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I'm typing this blog post as I pack everything I own into cardboard boxes. This is the week of the Big Move, where my family moves from one house to another. Getting to this point has been a long road riddled with many delays and frustrations, but I won't bore you with details. If you've ever bought or sold a house, then I'm sure you have your own tales of aggravation, and there's nothing special about mine.

The strange thing is now that we're finally making the transition after many months of effort, my wife Shanna and I both get a little misty as we sort, organize, and load up our belongings. I mean, talk about a flood of memories. I'm leaving the first home that she and I bought together, right after we got married. I know everything about the house inside and out, the way some people know their favorite song. I've remodeled it from the basement floor to the new roof and everything in between, investing many good years and a lot of sweat and blood.

This house I'm leaving behind, it's the house where we took our first son Hudson after he was born. Boy, I remember that drive from the hospital like it was yesterday. I was all swelled up with pride and feeling like the future held good things for us. Becoming a father meant I was now part of something bigger than myself. Something very important.

The house I'm leaving is also where we welcomed our spirited second son, Miller. And that little house on Pinewood Lane has never known a dull moment since.

It's the same house we've shared with our precious, perfect daughter Maribeth, and that fact alone should have at least doubled the resale value of the property.

From barbecues and pillow fights to kiddie pools and Christmas mornings, having spent ten years in this house means it's been the backdrop to a million treasured moments. From celebrating first birthdays and celebrating first steps to potty training and teaching my kids to read, the more I think about it, I realize how integral the place has been to virtually everything in my life I deem important.

Because a house is much more than a building. It's a home. It was my home, and now I've got to say goodbye. I know it's time to move on, but I can't deny that it stings a little.

I suppose that a week from now, my wife and I will be breaking into the same boxes that we're now sealing up, so we can settle into our new house. At that time, we'll raise a glass of wine and make a toast to life's inevitable changes.

But for now, this letter is dedicated to my old house: You have served us well, and you will be missed.

Fire the guns.



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Q: Do certain colors of house paint resist fading longer than others?

A: Dark colors are the most likely to fade noticeably, but even bright colors can change over time due to the effects of UV radiation from the sun. Fading and bleaching happen very slowly. You might not even notice the color on your exterior walls has changed over the years until you try to repaint a chipped spot, and find the original color no longer matches. You can't completely eliminate the effects of the sun's rays on exterior paint, but paint technology is always changing, and many new paints have special sun-proof additives. Lessen the impact by choosing high-quality paints with UV inhibitors. Still, the UV radiation will eventually take its toll, and you'll still need to repaint periodically to maintain a quality finish.

Q: My brother-in-law says our dishwasher should be installed with an "anti-syphon loop." What is he talking about?

A: An anti-syphon loop is made in a dishwasher drain line to prevent any backflow of water between the kitchen sink and dishwasher (or vice-versa). A simple method to accomplish this is to make a big loop with the excess length of flexible drain hose. The hose should loop up just beneath the countertop and then back down to the garbage disposal or main sink drain to prevent back-siphoning. Another method is to run the drain hose from the dishwasher to an antisiphon valve, which you can find at your local plumbing supply store or home center.

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A: If you don't need to add much insulation, you can purchase bags of loose-fill fiberglass or cellulose and install by hand. If you do have a big job ahead of you, then blowing machines can usually be found at the same place you purchase the insulation. You may have to rent them (or at least post a security deposit), but in some cases you may be able to use the blower at no additional charge to what you pay for the insulating material.

Another option is to switch from the blown-in type of insulation to rolls or batts. Unrolling fiberglass insulation can be an easy and inexpensive method to increase insulation levels. When the joist cavity is full, install the new layer of unfaced insulation perpendicular to the first, covering the ceiling joists to reduce heat loss through the wood.

If you install additional fiberglass insulation over existing insulation, be sure to use unfaced rolls or batts. The facing acts as a vapor retarder that helps reduce the amount of moisture entering a wall, ceiling or floor. In hot climates, the original layer of insulation should already have a vapor retarder facing the living area of your home. If you add a second vapor retarder with another layer of faced insulation, any moisture that does get through the first layer may condense on the second. This can cause water stains on the ceiling and could lead to mold and structural damage. **EHT**


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Maintenance Must-dos for Garage Doors



photo courtesy Haas Door

By Ran Keller

Garage doors are opened and closed multiple times a day, yet few homeowners conduct regular checks and inspections on them. In fact, they are often the most neglected part of a house, even though they are frequently used and make up a large portion of a home's outward appearance.

Conducting repeated tests on a garage door and its opener can help you catch any problems before they become worse. Moreover, inspections ensure that it is safe. Safety is a particularly important concern when you have kids and pets in the house.

How can you maintain your door so it lasts longer? Here are 10 tips:

CHECK THE HARDWARE

The easiest way to do a quick hardware check is to listen to the door when it opens and closes. It should move effortlessly and make minimum noise. Scraping noises, grinding sounds and jerky movements suggest there is an issue.

Furthermore, ensure that all loose hardware is tightened up. Use a socket wrench to fasten any loose bolts or roller brackets.



Any grinding or scraping noises coming from the hardware signals a problem that will only worsen over time if not addressed.

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REVIEW THE BALANCE

To review your door's balance, you'll need to first disconnect the opener to the door. Next, manually move the door halfway up or down. It should stay suspended

when you let it go. If it doesn't, the garage door isn't balanced. (See sidebar on adjusting doors with extension springs.)

If the garage door uses a torsion spring that is mounted

parallel along the top of the door, you should call a professional garage door repairman to correct a problem with the balance. The good news is that the design of the torsion spring holds its balance more reliably than extension springs.



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To test the door's balance, determine at what point it will remain suspended when roughly halfway open. If that point is more than four-feet or less than three-feet above the floor, you will need to balance the door.



Torsion springs are under extreme tension, and installing them requires solid steel winding bars. If you need to adjust or replace a torsion spring, it's best to call a professional because lack of proper training or tools can lead to an uncontrolled release of spring forces, which can cause serious injury.

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DON'T FORGET THE REMOTE BATTERIES

Garage doors are opened and closed innumerable times a year. Therefore, it's essential to replace the remote's batteries periodically.

The remote's manual should provide the information on when you need to replace the batteries, which are commonly overlooked until the day the door refuses to open.

REPLACE WORN WEATHER-STRIPPING

Look at the sides and bottom of your door. There should be weather-stripping on the sides and a rubber weather-seal on the bottom. If it's cracked or the weather-stripping on the sides is jamming the door, consider adjusting it or replacing it altogether.

Wooden garage doors might not have weather-stripping at the bottom. However, ideally, you should add weather-stripping to it, which can be purchased at any hardware store, and get it painted to protect the wood.

LUBRICATE MOVING PARTS

Garage doors are connected by springs, rollers, nuts and bolts. All of these moving parts are used constantly every time you press the remote, and the door opens and closes. Hence, it's vital to lubricate these moving parts with spray lubricant for springs, and white lithium grease for the chain or screw.

Don't smear lubricant on the track, because it could cause the door to slip and lose its balance.



Use white lithium-grease to lubricate the chain and screw of an automatic garage door opener.

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SAFETY TIPS FOR GARAGE DOORS

"When you think about it, the garage door is likely the most used door to your home," says Jeffrey Nofziger, president of Haas Door in Wauseon, Ohio. "Your garage door opens and closes several times a day. Ensuring that it's operating efficiently and safely is a smart move for homeowners."

The following are a few tips to make sure your garage door operates as safely as possible.

Replace Old Springs. Your garage door's springs are arguably the most important and most dangerous part of your door. Springs wear out. When they break, injury can result. If you have an older garage door, have your springs inspected by a professional technician and replaced if needed. If your door has two springs, replace both, even if one is not broken. This will not only prevent any damage caused by the breaking of the second spring, but also keep your door working efficiently.

Check Your Cables. Visually inspect the cables that attach the spring system to the bottom brackets on both sides of the door. If these cables are frayed or worn, they are in danger of breaking, which can cause injury. Due to the dangers associated with high spring tension, these cables should be replaced only by a trained, professional technician.

Use a Safety Cable. If your garage door has extension springs, you need a safety cable that runs through the spring and secures to the wall or ceiling at each end. When your garage door is down, extension springs are under high tension. If the spring breaks, it may cause injury. A safety cable can keep that broken spring contained. If you have extension springs but do not have a safety cable, call your local dealer for a safety inspection.

Watch Your Fingers! Every year, many unsuspecting homeowners injure their fingers by placing them between the door sections to pull down on the door. If your door lacks pinch-resistant joints, you should have lift handles or suitable gripping points on the inside and outside of the door. Even if your door has an opener, the door must occasionally be operated manually. Never place your fingers between the door sections. If you manually open or close the door, use the handles or the safe gripping points.

Use the Old Track? When buying a replacement garage door, some homeowners are tempted to save a few dollars by putting the new door on the old track. However, your old track may not fit with your new door, depending on the thickness of your sections, the weight of the door, the headroom required, the location of the garage door opener, and other considerations. The track and sections work together as a system. For maximum performance and long life, you should use the track that is designed for your specific door.

Man the Manual. Keep the owner's manuals for your door and opener hanging near the door for easy reference. Every model of door and opener has specific safety instructions unique to that model. Where is your manual?

Learn more about new garage door designs and safety tips at www.haasdoor.com.



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DO IT YOURSELF

EXAMINE THE CABLES

Cables are responsible for lifting your door. Examine them periodically for damage. If you notice signs of wear and tear, contact a garage door repair service rather than take matters into your own hands. High-tension cables have the ability to inflict serious injuries and should always be handled by a professional.

TEST THE SAFETY DEVICE

Every door is equipped with two safety features which are mechanical and photocell. To test the mechanical safety feature, simply hold a piece of wood or brick below it and close the door. Once the door comes in contact with the wooden piece, it should automatically reverse its direction



Periodically test the safety devices of the garage door, such as the photo-eye sensors at the bottom corners.

and go up. If it doesn't, you will need to adjust the downforce control limit. Read your opener's manual for directions on how to adjust it.

The second safety feature, photocell which uses photo-eye sensors, are located at the bottom of your garage door and have a beam. They prevent the door from

closing if an object is in the door's path. You can test this feature by closing the door and placing an object quickly in the path of the beam. If the door stops closing, it's in good working condition. If it doesn't, clean the sensors with a damp cotton ball and retry the process.

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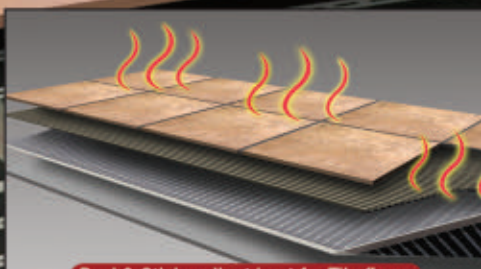
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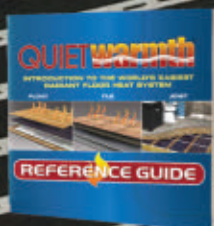


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REMOVE RUST

Rust tends to accumulate on steel doors. Locate the rusted areas, sand, prime and finally paint over them. Wooden doors should also be examined for damages and kept painted for protection.

KEEP THE TRACKS CLEAN

Dirty tracks can hinder the opening/closing action of the door. Talk to a garage door specialist in order to get the best cleaner for the tracks on your door. Note: Do not lubricate the tracks or use an all-purpose cleaner on them.

CLEAN THE DOOR

Last but certainly not the least, it's imperative to wash your garage door with an all-purpose cleaner. You can do it while washing your

cars during the weekend and make it a fun family activity. Cleaning removes built-up grease and gunk and maintains your house's spotless appearance.

Use the aforementioned garage door maintenance tips to ensure that your door lasts long and saves you on repair costs. Most of these suggestions are easy to follow and only take a few minutes. It's also a good idea to call a garage door repairman to conduct biannual inspections. Always keep your door clean, fully-functional and safe throughout the year. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Ran Keller is an experienced handyman who's been working for EliteGarageWA for 10 years. When he's not fixing garage doors, he likes to share his repairment ideas and knowledge with others.

MIGHTY MULE GARAGE DOOR OPENERS

For more than 30 years, Mighty Mule has offered professional-grade gate openers that are both affordable and easy to install. Now, Mighty Mule brings those features to a new line of garage door openers. The three models feature DC motors with a power range of 3/4 HPe to 1-1/4 HPe, each with a steel-reinforced belt drive for super quiet operation. Two models, the 1HPe MM9434K and the 1-1/4 HPe MM9545M, are enabled with the Mighty Mule Smart Garage Door app that lets you monitor and control the opener from the convenience of your mobile phone. The app also tracks garage door activity, notifying you when the garage door opener and light were used. The 3/4-



HPe MM9333H can be upgraded to provide "smart" control with the addition of a Mighty Mule WiFi wall station. All three models include LED lights and a four-piece 7-ft. T-Rail (expandable to 8 ft.) for easy assembly. And the top-of-the-line MM9545M includes a battery backup for performance during a power outage. Each model is protected by a limited lifetime warranty on motor, belt and LED lights. For more information, visit www.mightymulestore.com.

BALANCE A GARAGE DOOR THAT HAS EXTENSION SPRINGS

To test the balance of a garage door that has extension springs, first move the garage door up and down until you find a place where the door stays suspended when you let go. If it doesn't stay in place when roughly halfway open, you will need to balance the door.

First prop the door open with a stepladder or sawhorse to remove tension from the springs. Once the spring is safely free of tension, remove it from its track hanger. If the door was closing too quickly, move the spring to the next higher hole on the bracket. If the door was opening too quickly, move it to the next lower hole. Adjust the springs on both sides of the door the same way, then retest the door balance.



Close the door and use a bubble level to determine the door is level across the bottom when it contacts the ground. If this is not the case, adjust the spring tension on each side of the door until it does.



To make fine adjustments, you can adjust the lifting cable instead of the spring. The cable is attached to the door and runs to an S-hook that attaches to the track support. With the door propped open, take the S-hook out of the support, and tighten or loosen the cable as needed.



SMART GARAGE DOOR OPENERS

For over 30 years, Mighty Mule® has offered the “Do It Yourselfer” professional-grade gate openers that are both affordable and easy to install. Now, we bring that same spirit to a new line of garage door openers.

Three new models meet every need. Two models come with smart ready technology for connecting to the Mighty Mule Garage Door app, which lets you monitor and control the opener from the convenience of your mobile phone. The app works with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for voice control. Plus, it tracks activity to notify you of who used the garage door opener or light, and when they were used.

- Powerful DC motor (3/4 HPe to 1 1/4 HPe) coupled with steel-reinforced belt drive provide super quiet operation.
- 7' T-Rail (expandable to 8') for easy assembly.
- Preinstalled dimmable LED light panels. No need to install or replace a light bulb ever.
- Exceptional Mighty Mule Warranty



For more information and to purchase, visit www.mightymule.com

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*Building
a building
inside a
building*

AN OFFICE FOR YOUR WORK SHOP

By Larry Walton

The situation comes up more often than you might think. Someone needs a room or two inside a larger structure. It can be inside a garage, a shop, a barn or some type of a commercial structure. The uses for this separate space are varied. Sometimes it's an office or a bathroom (or both) in the corner of the shop. Sometimes it's intended to house sensitive computer equipment or to build engines in a controlled environment. It can be used to stock parts, house tools, provide a cozy break room, or to hang a deer or two.

Whatever the use, creating these small rooms in larger structures is often more like building a building inside a building than simply making a partition or two. Making a separate, warmer (or cooler), cleaner, more secure or quieter environment often involves a roof structure as well as walls.

For the project featured here, the need was for a small 8x10-ft. office inside a larger workshop space. The office would provide a cleaner environment for computer equipment, a place to get in out of the cold, and a way to secure valuables when friends of friends come to check on car projects. As an added bonus, the roof structure was built to deck specs to provide additional storage space.

We needed this structure to be as freestanding as possible because it was a rented space, and the office would potentially need to be removed (although we find that the owners or next tenants are often happy to take advantage of our improvements). If you can tie into the existing wall, you can use a ledger board and joist hangers in place of one of the framed walls.

Not a lot of planning went into the design, just enough to get a decent material list. Since we were working in a finished corner of the shop, we could get away with framing three walls. Why not two? Because two opposing walls were necessary to support the storage deck that would act as a roof for the office.

Materials consisted of a stack of 2x4 for studs and plates, 2x6 for headers and joists, plywood for the deck, and drywall. The stud layout and joist layout were 16 in. on center (O.C.). Door and window openings were planned with a recycled pre-hung door and a double-pane patio panel already on site.

If you need a small space inside a big space, this project can be quite useful. Here's how we got it done.

STEP BY STEP



The project started with a nice clean open space on clean concrete and drywall walls.



We framed the first wall on the floor and leaned it against the back wall. Note that the corner stud is set back a couple of inches on the plates for the conduit.



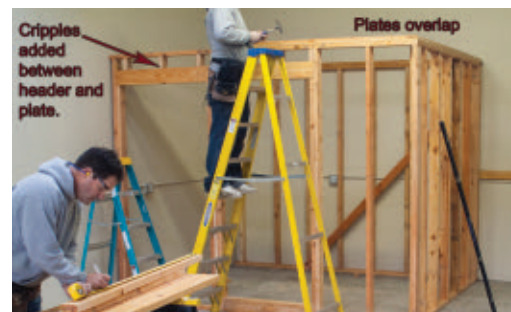
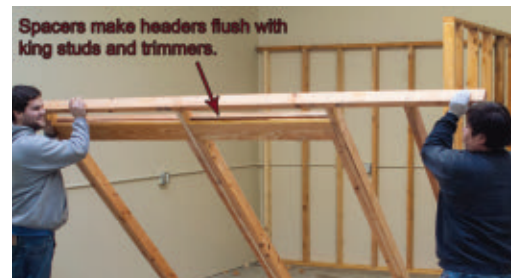
We framed the door wall next, because the plate lengths and stud layouts matched the first wall.



After framing the third wall, we put the door wall back on the floor and positioned the first wall and the end wall, and tacked them together.

We tipped the final wall into place to complete the enclosure.

After aligning the walls, we nailed the corners together.



The walls were further tied together by adding a top plate that overlapped the joints where the bottom plates met. This double plate design adds strength to the deck support.



We followed the stud layouts with joists sitting on the top plates. The joists spanned the short

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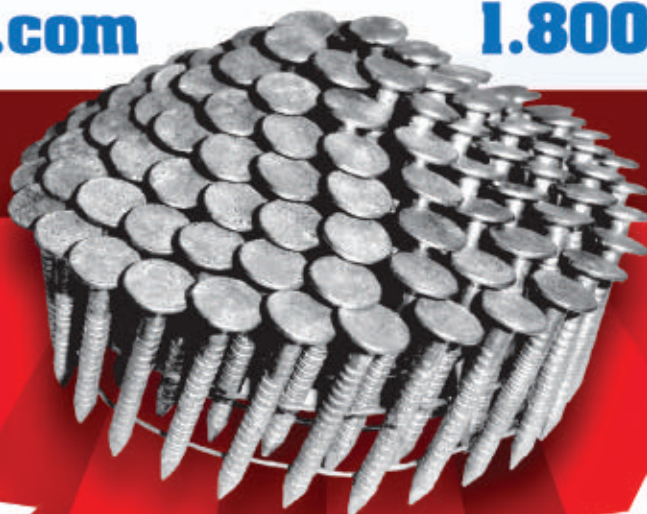
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direction across the room. The joists ended 1-1/2 inches back from the edge of the plate on the front wall to allow for a rim joist.

The rim joist capped off the joist bays to tie the joists together.

We cut the first sheet of plywood to break in the middle of a joist. The joist layout allowed full sheets from there.

The storage deck was finished with 3/4-in. plywood.



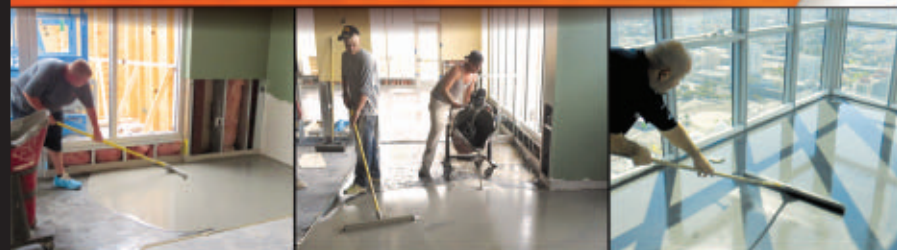
We added drywall. Note that we went right over the window and door openings with full sheets.

We cut out the window and door openings after nailing and screwing off the drywall but before hanging drywall on the inside.

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We ripped window sills to the net thickness of the window wall, including framing and drywall.



We nailed the window surround into a box before installing it into the window opening.



The pre-hung recycled door and jamb were installed next.



We installed the first set of window stops into the window opening.



We tipped the window (a recycled double-pane patio door panel) into place and locked it in with a second set of stops.



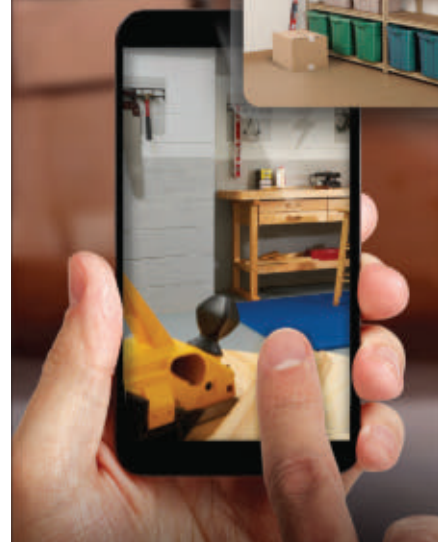
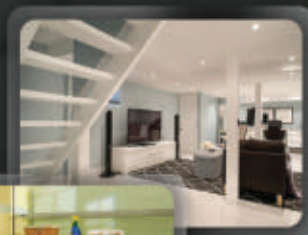
To complete the office, we added metal corner bead along the deck edge and on the vertical connection between walls before mudding the nails and taping the joints. **EHT**

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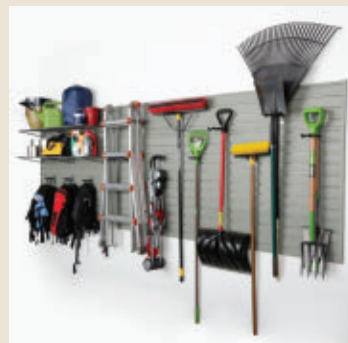


B'LASTER LUBRICANTS

Summer is a great time to get some work done in and around the garage or workshop. B'laster has many products that can help you achieve your summer project goals. Start with making sure your garage door is running smoothly with B'laster Premium Silicone Garage Door Lubricant. It quiets noisy garage doors by providing long-lasting lubrication. Use it on tracks and garage door mechanisms, it dries tack-free so it won't accumulate dust and dirt. Also, try B'laster Pro-Grade Multi-Purpose Lubricant on anything that is sticking or squeaking. It's great for all kinds of applications in and around the garage, from removing surface rust on hand tools to recreational equipment to lawn and garden tools to window and door tracks. It's an excellent water displacer and provides outstanding corrosion protection. And don't forget to use the #1-selling penetrant since 1957, the Original PB B'laster Penetrant on anything rusted, stuck or corroded. It's especially useful for automotive projects like brake jobs and also on various marine applications. B'laster products are born from professional applications and are formulated to penetrate, lubricate, loosen, overcome, fix and conquer each job. More information is available at www.blastercorp.com.

FLOW WALL PANEL SYSTEMS

For a multi-purpose wall storage system, FlowWall slat-wall panels with storage hooks and shelving provide a great solution for keeping your equipment within reach and off the floor. In fact, the EHT staff uses this system in our workshop. Flow Wall storage panels grow with you as your needs change, by creating a modular system that you can customize and expand on over the years. The panels are constructed from extruded 100-percent recyclable PVC, and they hold up to 100 lbs. per square foot. A set includes 48 square feet of panel with all installation hard-



ware and accessories, (4) 8-in. long hooks, (6) 4-in. hooks, a heavy-duty dual bracket hook, and 4 metal bracket shelves. Visit www.flowwall.com.

GLADIATOR BIKE GEARTRACK

The Bike GearTrack Pack is perfect for hanging bikes and helmets. This all-in-one kit includes everything you need to get started, including color-matched screws and end caps for a finished look. The GearTrack Channel



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SWISSTRAX

Swisstrax easily, durably and reliably creates an eye-catching floor with 19 colors, 10 styles and 5 woodgrain patterns of modular flooring. Swisstrax interlocking tiles have been engineered for your garage with more than 20 years of innovation. Install the floor in hours and enjoy it for decades. Ribtrax, the most popular style (pictured), offers the overall strength and design for heavy items such as rolling creepers, jack stands and tool boxes to sit or easily maneuver across the floor. Ribtrax flooring tile's open profile design allows for an easy-to-maintain floor equipped with drainage underneath each tile. Visit swisstrax.com.



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A photograph of a wooden deck with a stone fireplace and a window. The deck is made of light-colored wood with a dark brown railing. A single orange pumpkin sits on the deck near the fireplace. The window looks out onto a green lawn and trees. The text "Last-Deck" is overlaid in large white letters, and "THE LAST DECK YOU WILL EVER NEED" is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

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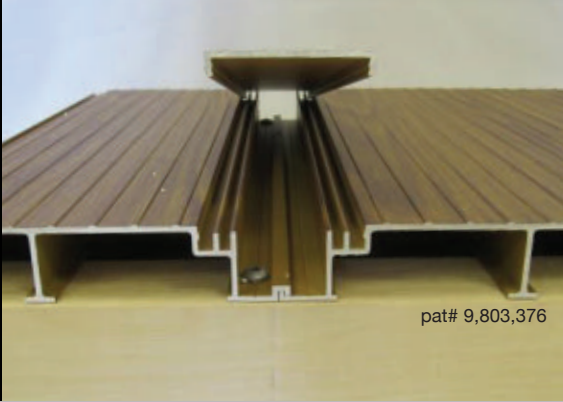
Manufactured in the Midwest of all American made structural-grade aluminum – the same as an aircraft; Last-Deck is built with high quality standards from our family to yours.

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The 300 series is a patented, watertight product that has the ability to be replaced without having to start at one end. Should you receive damage at the mid-way point of your deck, simply pop up 2 joiner strips, replace the bad plank, snap the joiner strips back down, and your repairs are finished!



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REMODELING SHOW/DECK EXPO 2018 PREVIEW

Professional remodelers and experienced deck builders will convene in Baltimore, Maryland, October 10-11 at the 2018 Remodeling Show/Deck Expo. Whether you're updating a home or enhancing the back yard, hundreds of tool and material companies will be on site to exhibit and demonstrate the new products that will shape the industry in years to come. The *EHT* staff attends every year to get the scoop on everything new and cool, and we've compiled a preview of the good things to come at this year's show.

SIMPSON STRONG-TIE MPBZ MOMENT POST BASE

MPBZ Moment Post Base is the first hardware product code-listed for moment resistance. From Simpson Strong-Tie, the innovative MPBZ provides moment resistance for 4x4 and 6x6 wood columns or posts. The MPB44Z and MPB66Z are also code listed for uplift, download and lateral resistance.



Described as a “game changer” for outdoor building, the patent-pending MPBZ is ideal for freestanding outdoor structures, such as pergolas, patios, carports and decks. It features an innovative, overlapping sleeve design, which completely encapsulates the post, keeping it from rotating around its base when lateral loads are applied at the top of the post. Built-in standoff tabs provide the required 1-in. standoff to protect against post rot while eliminating multiple parts and assembly. In addition, the MPBZ has a ZMAX finish to provide corrosion resistance in many environments. Visit strongtie.com/mpbz or booth 2211.



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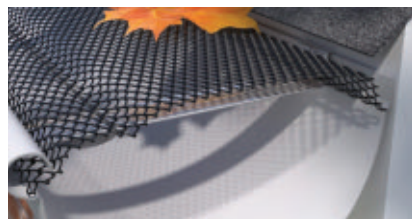
KERDI WATERPROOF TUB AND SHOWER KIT

Tiled shower walls are luxurious, hygienic and easy to maintain. Whether the setting is a tub surround or a standalone shower, the walls must be waterproof before the tiles are installed. Schluter Systems' new Kerdi-Board Kit includes everything needed to build waterproof walls for a standard tub surround or an acrylic shower base, all in an easy-to-carry package. The kit creates a completely waterproof environment and prevents damaging leaks and mold growth due to moisture penetration. It includes 8 pieces of 1/2-in.-thick Kerdi-Board waterproof building panels that can be screwed directly onto wall studs. The panels are 48x38 inches, so they are a very manageable size and can easily be cut with a utility knife to fit any wall space up to 101 sq. ft. The Kerdi-Board panels are lightweight and completely eliminate the need for gypsum or cement board on the shower walls. Once the panels are up only the seams between panels and the screw penetrations need to be waterproofed to complete the walls. This is done using a 5-in. wide strip of Kerdi-Band waterproof membrane that is included. The kit also

includes two tubes of Kerdi-Fix sealing and bonding compound to create a waterproof seal around the flange of the tub or shower base. Other components are valve and pipe seals to prevent moisture from entering the wall cavity at any fixtures. Visit www.schluter.com or booth 818.

E-Z GUTTER

E-Z Gutter offers a wide variety of easy-to-install gutter screens to eliminate clogs from debris. The steel screen products are made from .028 expanded galvanized steel that is powder-coated with Midwest Enterprises' own proprietary powder for maximum durability. Steel screen gutter guards are



available with either medium or small holes, and are ideal for medium to heavy debris loads. Also available are powder-coated aluminum screens, which are excellent for locations where salt spray and other extreme environments cause other products to corrode. Or, skip the screen and go with a cover: The EZ-Gutter aluminum solid, perforated or louvered gutter covers provide the best protection from the elements, and all products are made in the USA. Visit www.e-zgutter.com or booth 1202.

NOVA NAUTILUS RAILING SYSTEM

Atlantis Rail has teamed the Nautilus Railing System up with the company's new NOVA II aluminum post kits to create the NOVA Nautilus System, now more affordable and easy to install. The NOVA Nautilus System utilizes predrilled



aluminum posts with a 2-in. stainless steel top and optional bottom rail. It features color options of black, white or bronze to complement any application. The rails are structural-strength stainless steel so it can be configured with a top rail only, or a bottom rail can be added. Cable spacing at 2-3/4 inches allows the posts to be spaced up to 6 ft. apart when using a cable stabilizer in the middle, further reducing the cost and expediting installation. A proprietary sidemount fitting with an insulating gasket is used to mount the rails to the post, eliminating concern about potential issues in combining dissimilar metals. Plus, HandiSwage components hide the cable connections inside the post, and the easy-to-use swage tool and cover nuts provide for easy installation and a finished look. Visit www.atlantisrail.com or booth 1723.

CAMO MARKSMAN PRO

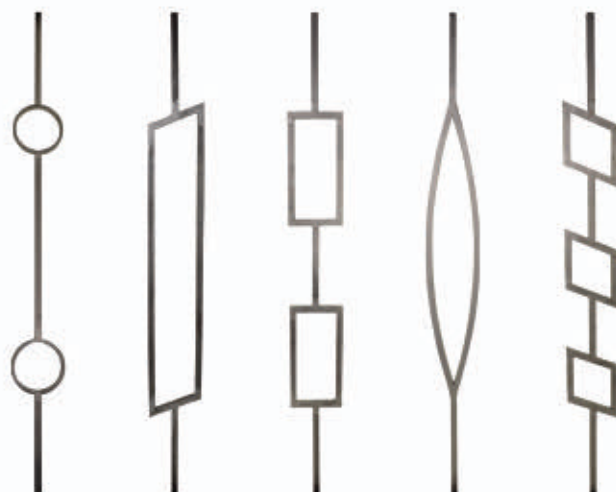
The CAMO Edge Fastening System from National Nail will exhibit at DeckExpo in Baltimore, MD, Oct 10-11, 2018 in booth 2218. The CAMO Marksman Pro is a system of guides, proprietary screws and drill bits that create a fastener-free surface for virtually any type of decking. Simply load the proprietary deck screws into the hand-held guides that position



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them to be driven into the edge of the deck boards and provide automatic gapping. Special driver bits are included with the screws to ensure depth of drive. CAMO offers several guides including the Marksman Pro, Marksman Pro-X1, MarksmanPro-NB, and the no-gap guide Marksman Edge, which range in cost from \$20 to \$50. They work with any decking material—composite, PVC, and most soft and hard wood species with variations to accommodate nominal 6-inch boards as well as narrow boards. CAMO also features a variety of spacing choices, including a no-gap option for treated wood decks that can also be used with secondary spacers when wider gaps are desired. Visit booth 2218 or www.camofasteners.com.

MAZE NAILS

Maze manufactures quality double hot-dipped nails for fiber cement siding, cedar and red-wood siding, roofing, cedar



shakes and shingles, PVC trim products, decking, fencing and post frame building construction. The Maze Double Hot Dipped Galvanized Ring-shank Roofing Nails are Miami Dade County Approved. All Maze Nails are 100-percent Made in the USA from recycled re-melted steel, making them eco-friendly for sustainable building practices. Visit www.mazenails.com or booth 1321.

DECKORATORS FASTENDRY

The exclusive Deckorators Fastendry system helps deck builders create dry zones while realizing significant labor and cost savings. Fastendry combines weatherproofing and deck-board fastening capability in one solution—enabling builders to add



under-deck living space or storage while saving up to 50 percent on installation time and 25 percent on installation cost versus competitive weatherproofing products. Fastendry fits inside the slotted edges of Deckorators composite decking, forming a water-tight

seal that prevents rain, melting snow and debris from passing through the spaces between boards. The polymer insert has a rigid base plate that fastens decking to joists with a nail gun, resulting in a fastener-free look without the use of hidden fasteners. The solution perfectly complements Deckorators Vault, Heritage, Vista, Classic and Frontier slotted-edge deck boards. It is available in black 12-, 16- and 20-foot lengths, and is covered by a 25-year limited warranty on manufacturing defects. Visit www.deckorators.com or booth 622.

GOOF PROOF SHOWERS

For shower floor drainage, the floor must be properly sloped, and that's what Mark E. Industries' Goof Proof products provide. They have a system of screeding guide sticks that will aid the user in getting the pitch right on all shower floors. No more puddles or kicking water to the drain. Capable of extending up to 6 feet out from the drain in any direction, you can achieve a perfectly sloped floor. The system works with the existing plumbing, regardless of where the drain may be located in the floor. Pre-Pitch is for subfloor sloping using membranes to waterproof, and Quick-Pitch is for the thicker mud-bed applications that get tiled. Kirb-Perfect is a cage that wraps the curb, easily filled with mud, which preserves the waterproofing liner integrity in addition to constructing a solid curb for attaching tile or stone. The company also has another curb, Handi-Kirb for solving wheelchair accessibility obstacles.

The Goof Proof Shower Seat is a ready-to-tile corner seat with the choice of two sizes in one. It includes all the hardware needed for installation in new construction as well as for retrofitting in

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TREATED LUMBER
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TREATED LUMBER
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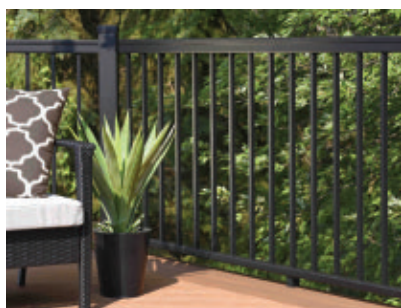


existing showers (and is able to support 400 lbs.).

The Goof Proof Corner Shelf is also a ready-to-tilt corner shelf that attaches to existing tiled walls and can be tiled before or after installation. It will support 100 lbs. All Mark E. Industries products come with thorough easy-to-follow instructions, and the website has instructional videos. Visit www.markeindustries.com or Booth 1012.

AZEK IMPRESSION RAIL EXPRESS

AZEK Building Products' new Impression Rail Express speeds installation and adds beauty to deck projects. With sleek, contemporary style, the pre-assembled aluminum railing panel system is engineered for quick installation at the job site and lasting safety for the homeowners. With no hammers or special tools required, Impression Rail Express features easy assembly on both level and stair applications. Scientifically engineered to last beautifully, Impression Rail Express achieves the look of wrought iron with a powder-coated finish and subtle



texture in three colors: White, Black and Dark Bronze. The durable finish resists weather and corrosion over time and is backed by a 25-year warranty. Impression Rail Express features a patented technology to securely lock each baluster in place for a rattle-free, full-contact connection without a weld for better aesthetics. Like all AZEK Railing Profiles, Impression Rail Express is certified by third-party accredited agencies to meet or exceed IRC requirement. Learn more at AZEK.com or visit booth 1421.

DURALIFE DECKING

A snap-down fastening system for deck boards, the patent-pending Step-Clip system from DuraLife Decking cuts installation time in half. It works by nailing down the Step-Clip strips to the tops of the joists. Then, simply step on the deck boards to snap them into place. The flexible clips integrated into the Step-Clip strips will grab and hold the DuraLife decking



along its grooved edges. No special tools are required; the strips install easily with a roofing nail gun or hammer. This means less kneeling or bending, and there's no need for spacing or grabbing for fasteners. If a deck board should be damaged, the Step-Clip systems makes replacing damaged boards much easier than other decking methods. Visit duralifedecking.com or booth 1704.

ENVIRONMENTAL STONEWORKS/CLIPSTONE

The new Barn Wood profile by Environmental StoneWorks features wood-carved profiles molded from antebellum tobacco barns in Virginia, combining a rustic feel



with contemporary charm for a product rich with historic beauty, quality and ease of installation. Three new Barn Wood colors—named for historic Civil War battles—will make their debut at the Remodeling Show: Beaver Dam, Seven Pines and Baton Rouge.

Grezzo is a new, universal stone that allows builders, designers, and architects the opportunity to develop unique patterns with stone veneer. Wide ranges of panel sizes allow for expanded customization. Three colors make their debut.

The ClipStone brand will be introducing two new colors, Osceola and Teton Grey. Stop by booth 1905 for a live demo and install the product yourself, or visit www.estoneworks.com, www.myclipstone.com.

VIANCE TREATED WOOD

Viance will be exhibiting its EcoLife Stabilized Weather-Resistant Wood. This non-metallic wood stabilizing preservative system offers advanced weathering protection with improved dimensional stability to make every outdoor living project look better for longer. Also from Viance comes D-Blaze Fire-Retardant Wood, which has a new Underwriters Laboratories (UL and ULC)

EVERY DECK CAN BE A REFERRAL



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boast 150 screws per coil (highest payload in the industry) and have a telescopic handle that adjusts to your specific working height—key features that no one else offers. Stop by booth 747 for a Free Test Drive or visit muro.com.

U2 FASTENERS

U2 fasteners offers six product lines for residential construction that engineers and contractors agree on for whatever project you undertake. The company has released its IAPMO (ER 454) evaluation to become one of few fastener companies that comply with the International Building Code and Residential Building Code for corrosion resistance



(AC233) and structural strength (AC257). U2 fasteners' coating was one of the first, if not the only one, which has passed to the 2015 requirements, with ground contact at 0.6pcf ACQ treated lumber (ER 454). U2 fasteners is also the first company to offer fasteners with a chrome-6 free coating, reducing the risk for end users developing skin cancer.

Ideal for replacing those old deck screws, the U2 Universal Screw is a countersink fastener that allows the head to sit flush or below the surface of the surrounding materials. Applications include decking, framing, subfloors, fencing, lattice, shelving, railings, stairs, fine woodworking and more. The

Universal screw is available in lengths from 1-1/2 up to 12 inches in hardened steel, and in lengths from 1-1/2 to 4 in. made of 316 grade stainless steel. Visit u2fasteners.com or booth 306.

LINEAR COLLECTION'S METAL PANEL SYSTEM BY L.J. SMITH

L.J. Smith plans to showcase four of its newest products at the 2018 Remodeling Show in Baltimore. All of the products were launched in 2018, including the Linear Collection's Metal Panel System. This stairway system boasts a 'welded' look that complements most modern or urban decors. It's the newest look in modern stairway design featuring pre-assembled panels for ease of installation. Available for open tread stairways, kneewall stairways and level run applications. Seven-level run panels are available to meet rail heights of three different options with five rake panel widths available. The system also includes fast-install spacer newels, panel posts, square-nose designed treads and handrails. The system comes with Low Sheen Black as a



standard finish. Additional powder-coated and Pantone paint colors can be ordered so the rail system complements the home interior. Visit booth 1113 or www.ljsmith.com.

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King Architectural Metals stocks over 9,000 metal products, including pre-made fence panels, hi-def plasma cutting, structural steel, access controls as well as hardware, paint, forgings, aluminum and cast-iron castings, stair and railing parts, and much more. The company offers nationwide delivery in 1-3 days. King Architectural offers everything from ornamental décor to structural components in a wide range of styles and materi-

als. Check out the company's website see the new online Metal Reference Guide, which uses a point-and-click app to showcase the array of metal components available for building and assembly. Visit www.kingmetals.com or booth 1724. **EHT**



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TG Tools KIK® Spade Bit

Conventional spade bits can only drill holes in wood and can only go in a single direction. The "revolutionary" design of the KIK® Spade bit from TG Tools allows it to drill, wood, laminates, plastic and even non-ferrous sheet metal. In wood, the KIK® Spade bores faster due to 30% more cutting surface. By eliminating the brittle tang found on common spade bits, the KIK® Spade can even bore curved holes for those tight plumbing and electrical installations. On plastics and laminates, the KIK® Spade bores efficiently without melting the material and will not "slip" or "skate" from the start. With six cutting edges and more cutting surface, Chrome Vanadium 40 Steel was chosen for manufacture to allow the bit to flex when necessary in those tough situations when others simply bend and break.

KIK® Forstner Bit

Made from 60 Carbon Steel and Titanium-coated, the KIK® Forstner Bit from TG Tools drills, routs and channels wood, plastic, acrylic and more. The bit operates smoothly in any direction—even curves—making it easy to control. Bore the hole the way the conduit or pipe bends. Correct misaligned inlets. Bore blind holes without piercing thin laminate. It's a great bit for hinge or anchor inserts. Plus, the open cap design prevents clogging, and the three-flat shank means less chuck slippage. Also, the bit includes a free heavy-duty protective case.

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SHELVES OF MANY SHAPES

By Matt Weber

Shelves come in all shapes and sizes. A single basic shelf has a very simple design: Just screw two right-angle brackets at the same height on a couple of wall studs then attach a flat board to the tops and *voilà*—you’ve got a shelf. Shelves are everywhere, from bookcases and built-ins to mantle shelves, closets and cubbies. Here’s a look at a few styles you can build yourself as well as some products you can purchase “off the shelf” or use as inspiration for your own designs.

KEEP IT CLASSIC

A traditional wood case for a shelves makes a popular DIY project. For stain-

grade shelves, you can use solid wood such as oak or pine for the sides, top and shelves, and use a matching veneered plywood for the back. For more economical paint-grade projects, you can use less expensive finger-jointed boards or all plywood.

As far as how to design a shelf case, the possibilities are endless regarding its height, width, depth and trim detail. You can assemble using general carpentry skills and fasten the joints in multiple different ways. You can fasten the shelves with dowels, pins, dadoes, cleats or pocket screws.

For DIY’ers, a pocket-screw jig provides an easy way to make a strong joint for





SHELVES OF MANY SHAPES

attaching shelves to a case. Pocket-hole joinery relies on a two-step process. First, use a special “stepped” drill bit to drill the pocket hole. The bit has a 1/2-in. diameter shank but also features a shoulder with a narrower tip that drills a pilot for the shaft of the screw. The bit’s 1/2-inch shank bores a pilot hole to house the wider head of the screw.

This initial pocket hole is drilled at an offset angle with the help of a special jig (shown in blue).



Simply clamp the jig onto the edge of the boards and drill through the jig’s guide holes, which hold the bit at a precise angle.

The depth of the pocket hole and the length of the screw depend on the thickness of the wood you’re joining (indicated with alignment markings on the jig). Drill the holes, add wood glue along the mating edges of the boards, reassemble and then drive in the pocket screws to secure the joint.



A few more design tips for a shelf case:



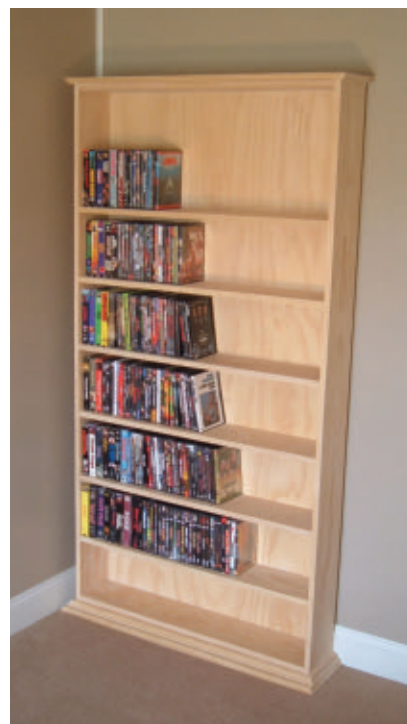
- Use right-angle clamps to hold the shelves in place when fastening.



- For adjustable shelves, make “shelf standards” that line the sides with parallel holes to use with removable pins as shelf supports.

- For tall cases, add stability to the bottom by attaching a “toe” plate that extends beyond the face.

- Secure tall cases at the top with a safety strap that connects the case to the wall to prevent them from tipping over.



GO WITH RUSTIC

Rustic furniture is now very popular, characterized by a mixture of industrial elements such as metal pipes, angle iron, chains or even rebar, combined with organic materials like stained wood.

The metal elements are often painted black to protect them from





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SHELVES OF MANY SHAPES

rust as well as to enhance the “mechanical” aspect of the style—plus black goes with everything. The wood is often darkly stained and even distressed for an aged appearance.

One particularly fun aspect of building rustic furniture is that its character comes from its rough, rugged appearance, so dents or dings in the finish look that they were meant to be there. This

makes construction of rustic furniture go a lot quicker and with less stress than taking the traditional carpentry approach, where you fuss over every little aspect of the wood surface as you assemble, sand and finish the project.

The EHT staff recently built simple rustic shelving using lumber shelves supported by galvanized pipe brackets. The shelving for this project was cut from simple 2×10 lumber. Each shelf bracket consisted of one 10-in. pipe (threaded on both ends), an end cap and a floor flange. We settled on using 3/4-in. pipe for a strong, sturdy look, and each of the four 30-in. shelves required two brackets. The pipes and fittings have matching threads, so they simply screw together for assembly.



To paint the pipe brackets, we used a black Rustoleum spray paint (and primer in one) that offers a special hammered texture to the metal finish. The project also requires heavy-duty screws to mount the brackets into the wall studs, wood stain for the shelves, and polyurethane for a protective top coat.

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SHELVES OF MANY SHAPES

The shelf lumber was cut to size, and we distressed the surface with a variety of tools to give it the appearance of age and damage. We smacked the boards with a heavy trucker chain to give it dents

and dips. A handful of 1/2-in. nuts threaded over a heavy-duty wire can be used to whip sharper dents and dings into the surface. A simple punch tool can provide pinholes reminiscent of worm or

insect damage. And when used sparingly, the waffle face of a framing hammer can create an interesting relief pattern.

Add your stain of choice to the wood, then screw the brackets as shelf supports into the studs for secure mounting. We laid the shelves on top and let gravity hold them in place, or you can fasten them to the brackets if you prefer.



Beyond shelf brackets, you can use similar metal elements to construct all sort of industrial frames to serve as shelf cases, then add your wood shelves in any number of creative ways.



*Use angled pipe fittings to design rustic shelves in creative ways.
Photo © Target.*



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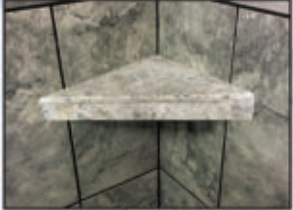
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FLOATING SHELVES

Floating shelves are basically made of flat, hollow boxes that have no visible mounting hardware. Depending on the method of construction, the hollow shelf mounts to either metal rods or a wooden cleat that fit inside the rear of the box and supports it from within. The rods or cleat are fastened securely into the wall studs for the best holding power.

One thing to consider when designing these shelves is the hollow nature of the construction. Since the mounting cleat usually only extends about 2 inches into the shelf, the shelf must be lightweight and well-balanced so as



FLOATING CLOSET

This bedroom had no storage. The homeowner wanted a closet plus storage shelves, but the room was already very small, and adding a partition wall to enclose new storage space didn't make sense. Without occupying more space inside the room, the only option was to find storage outside the room, which is usually prevented by having exterior walls or another room on the opposite side of the interior walls. In this case, however, the bedroom was oriented adjacent to a large garage with a lower floor than that of the room. The creative design solution: A series of half-height "floating" closet/cabinets built into the wall between the bedroom and garage, providing ample storage while economizing interior space, all without encroaching on the usable living space inside the garage. Our staff thought this approach was pretty clever, so we thought we'd share it here.



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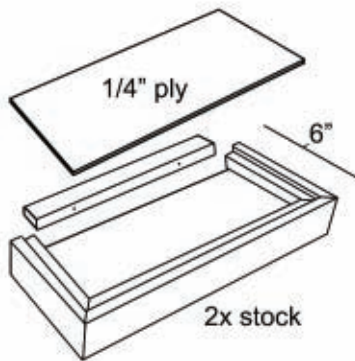
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SHELVES OF MANY SHAPES

not to pull away from the fasteners that hold it to the cleat.

The EHT staff recently built some shelves with the upper and lower panels made of thin 1/4-in. plywood—not exactly heavy-duty material. For this reason, it's smart to limit the size of these shelves to a fairly shallow depth. Ours extended only 6 inches away from the wall.



The front and side edges of the shelves were made of the 2×2 pine material, while the upper and lower panels were 1/4-in. stain-grade birch plywood. To ensure a flat, flush shelf surface, we cut 1/4-in. deep rabbets along the upper and lower edges of the 2×2's. When arranged as the sides of the box, these rabbets form an interior channel or trough for the plywood.

We cut the mounting cleats to fit snugly inside the channels at the back of the shelf boxes. To mount the shelves, make sure the cleats are fastened securely into the wall framing and cross at least two studs. Slide the floating shelf boxes over the cleats and screw them from the top surface down into the cleats.

Although the shelves we built



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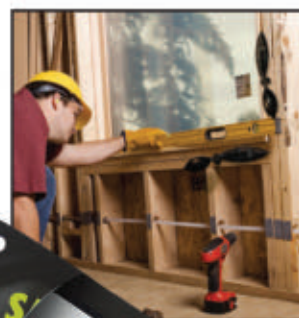
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were small in nature, the floating shelf design can be expanded (more in width than in depth) and is often utilized to construct free-standing mantle shelves above fireplaces.

With a little research and an open mind to design, you can take aspects of any of these various shelf concepts and apply them to your next custom project. **EHT**



This rustic style freestanding mantle is built with a floating shelf design. Photo © Rustica.



Turn a closet into a pantry by adding simple shelves along the walls supported by right-angle brackets.



Ladder style shelves have deeper shelves at the bottom with increasingly narrower shelves at the top. Photo © Overstock.com.



Think outside the "box" and consider an asymmetrical shelf. Photo © Danya B.

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Chiminea Turned Pizza Cooker

A Great Summertime DIY Welding Project



By Blair Weilnau

First-time welder? No problem. With some ambition, inspiration and a Forney Easy Weld machine, you can create your next backyard project. Having a fire pit, chiminea, smoker and wood-fired pizza oven can take up a lot of space on your back patio. Why not combine all of them and create a chiminea pizza cooker? Not only will it cook up delicious pizza, but sitting next to the fire and roasting marshmallows will provide some warmth on those cool summer nights.

Tools and Materials:

- Forney Easy Weld 125 FC or 140 FC-i
- Large to medium compressor tank
- 4' x 8' expanded metal sheet
- 1/8" x 2" x 6' flat stock
- 4 metal hinges
- 2' of 2" round tubing (for the feet)
- Angle grinder with cut off wheels and flap discs
- 3 toggle pull latches
- 2' of 6" or 8" diameter pipe (for the chimney)
- 2' of 1/2" angle iron
- 1' x 1', 1/4" steel plate (for the chimney cover)
- Magnets
- Chalk

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Wearing the proper personal protective equipment is essential when metalworking and welding. Always remember to wear a flame-resistant welding jacket or apron and sleeves, welding gloves, safety glasses and a welding helmet. Arc flash and sparks can

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be detrimental, so protecting yourself is crucial.

Sketch out your idea on paper so you have an idea of the design you're looking for. You can make this as simple or complex as needed. We knew we wanted a taller tank to fit that chiminea look, but something slim that wouldn't take up much space on a patio.

We found an old air compressor tank to fit this project, but you can also use a large propane tank that fits your desired size. Clean the tank with soap and water to ensure nothing is left inside. Mark up your design on the tank using chalk. We marked out a lower fire door, two back open sides, and a top door for the pizza.

Pro Tip: If the base of your

tank is round and cannot stand on its own, use a bucket to help prop it up.



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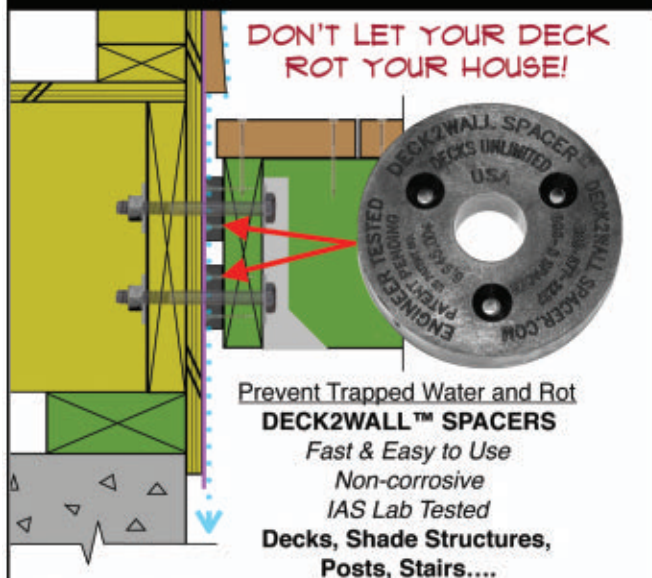
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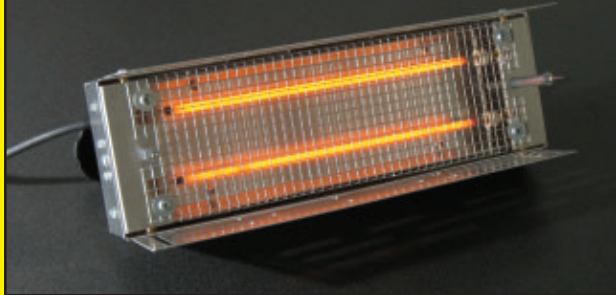
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STEP BY STEP ASSEMBLY

Use a cutting wheel to cut out the lower fire door first. Then cut out the two back panels. Make sure the two back open sides are below the pizza door to ensure proper heating of the pizza chamber. Next, cut the pizza door.



Once both pizza and lower fire doors are cut, weld hinges from the door to the compressor tank. Both doors get two hinges, one on the top of the door and one on the bottom. Next, cut expanded metal to cover the back open sides and weld this to the compressor tank. This ensures the fire is contained but heat can get out and oxygen can get in.

Cut 1/2-in. angle iron to weld to the back of the pizza door to prevent warping. On the lower fire door, cut out the middle section and replace it with expanded metal. Weld the expanded metal, as well as a 1/2-in. piece of angle iron to the back of the door.



Next, create a chimney. Begin by cutting out the top center of the tank. Make sure the cut is directly in the center. Cut the chimney proportionate to your compressor tank size. Weld your 6- to 8-in. diameter pipe to the compressor tank, both on the inside and outside to create a stronger weld.

Make a cap for the top of the chimney that will be used to protect it when not in use (optional). The cap will be made from the 1-by-1-ft. steel plate. Cut the steel plate in a tear drop shape to the diameter of the chimney. The tear-drop point will be used to attach the hardware to the chimney to create a swivel effect. Close the cap when not in use to protect it from the weather and swivel it open when in use.



The next step is to build the legs. Cut round tubing to desired length. Make sure all four legs are equal and level, and then tack weld them into place. Once the stability is on point, complete the welds.



Add the finishing trim on the pizza door. Use the 1/8-in. plate, 2-in. wide metal strip and cut to appropriate size to fit the exterior pizza door. Weld these strips to every side of the pizza door except the hinge side. On the inside of the compressor tank, weld a 1/8-in. plate, 2-in. wide metal strip to the hinge side only.



Attach the toggle pull latches to the door. Two will be used for the pizza chamber and one for the lower fire door.

Make handles for the pizza door and the fire door.



To create the pizza shelf, weld angle iron in small 1- to 2-in. pieces around the inside of the compressor tank. Cut expanded metal to the diameter of the inner compressor tank to rest on top of the angle-iron pieces. Tack weld expanded metal to the angle iron.

Create a fire grate similar to the



pizza shelf on the bottom of the compressor tank for the wood to sit on.

If you realize your chiminea pizza oven needs more heat, create back plates using the original cut-outs from the air compressor (optional).

Lastly, drill holes in the bottom of the compressor tank below the fire grate so oxygen can get to the fire.

You can cook pizza, smoke burgers or roast marshmallows this summer with your very own chiminea pizza cooker! Make the chiminea cooker your own and customize it to fit your needs. We powder-coated it to protect it from the weather, but you can use high-temperature paint or if you like the rusty look, you can leave it as is. **EHT**



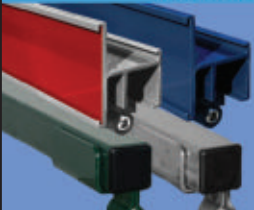
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Select the Right Lumber

Above Ground or Ground Contact? That is the Big Question.



Wood comes from an abundant natural resource that is grown on managed forest lands and is easily and quickly replenished. It has excellent workability in all aspects of construction and, when preserved and used properly, can be designed to create outdoor living spaces that bring the comfort of inside to the outside. It is a durable and cost-effective structural material that is both strong and naturally beautiful.

Wood is easy to use, lightweight and adaptable to be modified on the job site. It is readily available from local dealers with no need for special orders. Wood can be used year-round in any climate and can be maintained and repaired by a do-it-yourselfer. Wood's strength-to-weight ratio is excellent, and it is resistant to breaking and cracking.

"The treating industry has strived for decades to innovate products that enhance wood, thus extending the life of your project," explains Chad. "When wood goes through the treatment process, it is infused with preservative that helps it last longer while maintaining its natural beauty." Preservatives make wood resistant to attack from termites and fungal decay. For example, Lonza Wood Protection's Wolman E copper azole has been used by industry leaders such as United Treating & Distribution for many years to enhance the performance of wood.

One do-it-yourselfer and garden enthusiast, Andy Nash, learned the importance of choosing the right preserved wood when he did some research and decided to

Chances are, if you step into just about any back yard in any part of the country, you will find something made with preserved wood. You are likely to see a deck, a raised bed garden, a picnic table or a children's playset—all probably built with preserved wood.

These projects, whether built by a professional contractor or a do-it-yourselfer, require a little bit of research and preparation before the building can actually begin.

"It's important for consumers to understand what kind of preserved wood they need to buy for

their project before they head to the lumber yard," explains Chad Epperson, owner of United Treating and Distribution. "A little bit of homework can save a lot of time and hassle down the road."

Chad explains that treated wood has been a viable outdoor building product for decades, blending the beauty of nature with the practicality of everyday life. However, it is every bit as important to choose the right wood for your project as it is the correct fasteners to hold the project together. The right wood depends a lot on its use.

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SPOT LIGHT

build raised planter beds for his vegetable garden. "I did some research, looked at some garden plans online, and decided that I would attempt to build a raised bed. I learned that since my wood would remain in contact with the soil and constantly be wet, I should use Ground Contact treated wood. Even with that harsh exposure my raised beds lasted for years." His beds were so successful that he chose to build raised beds again after moving to a new home.

"I felt very confident in my decision to build my second set of raised bed gardens. It just took a few boards of



Wolmanized® Outdoor Wood (2x6s and 4x4s), screws, and a few tools that I have on hand. I built two raised bed gardens in just a few hours," Andy says. "The good thing, he adds, is that the planter beds can be used year after year because they are built using Ground Contact preserved wood.

Like this homeowner, contractors and do-it-yourselfers cannot arbitrarily choose what preserved wood to install. According to Jay Hilsenbeck, Residential Product

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Manager of Lonza Wood Protection, choosing the right wood for its intended use is imperative for a finished project to last. Jay explains that consumers can either purchase Above Ground or

Ground Contact preserved wood for their project. "This decision rests on the severity of the exposure of the wood during its service. Ground Contact preserved wood is treated to a higher reten-

tion level than Above Ground," explains Jay. "That simply means there is more preservative in Ground Contact preserved wood to offer necessary protection for more demanding end uses like raised beds."

Further guidelines say that Above Ground preserved wood is intended for the parts of a project that are at least 6 inches above the ground, where the wood dries easily, and where it is well-ventilated around all the boards. While Ground Contact preserved wood is versatile enough to be used in almost any application, it must be used in applications where the wood:

- will come in contact with or be within 6 inches of the ground or fresh water
- is critical to the structure and difficult to repair or replace
- is in certain physically Above Ground uses exposed to harsher conditions such as prolonged contact with soil, vegetation or sprinklers

"As an example, deck boards that are not subject to prolonged wetting from sprinklers and have good air flow around them can be treated to Above Ground retentions," Jay further explains. "Decking understructure such as posts, joists, and ledger boards should be treated to Ground Contact retentions."

"Once your outdoor project is completed and being enjoyed," Chad comments, "some maintenance is necessary just as maintaining your car is necessary. Homeowners can easily and inexpensively perform maintenance on their decks or other backyard projects. By cleaning and applying a surface water repellent every

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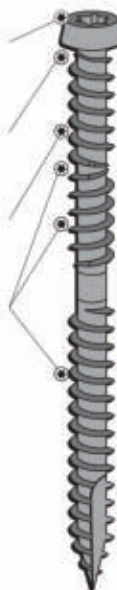
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couple of years your project will continue to look beautiful.”

Projects also can be enhanced by changing the color. As easy as applying a coat of stain, you can update the appearance of your project, enabling you to keep up with the latest trends.

Preserved wood remains the most versatile, affordable, easily accessed building material for contractors and do-it-yourselfers. As long as you do your homework beforehand and choose the right wood for your application, your project will be around for your enjoyment for a long time. **EHT**

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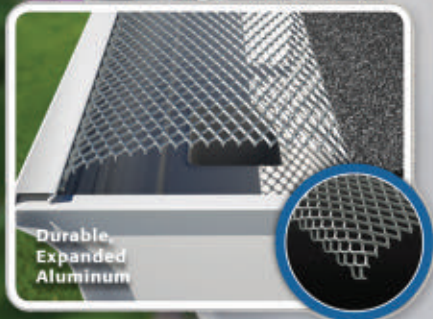
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What is the Best Way to Flush a Radiator?



The corrosion inhibitors in the antifreeze slow this process but never stop it completely. Also, these corrosion inhibitors have a finite life span in your cooling system and after time will start to allow more rapid corrosion to occur.

The biggest cause for increased corrosion in your vehicle's cooling system is improperly mixed antifreeze. Many off-the-shelf antifreeze options require mixing with water before they are added to your vehicle. If you use water from your tap to mix with your antifreeze, you are adding a whole new spectrum of chemicals to your coolant, many of which can be harmful to your vehicle. Even filtered tap water has minerals dissolved in it, especially if you have "hard" water, and many areas have high levels of iron or other metals in the water. Also, chlorine is the most common chemical found in tap water used to kill bacteria and make sure the water is safe to drink. Chlorine is also a very strong corrosive agent, and if added to your vehicle's cooling system can greatly increase corrosion.

Steel isn't your only concern for corrosion particles in your cooling system. Aluminum, copper and brass also can corrode, releasing particles, and the rubber hoses and gasket can deteriorate over time adding to your cooling system gunk.

So now that you're worried about what may be lurking in your radiator, let's look at how to flush your cooling system. First, go to your favorite auto parts store and

Maybe you've taken your car in for some recent service and the mechanic let you know you needed a cooling system flush. Or perhaps you noticed your vehicle was a little low on coolant, and when you went to top it off you noticed some gunk floating in the overflow tank or radiator. Or, my personal favorite, you go to turn the heat on and you only get cold air even after your vehicle is well warmed up.

These all are good indications that it may indeed be time for a radiator flush, or more accurately a cooling system flush. But how did all the gunk get into your radiator, the cap has been on tight for years, so there shouldn't be any way for contamination to get in there—right? If all the gunk that

clogged up your heater core didn't come from outside your engine, then it must be coming from your engine. Is there something wrong, or is something about to break?

Before you go pulling the engine out of your car in search of bigger problems, let's figure out why your cooling system needs to be flushed even though it is a closed system. Antifreeze, it turns out, is more than just green water that doesn't mind the cold weather. The main ingredient in Antifreeze is ethylene glycol and it is the chemical that allows antifreeze to stay liquid even in extremely cold temperatures. Also included in antifreeze is a certain mix of lubricants and corrosion inhibitors. Usually, water and steel don't mix well, and the steel will rust quickly.

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pick up a bottle of BlueDevil Radiator Flush. BlueDevil Radiator flush has a concentrated formula with powerful cleaning agents designed to remove any gunk or scale from your cooling system without damaging any of the components. Drain the coolant from your radiator by opening the drain valve on the bottom of your radiator. Next, drain the coolant from your engine block by opening the block drain also. Make sure to catch all of the coolant in a drain pan, and take it to your local coolant recycling facility or auto parts store.

After draining, close both drains. Add BlueDevil Radiator flush to your radiator, then refill the cooling system with water. Start your vehicle and let the engine idle for 15 to 30 minutes depending on how long it has been since your last coolant flush. Be sure to watch your vehicle's temperature gauge carefully during this time to ensure it does not overheat.

Drain the water and flush the solution in the same way you drained the original coolant. For heavily corroded or high-mileage vehicles, consider removing the hoses from your radiator and heater core and using a spray nozzle on a hose to inject high-pressure water through the

heater core, engine block and radiator. This may help dislodge any stubborn buildups and particles and rinse any remaining flush solution from your cooling system.

Once your cooling system is empty, close the drains as before. Refill your cooling system with the vehicle manufacturer's recommended type and amount of coolant. Be sure to read the instructions on the antifreeze you purchase. Some may require mixing with water, while others may be pre-diluted. Often times it is less expensive to purchase antifreeze that requires dilution. If you choose to go this route, purchase 1 gallon of distilled water for every gallon of antifreeze. Using distilled water in your cooling system will ensure you are not adding any foreign minerals or chlorine to your vehicle.

Once your system is refilled, start your vehicle and let it idle until it reaches normal operating temperature. Watch the temperature gauge carefully to ensure your vehicle is not overheating. Let it idle at normal temperature for about 10 minutes, then shut the car off and let every cool until it is cold to the touch. Once everything has cooled, recheck the coolant level in your radiator and overflow reservoir and fill them to the recommended level. Now you can close your hood and drive with confidence! **EHT**



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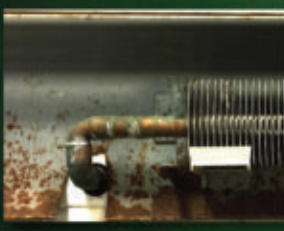
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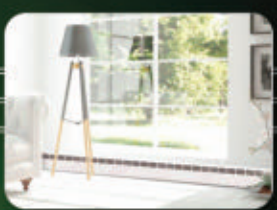


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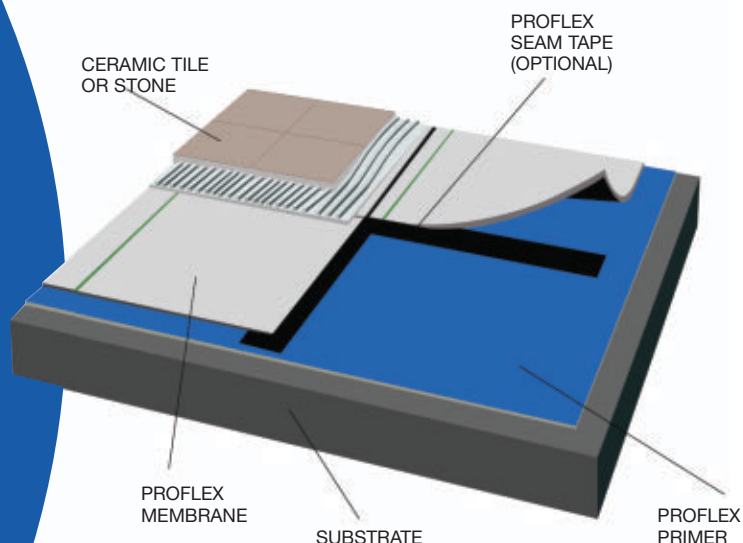
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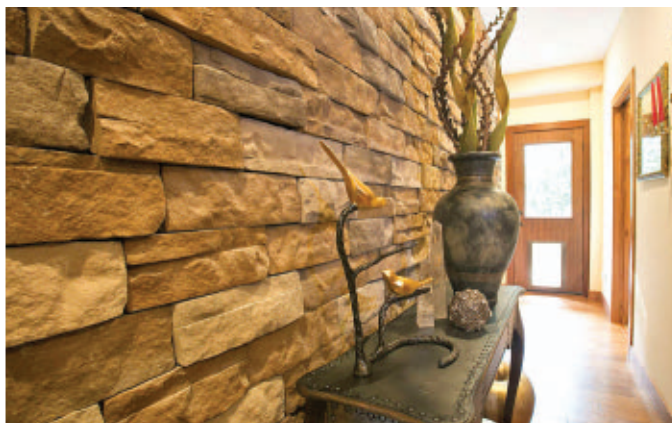
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Ramia HB-S Workbench – A Perfect Solution For Small Spaces

Build all the projects you dream about with this space-saving HB-S workbench. Constructed from European Beech, this bench features the same attention to detail found on the Ramia full-size benches. The 24" x 44" benchtop is equipped with two vises – one in front and one on the end, which can be mounted for either right or left-handed use.

The HB-S easily folds flat, extending only 10" from the wall.



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- Standard kit includes 12 oak wood stair treads, a landing, a complete handrail, and all necessary hardware and connectors.
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- Powder coat finished painted in either Hi-Gloss Black or Hi-Gloss White.
- Can be installed in a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation.
- Stair treads and landing are made of solid Oak wood with a natural stain and a polyurethane protective coating.
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- Rise between stair treads is adjustable from 8 3/8 in. to 9 1/4 in.
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