projects, especially ones that include painting—the most popular home project of all. To help bring those design ideas to life and simplify the process FrogTape is introducing Shape Tape, the brand's first painter's tape cut into unique patterns that



allows you to quickly and easily transform your home with paint. "Wallpaper and borders can be expensive and limited in design options, while stencil designs can show paint bleed and imperfections," says Scott Sommers, director of marketing - DIY tapes, ShurTech Brands, LLC. "With Shape Tape, it's easy to create the all-over painted patterns and designs consumers are looking for with the crisp, finished appearance of using a premium painter's tape." Available in three on-trend patterns: Wave, Chevron and Scallop, new Shape Tape makes it simple to achieve unique, repetitive decorative painting styles. Each roll of tape features a pre-cut repeating pattern, meaning homeowners simply need to

unroll, apply and get painting to create their desired look. Like FrogTape, Shape Tape is treated with patented PaintBlock Technology which forms a micro-barrier that instantly seals the edges of the tape, creating crisp lines and preventing paint bleed. Visit frogtape.com or stop by booth 5615.

SUPER STACKERS DOOR FINISHING SYSTEM

The Super Stackers Door Finishing System is designed to cut the time and space required to prep, paint, stain and/or clear coat any standard or bi-fold door, while providing a professionally finished product every time. With the Super Stacker system you will never need wall space to lean your doors against or use extra space in your shop where you could be working on other projects. You don't have to paint or stain one side of a door and wait for it to dry before finishing the other side. You will never have to mask hinges and paint or stain doors in place, risking runs, dings, timely touchups and simply a poorly finished product. Up to 16 painted doors can be stored or transported flat in a 4-by-7-ft. area, taking up only 28 sq. ft. of your valuable shop space. Visit doorfinishing.com or booth 5428.





WAGNER PAINTING INNOVATIONS

Wagner has launched three new innovative painting tools this season, the FLEXiO 890 and FLEXiO 690 sprayers and the SMART SideKick roller. The FLEXiO family of sprayers is the only line of indoor/outdoor sprayers that deliver unmatched power and control for all painting projects. The FLEXiO 890 and FLEXiO 690 sprayers allow you to paint longer and with more precision because the weight of the turbine is on the floor but the controls are in your hand. This allows you to paint interior walls and fine finishing projects quickly, achieving a quality finish with an exceptional level of control. Wagner's New SMART SideKick multi-room powered roller provides continuous painting and fits any size container. The SMART Sidekick is driven by a peristaltic pump that draws paint directly from a 1- or 5-gallon container. This feeds paint to the roller cover and achieves fast, even coverage. The SideKick is the latest in a growing line of SMART powered rollers from Wagner. Visit Wagner at booth 5421 or online at www.wagnerspraytech.com.

HOMAX PRO GRADE POPCORN CEILING TEXTURE

Achieve a professional match to ceiling texture four times faster than the traditional method, and get four times the coverage of

traditional aerosols. New Homax Pro Grade Popcorn Ceiling Texture delivers an Invisible Repair for residential and commercial popcorn ceiling repair projects. The advanced formula replicates popcorn texture aggregates found in homes, apartment buildings, hospitals and other structures. Homax Pro Grade Popcorn Ceiling

Texture can be used for popcorn ceiling repair projects, fixture removal repair, or to complete punch lists or patches. The Homax product container has a patented ergonomic grip designed for comfort and more controlled application. It is also easier to feather into existing popcorn ceiling texture and covers up to 8 square feet. Texture is ready

to paint (if desired) in 24 hours. After use, simply turn the integrated safety lock to store and reuse any leftover texture from job-to-job. Visit homaxproducts.com or booth 5424.

IGRILLMINI

iDevices releases an ultra compact, high performance version of the company's iGrill, the iGrillmini, a Bluetooth Smart meat thermometer. The iGrillmini boasts a slew of new performance features, including Bluetooth Smart technology for highly efficient food monitoring, a

proximity sensor for low energy consumption and an unmatched 150-hour battery life. About a quarter the size of the original iGrill and sporting a more rugged exterior with a smart LED indicating the doneness of food, the iGrillmini is the only ultra compact temperature-monitoring tool using Bluetooth Smart technology on the market. The iGrillmini includes a free iOS app for iPhone 4S and newer and iPad 3 and newer devices (within a 150-ft. range). The Android iGrillmini app will be released in 2014. The iGrillmini's Bluetooth Smart technology eliminates the user's need to manually pair their smartphone or tablet. A powerful magnet allows for sturdy and convenient mounting

with two viewing positions. Visit iDevicesinc.com or booth 12074.



ENDERES TOOLS

Enderes Tools is now known as Northbridge Tool, LLC. While the name of the company has changed the Enderes Tool name, which is stamped on every struck hand tool, and the associated

quality never will. Steven Overgaard, owner of Vasco Inc., a family-owned machine shop, metalworking and fabrication facility, had a 30-year relationship with



Enderes Tool, repairing and rebuilding the company's manufacturing equipment. When the Enderes fell into difficult financial trou-

ble, Overgaard purchased all assets of Enderes Tool and hired most of the former employees. Enderes Tools reopened in November 2012 and is again running at full speed and expanding daily. The company now has plans to move into a new facility, doubling the size of the current operation. Enderes Tools are American made by American workers, and the company offers a full replacement guarantee if one ever fails its designed function. Learn more at www.enderes.com or stop by NHS booth 8562. **EHT**

BLACK+DECKER RETURNS TO NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW

The National Hardware Show is where Black+Decker will introduce the iconic brand's new identity to tens of thousands of industry professionals.

"The Black+Decker brand extends beyond product features and product innovation," says Frank DeSantis, director of brand marketing. "It is about being honest, intuitive, involved and thoughtful. Everything we do will be focused on giving people the products, the knowhow and the support to get their job done."

Celebrating its 69th year, The National Hardware Show welcomes Black+Decker back to the show floor as an exhibitor. "Black+Decker's presence will enhance the show for many of our buyers, attracting new buyers and industry professionals who will come to see what the new look and feel will mean for them," says Richard Russo, vice president National Hardware Show.

The 2014 National Hardware Show promises to be bigger and better than ever with enhanced product categories, exciting special events and limitless networking opportunities. So far, the convention has more than 98 percent of its available floor space sold as exhibitors from across all categories are lining up to participate in the industry's biggest event.

Registration is now open for the show. Visit www.national-hardwareshow.com and stop by Black+Decker's 1,000 sq. ft. exhibition booth 7261.

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INSTALL A PET DOOR

Give man's best friend a way to make a grand entrance.

By Rob Robillard

In a perfect world my two Labrador pups would let themselves in and out of the house as needed—and make their own dinner!

Although we don't live in a perfect world that doesn't mean we don't strive for greater efficiency and better solutions. My search for this led me to install a pet door. In this article I offer you my thoughts and tips on how to choose, measure for and install a quality pet door.

THE VALUE OF A PET DOOR

A pet door, also known as a cat door and dog door, is a small portal in a wall, window or door to allow pets to enter and exit a house on their own. These doors are great for allowing your pet free access to the outdoors. It provides emergency egress in case of a fire or other emergency, assists when potty training and also allows guard dogs access to the property.

It's a great feature for pet owners who work long hours and want their pets to have free access to a fenced yard. A pet door eliminates the need to rely on neighbors or friends to let your pet out.

TYPES OF PET DOORS

Today's pet doors have spring-loaded, flexible flap doors with strong magnets to close and seal the door flap from the weather. Some pet doors are electronically controlled by a RFID (radio-frequency identification) chip on the animal's collar. The RFID chip unlocks the pet door as the animal approaches and locks it after they pass through.

The most common pet door is the flap door which is also the most cost effective and easiest to install.

Most folks don't opt for the more complicated electronic door unless they have security issues or are concerned with stray animals



INSTALL A PET DOOR



entering the home. Other issues with electronic doors include battery failure in the animal's collar or, if the collar should be removed or lost, failure of the pet door to open.

LOCATION WALL VS. DOOR

Pet doors can be installed in walls, in a door and as a special panel to allow placement in a sliding door unit.

Wall units have several advantages over door units. First, a wall unit allows for a double flap pet door to be installed. A double flap pet door creates an air space between flaps and provides a superior weather seal and less air leakage. Double door flaps are far superior in energy efficiency than single door flaps.

A pet door cut through a door typically ruins the door, and that door will need to be replaced if the owner decides to remove the pet

door. A flap door cut into an existing door is typically more costly than a wall unit, which only requires repairing wallboard and some siding.

A pet door in a wall also gives the owner more options for placement. A wall entrance placed in low traffic areas (an alcove, closet or rarely used hallway) keeps it away from entrance doors that are usually highly visible.

MEASURE DOG & DOOR

To determine the proper width of the pet door for your animal, open a door just wide enough for your animal to comfortably walk through. That measurement is your pet door's flap width.

The top of the door flap should be mounted an inch above the top of the pet's shoulder. This way the pet does not have to crouch to use the door. (Note: For double-flap pet doors, install the door 2 inches above the pet's shoulders.)



Carefully lay out the pet door location square to the floor.



Insulation support rods chucked into a drill are long enough to penetrate the full thickness of the wall and can be seen from both sides. We used the rods to pinpoint the four corners of the tunnel.

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INSTALL A PET DOOR

One common mistake is to measure the pet's head height: All pets duck their heads and pick up their paws when passing through a pet door.

The lower the pet door's bottom, the better. Try to avoid installing the door too high, which can be awkward for your pet. A good rule of thumb is to avoid exceeding

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Cut away the wallboard with a jab saw or jigsaw.



On the outside of the wall, use a level to connect the four corners of the door tunnel.

1/3 the height of the animal's shoulders. Make adjustments if your dog has a deep chest or is low slung.

Sometimes the installation location dictates height as well. A baseboard radiator dictated our minimum height (real world conditions). Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations, but you may have to think outside the box when dealing with the environment where the door will be located.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In our situation we had two things working to our disadvantage. The mudroom closet where we wanted to place our pet door also had an 8-in. high hot water baseboard radiator along the wall

at the floor level. This meant the door had to be installed over the radiator.

The pet door exited onto a covered porch that was 7 inches lower than the floor of the closet. The good thing about the covered location is that the door is protected, eliminating the worry of rainwater getting into the wall. However, this meant the door was 13 inches off the exterior porch deck, which was much too high for my dogs.

Because this was the only location for the pet door, we decided to install it and construct a 2-ft. square stoop for the dogs

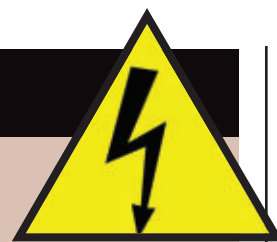


The design of the house required locating the bottom of the door 13" from the deck of the porch. Since this was too tall for the dogs, it required us to build a stoop as a landing for the dogs.



Carefully cut through the exterior siding.

HIDDEN DANGERS INSIDE THE WALL



Prior to installing a pet door in the wall, pay close attention to what is behind the wallboard. Pipes and wires can cause problems, and you don't want to have to relocate your door and then patch an area you didn't use.

Some tips for locating hidden obstructions is to do the following:

- Look for electrical outlets or switches in the vicinity of the pet door. If an outlet is within 12 to 14 inches from your location, you may not have enough room to fit the door between the wall studs.
- Look below, above and beside the wall being used for the pet door for radiators, adjacent bathrooms or kitchen plumbing.
- Poke a quarter-size hole if needed and look inside the wall cavity with a flashlight.
- Use wire or a straight coat hanger to probe the cavity for obstructions.
- If you're lucky enough to own a flexible inspection camera, this is the perfect place to use it.

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INSTALL A PET DOOR

to stand on as they entered or exited. This worked very well.

INSTALLATION

The easiest installation involves locating the pet door between two existing wall studs. Electronic stud finders work well, but I always confirm the stud finder's readings by using a small finish nail and poking a few holes. One trick is to look closely at the top edge of the baseboard trim at the pet door location. Try to locate the finish nail locations. Many times the upper nail locations will indicate a wall stud location.

Wall studs typically run 16 inches on-center, leaving approximately 14-1/2 inches of space between them. Other common wall spacing is 12-in. and 24-in. O.C.

Note: If you need to cut a stud, special framing is required to

prevent structural degradation.

Depending on the pet door's size, electrical wires can usually be left undisturbed in a stud bay with the pet door tunnel.

DOOR TEMPLATE

The Endura pet door we chose comes with a template, which you tape to the wall (between the studs) where the door will be installed. Double check for hidden wall obstructions, wires, pipes, etc.

Install the template square to the floor to ensure a proper look after installation. I located the top of my door, leveled a line and then installed the template to that line.

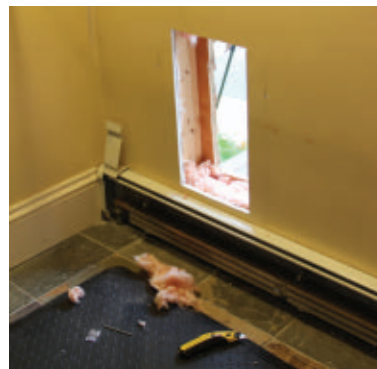
CUTTING WALL & SIDING

Use a long drill bit or feeler wire to mark the four corners of the door. This means drilling all the way through the wall to the outside.

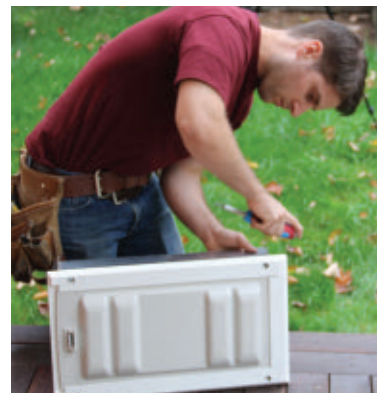


Remove the siding and plywood sheathing from the tunnel.

Remove insulation from the wall tunnel and reuse it around the perimeter of the pet door during installation.



This photo shows the baseboard radiator that we had to work around.



Assemble the door tunnel according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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INSTALL A PET DOOR



Manufacturers typically offer instructions on applying the pet door's weather-stripping and constricting the wall channel.

I used insulation support rods, which measure 16-in. long and can easily be installed in a drill. The rods penetrate all of the wall materials and are long enough to



Our Endura dog door had four threaded rods that clamp the two door flap units tight to the house sheathing and to the wall cavity tunnel.

be seen on both sides of the wall.

Connect the four corner holes on both sides of the wall using a level or straight edge.

Use a drywall jab-saw or jigsaw

to cut out the wallboard along your marked lines. Use a jigsaw to cut out the siding and plywood sheathing. I like using a jigsaw because the blade doesn't penetrate as deeply as a reciprocating saw, thus eliminating the chance of hitting a hidden wall pipe or wire.

While cutting, I suggest collecting the dust with a shop vacuum. This will dramatically reduce the airborne drywall dust in the house as well as the cleanup after installation.

With the insulation exposed, carefully remove only the material that will be in the way of the pet door. Later, while installing the pet door, re-use some of this insulation. Tuck it into the sides, bottom and top of the cut hole and pet door channel.

ASSEMBLING THE PET DOOR

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for applying the pet door's weather-stripping and constricting the wall channel. The wall channel is an aluminum tunnel between the two door flaps. It protects the inside cavity of the wall and seals it off as well.

Our Endura Flap pet door had four threaded rods that clamp the two door flap units tight to the

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house sheathing and to the wall cavity tunnel. This creates a tight seal and secure installation.

RECESSING THE EXTERIOR DOOR

I have cedar clapboard siding on my house. Once the wall holes were cut I used the door flap frame as a guide and carefully cut away the clapboard siding to recess the frame within the siding. This provided a professional looking installation and avoided unsightly and leaky gaps along

the side of the frame and clapboards.

The best tool to make the cut is an oscillating multi-tool. We used the FEIN Multi-Master FMM 250Q to make these cuts. Any multi-tool will work, as would repetitive scoring with a straight edge and utility knife (but that takes a lot of time).

SEALING THE SIDING

Caulk the siding to the door-frame when complete. Also apply a bead of silicone to the inside of

PET DOOR FEATURES

Our research told us that the Endura Flap Dog Door for Walls was the best choice for our needs. We used several criteria when deciding on a pet door manufacturer. They were:

FLEXIBLE FLAP DESIGN: A flexible flap door allows the pet to enter, exit or back out without the danger of pinching the animal.

MAGNETS: Embedded magnets in the flap and frame of the pet door ensure a tight seal.

DOUBLE FLAP FEATURE: A double flap pet door creates an air space that helps insulate and keep the conditioned air in the house. We felt that the double flap doors in our 2x6 framed walls would be beneficial for New England winters as well as when the AC is on in July.

FLAP PIVOT POINT: The flaps swing on a rod, not a hinge, to avoid stressing or cracking the flap, which can happen on hinged doors. Endura tested their pet doors over 3 million times with no failures. To put that in layman's terms, that equals 100 opens and closes each day for 80 years. (We'd love to see their testing jig!)

WIND RESISTANCE: A strong wind or Nor'easter can easily blow open an unsecured pet door. Endura Flap magnets are rated to 50 mph winds, and more magnets can be added if desired.

TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE AND UV RETARDANT: The flap door is made of a polyolethin based polymer and is rated to flex to minus 40 degrees. Vinyl doors will crack at temperatures that low. Direct sunlight can also cause fading and cracking, but the Endura door is treated with a UV retardant.

CLEAR SEE-THROUGH DOOR: The pet door flaps are clear, allowing light to pass and the pet to see through as well.

SECURITY PANEL: Most pet doors have a security panel to close off and lock the pet door. We liked how the Endura door slides and locks between a full-length groove on three sides of the frame. The security panel then locks in place. We do this at night for added security as well as to reduce heat loss.

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INSTALL A PET DOOR



Shown is the wall tunnel with the interior unit in place.

We used an oscillating multi-tool to carefully cut the siding to recess the door into the wall, giving it a more finished appearance and eliminating air gaps.



the flap frame and the tunnel to keep water from getting into the wall cavity.

TRAINING THE DOG TO USE THE DOOR

With patience you can train your pets to use this door. The one rule when training is never to shove your pets through the door.

Open the flap and let them see the outside and use food treats to coax them to go through it while open. After a few repetitions, hold the door open less and less until the animal gets comfortable touching and pushing on the flap.

Avoid scolding or punishing them.

For our installation I used treats to lure them outside, then I'd go inside and repeat the process.

After doing this a few times over

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INSTALL A PET DOOR

a few days we started using the pet door only to allow the pets access to the out-doors. We kept treats near the door, and when our two dogs whimpered to go outside we simply took our treats outside and coaxed the dogs through the pet door.

If the animal is having difficulty you can reduce or eliminate the magnets until they get the hang of pushing the door.

Within two to three days our two dogs were using the pet door with no issues. **EHT**

Shown here is the recessed outer door frame. Be sure to seal all edges of the door with a high-quality caulk.



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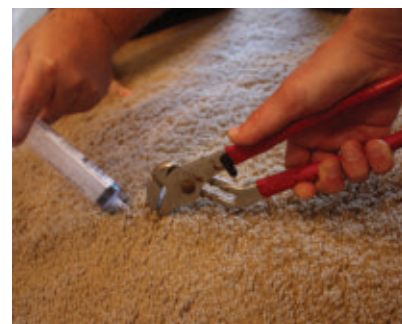
Repair a Carpet Bubble



The adhesive we selected had its coverage quantified in linear feet (165 ft./8-oz. bottle), so you'll probably have to estimate the amount you'll need. To apply the glue we used a large syringe, just like the ones used to inject marinade into your Thanksgiving turkey.



First step is to draw glue into the syringe. Despite this photo, we quickly realized that removing the nozzle and drawing from the open container was a much easier way to load the syringe because air could enter the bottle.



Use pliers to gently lift the carpet off the subfloor at the midpoint of

A "bubble" in wall-to-wall carpet is an area of the rug that lifts above the subfloor and creates unsightly hills or ridges in the finished surface. It can cost around \$200 per room to have the carpet professionally re-stretched to eliminate these bubbles. However, there's a simple method to repair the carpet that is much less expensive and takes only a few minutes to complete. All you need is a bottle of carpet-seam glue, a large syringe, pliers and a towel.



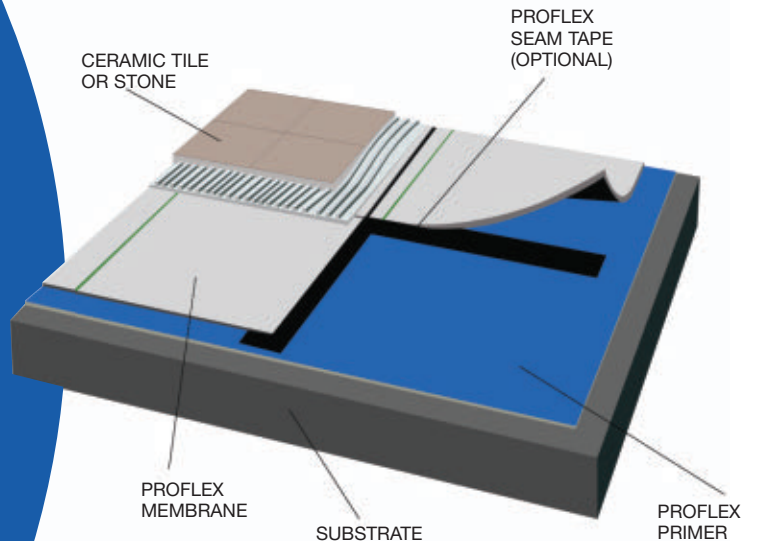
First, analyze the lay of the carpet throughout the room to locate all areas of loose carpet that need to be repaired. Purchase enough carpet-seam adhesive to address the square footage you require.

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the bubble. Pierce the carpet with the syringe and angle the tip toward the edge of the bubble. Depress the plunger and rotate the syringe so the glue is applied in a circular pattern, covering as much of the loose carpet area as possible. As you empty the syringe, draw the needle partially out of the carpet so the glue contacts the center of the bubble as well as the periphery.

Working from the center outward, press the carpet firmly into the adhesive and spread the glue beneath the carpet. If you have a laminate roller or rolling pin, then put it to work.

Place a flat weight over the repair to provide clamping force while the adhesive sets. Heavy boxes, books, free weights, anything will work as long as it presses the carpet into the glue. Keep pressure on the glue according to



the adhesive manufacturer's recommended drying time.

Repeat this process for all areas of the floor that show signs of bubbling. This repair is fast, cheap and easy. **EHT**



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Patent Pending - U.S. Design Pat. # D592,953



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Pure Power from Pure Diesel

Installing the Airdog II Lift Pump for Improved Diesel Performance



By Tim Walton

Getting rid of the air produces good results. It can help improve fuel economy while reducing exhaust emissions, giving you better throttle response and top end power. The better filtration provides optimal fuel system lubrication and can help give you longer injector life.

Here's how the guys at Mobile Diesel installed the system.



Down at Mobile Diesel Services they've installed quite a few AirDog systems and they prefer to drop the stock fuel tank rather than doing a bed-off installation. Even if you're installing the AirDog in your driveway, it's probably easier for a couple guys to drop the tank instead of removing the bed itself.



Pre-assembling the bracket and AirDog setup is a good idea to confirm the best mounting location.

The AirDog II is a fuel/air separation system combined with a high-performance lift pump that not only provides more fuel for performance-enhanced trucks, but also removes air, water, particulates and vapor to maintain optimal fuel flow and delivery. The lift pump serves to provide a high volume of diesel fuel to the injection pump, which is what increases the pressure before the fuel is injected into the engine.

By removing entrained air from the fuel it improves injection timing, increasing power and giving

you a better fuel burn. Because entrained air and vapor are compressible, their presence in the injector delays the pressure buildup and therefore delays or retards the injection timing.

In addition, inconsistent air bubble sizes that naturally occur in stock systems produce an inconsistent volume of air entering the injector from injection to injection, which not only means retarded injection timing, but inconsistent retarded injection timing, which is even worse.

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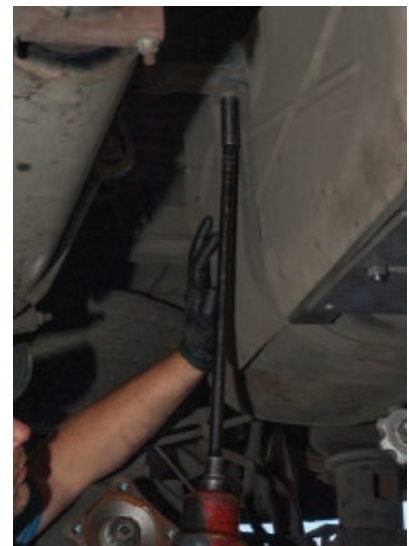


If you're doing this install on a rack, a transmission jack works great for supporting the weight of the fuel tank on a broader surface—as well as allowing you to lower and move the tank.

Remove the clamps that hold the filler hose and other breather hoses from the gas tank.



Unplugging and disconnecting the wiring and hoses that go to the fuel module is one of the trickier steps to this install. The top of the tank is not only hard to reach but also difficult to see.



When you take off the straps that hold the tank in place, be sure to lift up on the straps to remove them from the notched side to avoid bending the straps, which would make them harder to reinstall.



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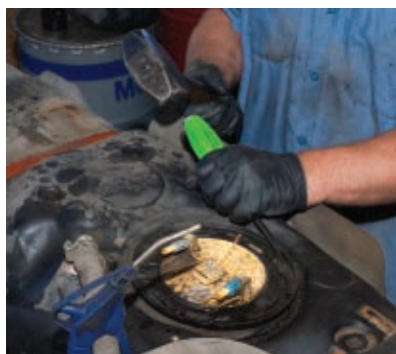
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If you want to leave the tank on the transmission jack, centering it on the jack and strapping it down is a good idea. The tank must be stable for removing the fuel sending module.



The top of the tank can be pretty dirty. It's important to clean the area around the module before you start disassembly to prevent getting dirt or debris inside the fuel tank. The guys at Mobile Diesel use compressed air to do some of the cleaning.



A retaining ring holds the module in place. Use a screwdriver and a hammer to spin the ring free so you can remove the unit.

Since the guys ended up mounting the AirDog II outboard of the frame rail on this short bed pickup, they used the supplied spacer so the bracket clears the parking brake cable.



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When removing the module, be sure not to bend the fuel level assembly. Empty the diesel from the lower fuel cup.

Since the AirDog II uses the stock feed and return lines as the return and pump bi-pass lines, you need to clear out a spot on the module to drill an additional hole for the new suction feed line.



A small pair of diagonal cutters can be used to remove some of the ribs from the plastic module. The mechanic, Matt, has done a few of these and knew exactly how much to remove for the new fitting.

A carbide bit is used to clean up the surface in preparation for making a good seal.



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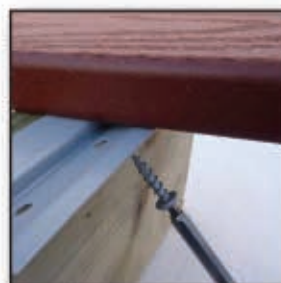
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After starting with a smaller pilot bit, Matt finished up with a 5/8-in. bit to make the 5/8-in. hole, which the new fitting requires.



Since the AirDog uses an external pump, gutting the module of the stock pump and other associated components frees up room.



Make sure to drill extra holes (as noted in the instructions) to allow enough diesel to make it into the fuel cup so you don't starve the newer high-flow pump.



Once Matt had determined the location for the new suction tube, he used the bracket as a guide for the location of the holes on the outside of the cup.



Using the included nuts and bolts, you can fasten the bracket that holds the new suction tube in place.



Reuse the clamps which held the stock lines in place to hold the suction tube. Clamp the new flexible hose to the new fitting in the top of the unit.

Matt cut a small length off both ends of the flexible hose, as well as the suction tube itself to shorten it a bit. Make sure



the unit is fully extended before you cut any length from your hoses.



The assembled module uses the new fittings for the feed line and takes advantage of the stock lines for a return.



Make sure the seal for the module on top of the fuel tank is clean and clear of any debris.

Have a helper hold the module from spinning while you use a hammer and a punch or screwdriver to turn the ring back to the locked position.

Once you have the module reinstalled you can use the



transmission jack to put the tank back into place. Reinstall the straps that hold the tank in place. Make sure you have the new fitting pointed in the right direction to route the fuel lines.

In this install, the guys used the provided spacer with the mount to clear the emergency brake lines that run along the frame rail where they installed the pump.



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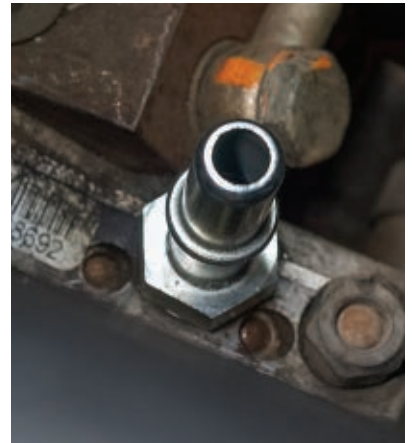


Tap into the stock fuel pump wiring to get the signal wire for the provided harness. The system gets dedicated power from the battery to supply the pump using a larger gauge wire and employing a relay to trigger the power.



Make sure the fittings are in the right orientation to each other to make it possible to install them both, and don't over-tighten either of them.

Replace the fitting into the injection pump with the quick-connector to accept the provided high-pressure hose.



Ensure you have efficient routing and run the lines where they are well protected and tucked against the frame rail. Use the provided barb unions to make lines that are the correct length.



The finished AirDog II unit is well protected on the frame rail where it allows easy filter access for maintenance. **EHT**

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Milescraft Makes the Job Easier

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1313 Drill Pump 750

At first glance, I thought that the *Milescraft Drill-Pump™* 300 and 750 would be the same as the cheap versions I have seen and used in the past. I was so wrong in my assumption! The *DrillPump™* 300 with 1/2" id hose and a 10.5V light duty drill, pumped water at about the same pressure I get out of the garden hose. They will handle up to 2800 RPM and even though I tested them at 1150 RPM [about half speed] they produced results that surprised me. I was able to fill a five gallon bucket in just under one minute with the 300 series and about 30 seconds with the 750 series. This equates to 300 gallons per hour and 750 gallons per hour respectively. *Milescraft* uses top quality materials and a very efficient rubber impeller system that will get the job done for years to come with very little maintenance. Priming the pump before each use and re-greasing the pumps after each use, will prolong the life of the pump. Each process takes just a minute and will keep you satisfied with the performance of the pumps.



4700 Turners Press

The *TurnerPress*, replaces former similar presses that suffered from slipping set screws and herky-jerky cam-action handle mechanisms that split the turned parts. Having turned over 500 pens, I was delighted at the tool's sturdy construction and performance. For starters, I found the spring-loaded self-feeding mandrel a real help in holding pen parts in place. The flip-over aluminum stops in combination with the micro-adjustable press pad let me fine-tune the press perfectly for the pen assembly for lengths up to 5 3/4". Having a solid steel handle along with the improved cam linkage, provided full control over its smooth pressing action, which can deliver up to 300 pounds of force.

1310 Joint Crafter

The *Milescraft JointCrafter™* overcomes the most difficult challenge in making dowel joints; precise matching of the locations of the dowel pin and the receiving hole. This self-centering jig allows for maximum joint strength and precise dowel alignment. Create accurate, one-handed alignment of 1/4", 5/16" or 3/8" dowels in the creation of corner and edge joints with the adjustable fence; as well as surface joints. Metal bushings and a retaining plate help hold the drill bit in a perpendicular position, maintaining the verticality of the holes. *Milescraft* does a great job of providing in use images throughout the extremely well written manual, to guide you through your doweling projects.



8403 Laminate Trimmer

Once again *Milescraft*, appeals to the customer's needs! The *Milescraft LaminateTrimmer™* has a new, easy and interesting design. The *LaminateTrimmer™* uses a standard single edge razor blade allowing you to simply purchase a new blade and replace the dull one. Most trimmers require a specialized blade that can be difficult to find and cost quite a bit. Trim straight edges or around the curve of a table with ease and control. as the *LaminateTrimmer* fits almost any size hand. Again, *Milescraft* has introduced a tool that makes it easier and more convenient than what you've been using!



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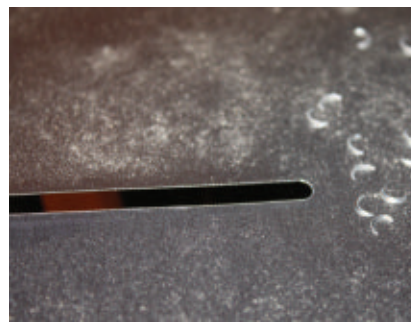
The Biter comes with a 2" cutting head and metal case.



The circular cutting head cuts up to 1/8" thick.



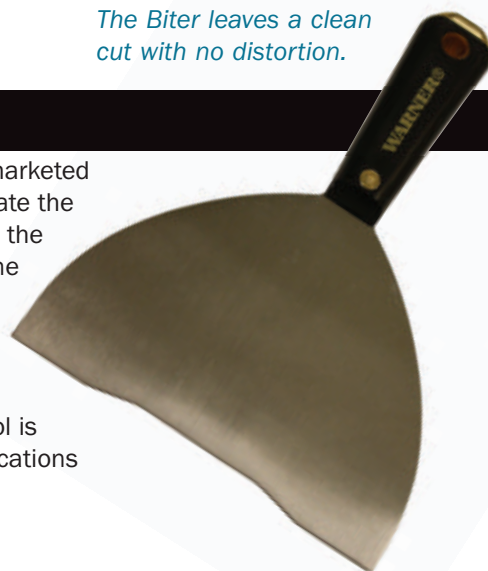
It cut a radius as tight as 1/2".



The Biter leaves a clean cut with no distortion.

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The Perfect Pass Trowel, developed by Epiphany Laboratories and marketed through Warner Tool Products, is a new tool that promises to eliminate the mess and guesswork in drywall finishing. Jay Meyerl, the inventor of the Perfect Pass Trowel, created the patented design as a solution to one of his own long-time woes as a building contractor. The innovative, notched design of the trowel makes it simple for anyone, from amateur to expert, to get perfect and consistent drywall finishing results in 3 simple steps. Drywall finishing is as easy as 1-2-3, reducing the need for sanding and the accompanying mess. The tool is available at over 2000 retail locations in the US, including Lowes locations throughout North America. Visit www.warnertool.com.



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For serious woodworkers, the Ridgid EB4424 Oscillating Edge/Belt Spindle Sander is designed as two professional-grade benchtop tools in one. The EB4424 can operate as either a spinning belt or a spindle sander with the usual rotary motion, but enhances the sanding performance with oscillating motion in which the spindle or belt moves up and down during operation. The dual action helps to quickly and easily achieve burn-free finishes on edges, contours, faces, inside curves and outside curves. The tool-free conversion of Ridgid's EB4424 from belt to spindle saves time and hassle. Plus, this stationary sander offers onboard accessory storage and can be mounted to a sawhorse. It's built with a 5-amp, 3/8-HP motor that reaches up to 1,725 RPM spindle speed and 60 OPM for fast, clean finishes. Learn more at www.ridgid.com.



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The Ridgid EB4424 works as an oscillating belt sander and features on-tool accessory storage.



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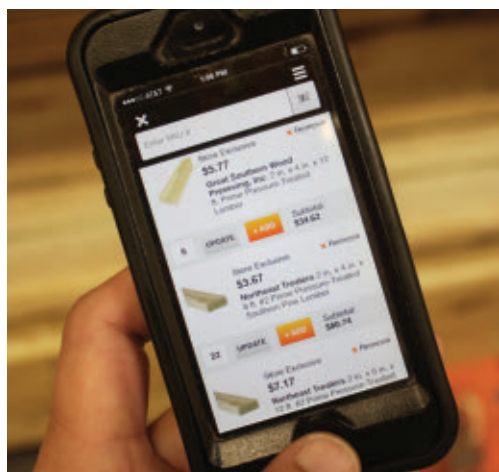
Professional contractors who do business at the Home Depot have a slick new smart-phone app to make life in the construction biz a little easier. The new Home Depot Pro app lets you interface with Home Depot while on the job site. The app allows you to check the inventory of specific local stores, which is a heck of a lot more convenient than stopping work and trekking to the nearest outlet only to find they've sold out of what you need. You can buy the materials on your punch list using your phone, and then pick up the order the same day. You can also find stores with available tool and truck rental. For pros who shop at Home Depot, the app can be a real time saver.

Using the app when in the Home Depot store, you can ditch the pad and pencil and instead scan product bar codes for quick calculation of quantity and prices. You can save your punch lists on the app and reorder materials from past purchases, which is a big help for those signature projects when you tend to place the same order on a lot of jobs.

Another cool tool is the app's ability to track receipts and view past in-store receipts and online purchases. This is a nice way to keep your business organized and cut down on that pesky paperwork.

Working outdoors for the day? The Pro App can bring up local weather conditions in real time. The app also lets you to access Pro Xtra, The Home Depot's loyalty program, linking you to personalized information at the touch of a button.

The Home Depot Pro App is available for free and can be downloaded on iOS and Android systems or by texting "PRO" to HDepot (433768).



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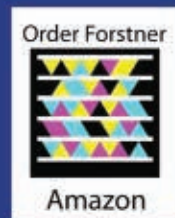
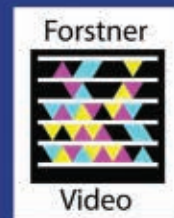


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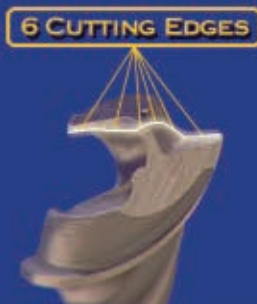
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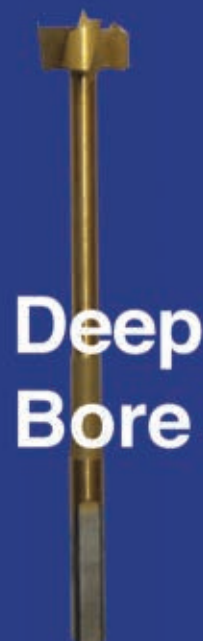
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