

HANDY

HANDYMAN CLUB OF AMERICA MAGAZINE

Great Giveaway:
Win a prize package from
TracRac and UWS
Truck Accessories!

Steep-Slope

Solutions

Improve access and boost curb appeal

PLANS & PROJECTS:

Distinctive Deck Chair

Stylish Mailbox Stand

Deck out Your Deck

Basic Boardwalk

PLUS:

**Hardware Show Highlights
and More Innovative Standouts**



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

Find us on Facebook 

**THEY
CAN'T.***

**WAGNER®
CAN.**



**NOW YOU CAN PAINT AT ANY ANGLE WITHOUT
SPITTING OR STOPPING.***



EZ TILT
UNIQUE FLEX TUBE
DRAWS PAINT
FROM ANY ANGLE

**OPTIMUS
DUAL TIP**
EXCEPTIONAL
ATOMIZATION
AND FINISH

Only an innovator like Wagner can give you a smooth, professional finish at any angle. No spitting. No stopping. Our EZ Tilt technology means you can point down at floors, or up at ceilings and eaves, and always maintain a continuous flow of paint. And compared to other sprayers in the same class, as well as rollers and brushes, our Optimus dual tip gives you more uniform atomization and coverage. Any way you look at a job - up, down or sideways - you can't beat the speed, coverage and finish you get from a Wagner Power Painter.

Visit www.WagnerEZTilt.com



WAGNER®
PAINT SMART

*Based on tests of similar sprayers operated at a 90 degree angle pointed directly upward or downward with the paint reservoir less than half full.

CONTENTS

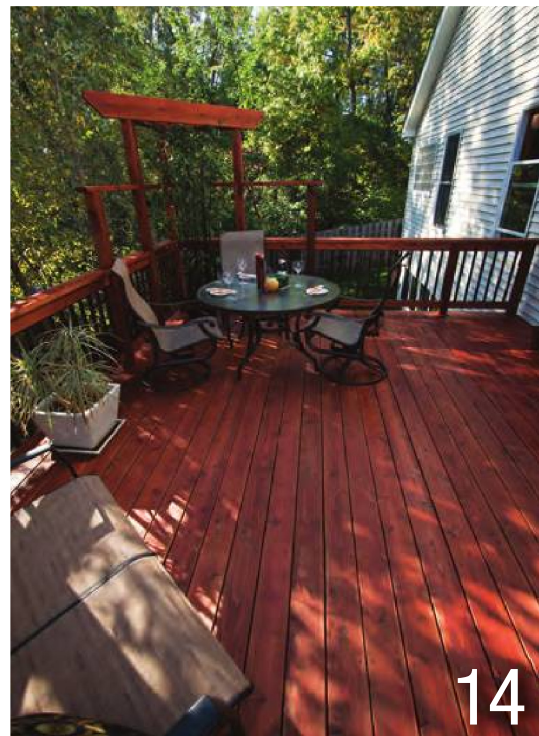
FEATURES

Deck Dressing 14

Creative additions transform an overexposed deck into an intimate spot for relaxing in the shade

Taming a Slope 20

A multilevel retaining wall fixes a steep hill and elevates curb appeal



DEPARTMENTS

Clubhouse: Make a Difference 2

Sharing your handy-human skills

Workshop: Outdoor Slat Chair 6

A seat built for comfort and style

Gear: Showing Potential 28

Goodies from the National Hardware Show

Metalshop: Special Delivery 38

Weld a simple, sturdy mailbox base

Basics: Overcoming Gravity 42

Climb high, climb well

Projects: Walking on Wood 48

Build a classic boardwalk pathway

Histories: Trends in High Places 68

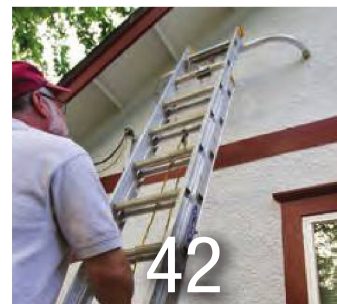
The evolution and elevation of ladders



MEMBER FORUM

Tip Trader	52
HandyWorks/GoodWorks	54
Member Tested	56
Great Giveaway	65
Member Benefits	66

Find MEMBER MAIL, EXPERT ANSWERS and QUIZ at www.HandymanClub.com.



COVER PHOTO BY MICHAEL ANDERSON

HANDY (ISSN 1531-569x) is published bimonthly by the Handyman Club of America, 12301 Whitewater Drive, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343-9447. To become a Club member, send \$18 annual dues to: Handyman Club of America, Box 3401, Hopkins, MN 55343-2101. For Canadian membership, please send \$36 Canadian funds (including 5% GST) for annual dues. Eighty-four percent of each year's dues is for an annual subscription to *HANDY*. Periodicals postage paid at Hopkins, MN, and additional mailing offices. Direct editorial inquiries to *HANDY*, 12301 Whitewater Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55343-2101. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *HANDY*, Box 3401, Hopkins, MN 55343-2101. Canadian Post Publication Mail Agreement No. 40063731. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: *HANDY*, Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor, Ont. N9A 6J5. E-mail: returnsIL@imex.pb.com. Canadian GST registration number R131271496. Copyright 2011, North American Membership Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Produced in U.S.A. Volume 19, Number 4, Issue 107.

TRUSTED ON THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT JOBS. LIKE YOURS.

Want to make sure that handle stays on that coffee cup? Or that sole doesn't come loose from that shoe? Trust the brand proven on the world's most challenging jobs, from jet engines to space shuttles. To find the Loctite® adhesive that's right for your important job, visit loctiteproducts.com.



LOCTITE
TRUSTED PERFORMANCE. PROVEN RESULTS.™

© 2011 Henkel Corp., USA

CLUBHOUSE

Make a Difference

How can we help you help others?

People who possess handy skills can make substantive and immediate improvements in the lives of others. For example, in the aftermath of this spring's disastrous weather, news reports showed people working to help tornado victims dig out, repair and rebuild homes and businesses. But you don't need to wait for a disaster to put your abilities to good use.

As citizens, neighbors, friends and family members, none of us lives in a vacuum. We depend on each other — and our government, private enterprise and religious institutions — to make our society whole, civilized and livable. And when the need arises, there's nothing quite as satisfying as altruistically pitching in. Donating money is probably the most common and convenient way to help others, but offering your time and experience is a precious gift that demonstrates true dedication. Whether it's teaching a neighborhood kid some DIY skills, assisting with a Habitat for Humanity project or working to save an elderly person's home from disintegrating, there are countless ways you can use your know-how to improve your community.

At *HANDY*, we want to help you help others. So we're asking you to tell us how you've put your DIY skills to good use. You can submit an entry to the GOODWORKS department (GoodWorks@HandymanClub.com; see p. 55) or post your text, photos and links on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HandymanClub). Describe what you're doing and why you think it's important, and explain how others could become involved. Once we get some feedback, we'll try to find ways to offer support. We're not sure exactly *how* until we hear from you. Perhaps we can help to get the word out about your cause, coordinate volunteers or join forces with other businesses to provide some supplies. Like many of our DIY projects, this endeavor is a work in progress, and right now we're in the design phase. Your input is essential to help us develop a workable plan.

Whether you can boast of using your skills to benefit many people or are just looking for a way to help someone, remember that no act of kindness is too small. One seemingly insignificant effort can inspire great gratitude and spur others to generous acts of their own. We really can make a difference, one person at a time.



We would like to know how you're pitching in to help others.

LARRY

Larry Okrend
Executive Director
Handyman Club of America

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY HFHI/STEFFAN HACKER



TRUSTED PERFORMANCE. PROVEN RESULTS.™

THE ADHESIVE BRAND TRUSTED ON EVERYTHING FROM PLANES TO PORCHES.

For over 50 years, people have trusted the proven performance of Loctite® adhesives to stand up to the world's most challenging jobs. And there's a Loctite product specially formulated for your important job, too. Find it at loctiteproducts.com.



**Keeps Paint Out.
Keeps Lines Sharp®**



FrogTape® is the only painter's tape treated with PaintBlock® Technology. PaintBlock forms a micro-barrier that seals the edges of the tape, preventing paint bleed. Visit FrogTape.com to see PaintBlock in action, get painting tips and more!

FrogTape.com

877-FROGTAPE
(376-4827)



©ShurTech Brands, LLC 2011/45610

HANDY
HANDYMAN CLUB OF AMERICA MAGAZINE

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 4 • ISSUE 107

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief	Larry Okrend
Managing Editor	Mike Berger
Executive Editor	Dan Cary
Senior Editor	Connie Bastyr
Senior Editor	Jenny Stanley
Online Editor	Gary Legwold
Copy Editor	Ami Johnson
Contributors	Bruce Kieffer Mike Tavis

ART & PRODUCTION

Executive Art Director	Mark Simpson
Art Director	Michael Anderson
Production Director	Paula Reddy
Production Coordinator	Erin Nielsen

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS:
memberservices@HandymanClub.com
800-243-7679



Group Publisher
Grayle Howlett

Senior Vice President Advertising
Steve Clow

Vice President Media Development & Production
Bill Miller

Executive Marketing Director
Bruce Revman

ADVERTISING

Digital Sales

Art Hotz, (646) 862-3905
ahotz@namginc.com

NY and Southeast Sales Director

Tuck Sifers, (646) 862-3911
tsifers@namginc.com

Western Sales Representative

Mike Nelson, Nelson Outdoors Inc.
(503) 968-2304, m.nelsonoutdoors@frontier.com

New England Sales Representative

Scott Buchmayr, Buchmayr Associates
(978) 462-6335, sbuchmayr@worldnet.att.net

Industrial Midwest Sales Representative

Amos Crowley, Buchmayr Crowley Associates
(440) 564-5255, amos@crowleymedia.us.com

Midwest Sales Representative

Sommer Dockery, (312) 346-8857
sdockery@namginc.com

AR, OK, TX, LA

Mike Austy, MJA Media
(214) 252-9971, mausty@sbcglobal.net

Detroit

Jay Gagen, RPM Associates
(248) 230-3777, jay@rpmassoc.com

Shop@HANDY

Colleen Hobbs, (301) 482-1778
chobbs@meaghermedia.com

Direct Response Advertising

Smyth Media Group, (914) 693-8700
Stephanie Delia, stephanie@smythmedia.com
Randi Wisner, randi@smythmedia.com

Backyard Barbeques with a New Twist

A COMBINATION OF WOOD AND CHARCOAL



PRECAST

*A mobile outdoor
fireplace/charcoal grill
that uses durable,
handmade, individual, fire
rated link-logs, does not
require a mason, special
skills or cement.*

**Handmade
in New England**

*If this is your idea
of a good time with family
and friends then
please call PRECAST*

Contact us for a free brochure

Phone:
508-378-7742

Website:
www.precastoutdoorfireplaces.com

e-mail:
precastfireplaces@comcast.net

EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR OVER 30 YEARS

This magazine is printed
on paper that uses post-
consumer, recycled fiber.



YOUR MAIN SQUEEZE

T50 R.E.D.[™] PROFESSIONAL MANUAL STAPLE GUN and 1" BRAD NAIL GUN

Check out these other
great R.E.D.[™] Tools



EBN320 R.E.D.[™]
Electric Brad Nail Gun



ET50 R.E.D.[™]
Electric Staple Gun



Featuring



Arrow Fastener's R.E.D. Reliable. Ergonomic. Durable.[™] tools are built with one thing in mind: Building tools that work when you work, no matter the time of day or the condition of the job.

Arrow builds them right so you can build them right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ U.S. PATENTED DRIVE TECHNOLOGY
Sets staple/nail right on virtually any surface | ☒ HI/LOW POWER SETTING
Drive into hard and soft surfaces |
| ☒ UP TO 60% MORE POWER*
More versatility on the job | ☒ QUICK LOAD MAGAZINE
Get work done faster |
| ☒ EASIER TO SQUEEZE*
Less fatigue on the job site | ☒ BRAD NAIL GUN
The only manual tacker to fire a 1" brad nail |



Like us on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/ArrowFastener



www.arrow-red.com/handy

*As compared to Arrow[®] T50[®] staple gun.
U.S. Patent Nos. 7,637,407, D620,330, and D620,331



Outdoor Slat Chair

BY BRUCE KIEFFER

Cross a park bench with an Adirondack to create a unique seat



A winning combination of form and function — this outdoor chair is comfortable and lightweight, and it features a modern style that makes a statement.

The design for this patio chair has been coming together in my head for a long time. I think of it as a cross between a park bench and an Adirondack chair. I'm not fond of Adirondacks; I find them too hard to get in and out of. My adaptation feels more like a regular chair. It's rock-solid, easy to build and unusual-looking enough to be a conversation starter.

I spent a lot of time adjusting the prototype to make it comfortable and to achieve the look I wanted. (I considered adding arms but decided they would detract from the unique all-slat design.) The holes in the tops of the sides are handholds so the chair can be easily grabbed and moved. The chair is made from cedar, which is rot-resistant; I left

mine unfinished so it would weather to a natural gray color. You could apply exterior-rated stain or finish, but keep in mind that there are a lot of hard-to-reach surfaces that will be difficult to finish.

Construction notes

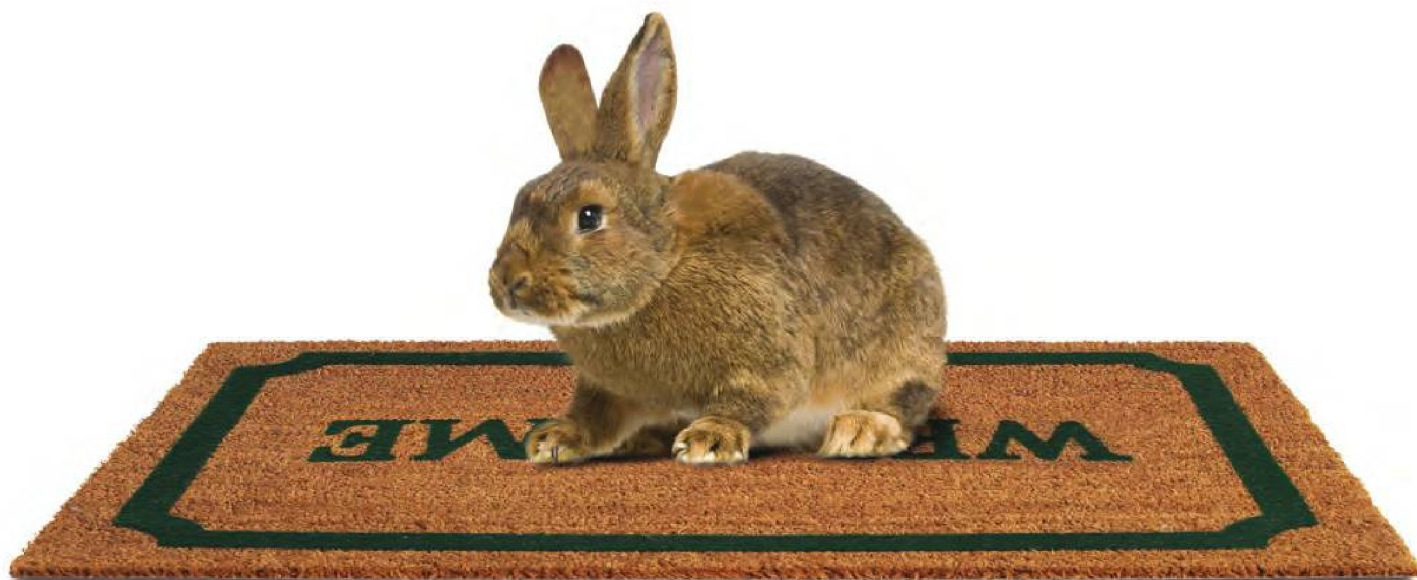
You can expect to spend about \$100 for materials and eight hours on construction. You'll need a table saw, a jigsaw, five 18-in. bar clamps, three 36-in.-opening pipe clamps, one 24-in. bar clamp and another 24-in. clamp that can be converted to a spreader, a pneumatic brad-nail gun, a router, a top-bearing pattern bit and a 1/8-in.-radius roundover bit (see SOURCES ONLINE). I also employed a surface planer because the cedar that I bought at my local

home center was 7/8 in. thick and one face was rough sawn. I used the planer to remove the rough face and make the wood 3/4 in. thick. It is possible to build the chair without planing the wood — just orient the rough faces to the back, bottom, etc.

The sides of the chair are cut from large blanks of edge-glued cedar boards. You must use waterproof glue to create the blanks; otherwise the chair will fall apart when exposed to the elements. The slats are fastened with waterproof glue and galvanized brads set with a pneumatic nail gun. Don't be tempted to forgo gluing the slats to the sides — gluing is essential to the strength of the chair. When you're gluing the parts together, use a damp (not wet) rag to remove

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT JACOBSON AND MICHAEL ANDERSON

Nature has something to tell you.



Thanks. The more efficient a system, the less energy it uses, and the better it is for the environment. The York Affinity™ Series Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps meet or beat the government's energy efficiency standards with SEER ratings of up to 18. Plus, Affinity models are available with eco-friendly refrigerant that is safer for the ozone layer. And all Affinity models are so quiet, you and your "outdoor neighbors" will hardly know when one's running. With Affinity, efficiency comes naturally. Call your York Dealer at **800-910-YORK** or visit york.com to learn more.



UP TO \$500 FEDERAL TAX CREDIT!*

*Offer only available on select products. Call your participating York Dealer for promotion dates and details. Only available through registered York Dealers.

The eco-friendly York Affinity Series Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps.



OUTDOOR SLAT CHAIR

Nail and glue all slats to sides
C1, C2 — 2 nails per side,
C3, C4 — 1 nail per side

Round over top
edges of all slats

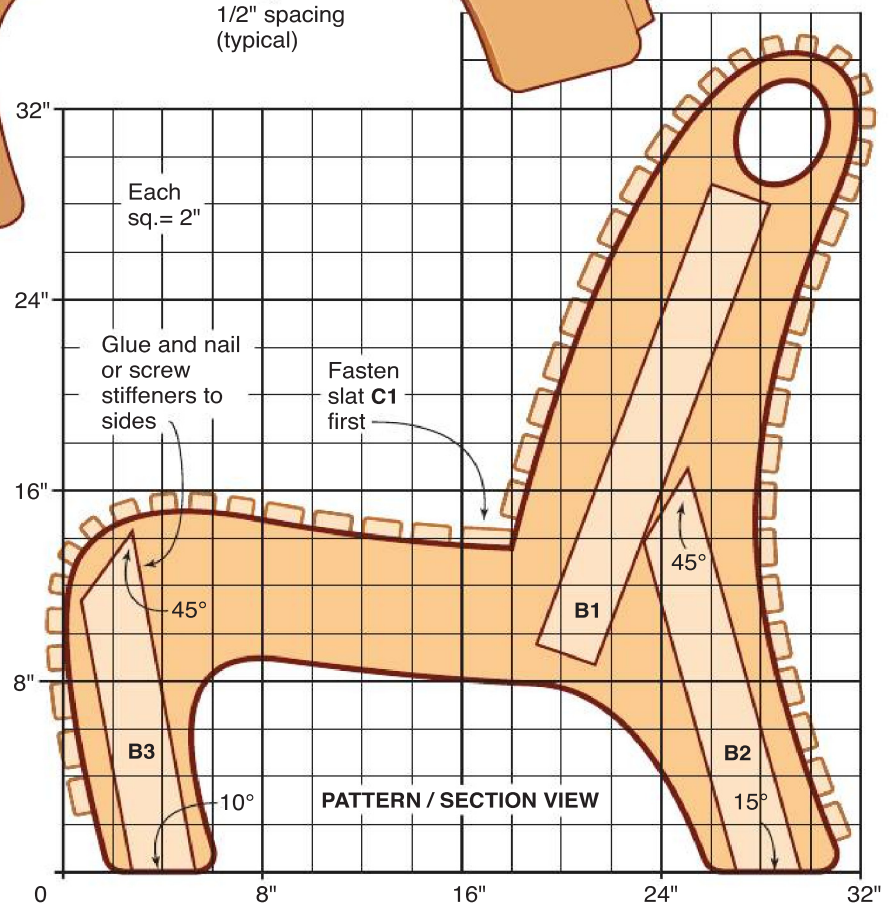
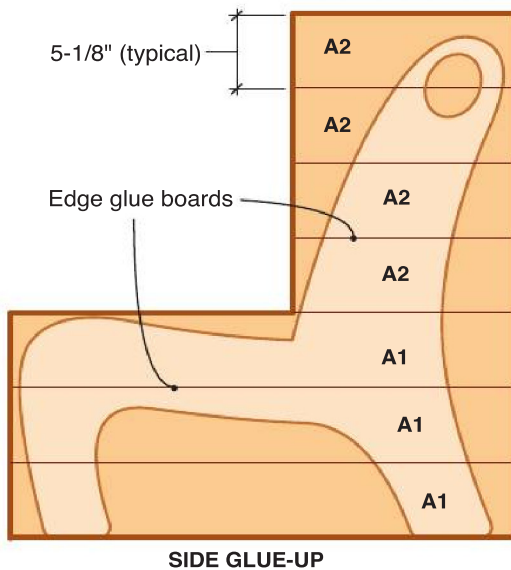
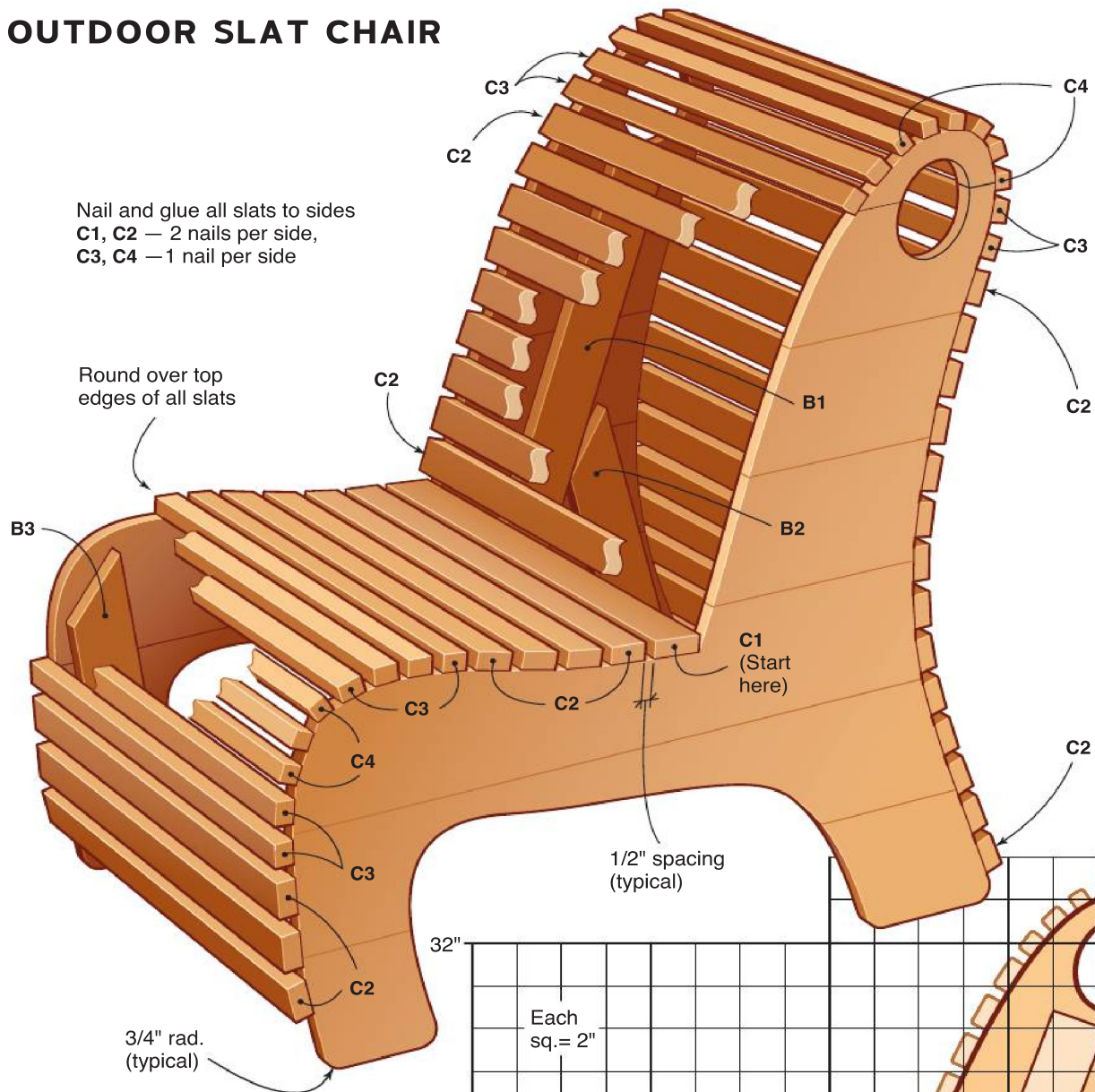


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL GRAPHICS

excess glue. (Dried glue is hard to sand off.)

Working with cedar can be frustrating. I bought construction-grade lumber to save money. It had a lot of knots, some sapwood (very light color) and some separations along the growth rings. Working around these defects takes time and planning. Carefully decide which board to use for each part. Any included knots must be tight and small. Don't use boards with knots or defects for the 3/4-in.-wide slats (C4), and make sure that all of the wood you use is structurally sound. I wound up with about 25 percent waste, which is not unusual with low-grade cedar.

Creating the template

The shapes of the sides are routed using a pattern bit guided against a 1/4-in.-thick plywood template. You have two options for making the template. If you have access to the Internet and a copy center with a large-format printer, you can download the full-size PDF (see Web Extras), send or take it to the copy center and have it printed. The printing instructions appear on the PDF file. It cost me \$7 to print the pattern full-size — well worth the minor expense.

To mount the printout on a 1/4-in.-thick x 36-in.-square piece of hardwood plywood, first apply a light coat of spray adhesive to the paper pattern and to the face of the plywood. Let both pieces dry. Cut a 36-in.-square piece of cardboard or poster board. Lay the cardboard on the plywood and the printout on the cardboard. (The dried adhesive won't stick to the cardboard.) Slowly pull the cardboard out and press the pattern onto the plywood. The two surfaces with the dried adhesive will stick to each other.

The other option is the low-tech, old-fashioned method of transferring the small grid pattern to a larger grid by hand. Draw a 2-in. grid on a 36-in.-square x 1/4-in.-



Lay out the 2-in. grid on a 36-in.-square x 1/4-in.-thick piece of plywood. Mark the intersection points shown on the original pattern; then connect the dots to create the shape. A poker chip is the perfect diameter for drawing the radius on the bottom corners of the legs.



Use pipe clamps when you glue the short upper pieces to the side panels. Place two clamps underneath and one on top. To prevent the metal from staining the workpiece, cover the part of the pipe that touches the glue joint with masking tape.

CUTTING LIST

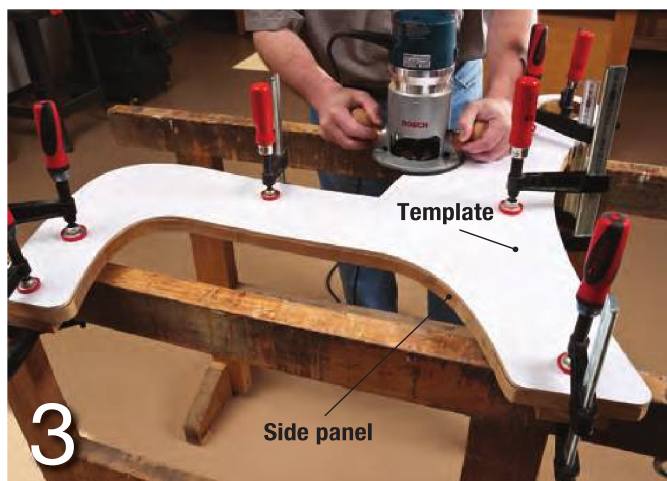
Cedar			
Key	No.	Description	Dimensions
A1	6	Sides	3/4 x 5-1/8 x 33 in.
A2	8	Sides	3/4 x 5-1/8 x 14-1/2 in.
B1	2	Stiffeners	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 21-1/2 in.
B2	2	Stiffeners	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 17-1/2 in.
B3	2	Stiffeners	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 14-1/2 in.
C1	1	Slat	3/4 x 2 x 22 in.
C2	30	Slats	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 22 in.
C3	10	Slats	3/4 x 1 x 22 in.
C4	9	Slats	3/4 x 3/4 x 22 in.

SHOPPING LIST

1x6 x 8-ft. cedar boards (10; includes extra material to allow for 25 percent waste)
 1/4-in. x 36-in. x 36-in. hardwood plywood (1)
 18-gauge x 1-1/4-in. and 18-gauge x 1-1/2-in. galvanized brads
 Waterproof glue
 Spray adhesive

WEB EXTRAS

To download a full size pattern of the sides, go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on Web Extras.



Rout the shape of each side using a top-bearing pattern bit (see **SOURCES ONLINE**) guided against the template. Use a lot of clamps to secure the template in place. You'll need to move the clamps as you work to complete the routing.

thick piece of plywood (photo 1, p. 9). Referring to the illustration (p. 8), mark the points where the shape intersects with the grid; then connect the dots to create the shape.

Once you've transferred the pattern to the plywood, drill a starter hole for the handhold. Using a jigsaw, carefully cut out that opening and the shape



Round over the top edges of the slats using a 1/8-in. roundover router bit (see **SOURCES ONLINE**). Ganging the slats to rout the ends greatly speeds the work.

of the sides; then sand the sawn edges smooth. Take your time — your chair sides will only be as good as your template.

Making the sides

Once you've completed the template, cut pieces A1 and A2 to size (see cutting list, p. 9). You'll need to



THE EASIER WAY TO TRIM AND MOW!

The original, patented DR®TRIMMER/MOWER is both a precision trimmer and a powerful mower!

TRIM within a whisker of houses, trees, fences. Big wheels make it easy for anyone to control precisely!

MOW WITHOUT FEAR of hitting rocks or hidden obstacles, because there's no blade to bend or dull.

GUARANTEED NOT TO TANGLE even in thick, waist-high field grass and weeds — thanks to its patented No-Wrap Trimmer Head. Plus, there's no enclosed deck to clog, as with ordinary mowers.

CUT UP TO 3"-THICK BRUSH with optional, patented Beaver Blade® Attachment.



Self-Propelled Model Available!

72276X © 2011



Call for a **FREE DVD & Catalog**
TOLL FREE **1-888-206-5303**
www.DRtrimmer.com

STUMP REMOVAL FAST & EASY!

ELIMINATE Landscape Eyesores with a DR® STUMP GRINDER!

- Make stumps **DISAPPEAR**.
- **EXPAND** lawn areas.
- **OPEN UP** fields & meadows.
- **BLAZE** new trails.
- **REMOVE** mowing hazards.

The DR® STUMP GRINDER uses carbide-tipped cutting teeth that take over 400 "bites" per second, to pulverize stumps into a pile of woodchips. Quickly and easily, you can grind any size tree stump below ground level. Gone forever!



72277X © 2011

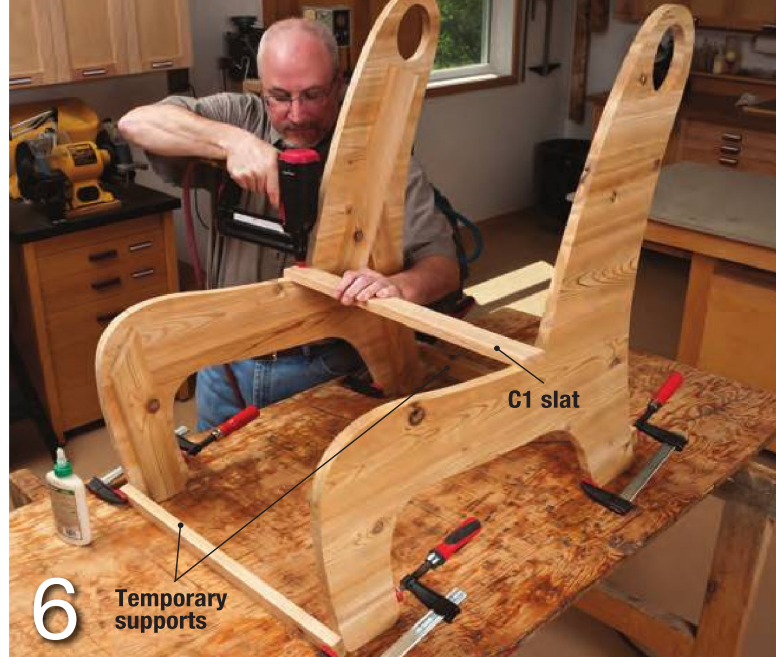


Call for a **FREE DVD & Catalog**
TOLL FREE **1-888-206-5303**
www.DRstumpgrinder.com



5 Align the two sides face-to-face, and use a combination square to draw lines across the outside edges. These lines are visual aids for keeping the slats aligned as they are added.

glue together three A1 pieces for each side: First glue two pieces and let that joint dry; then add the third piece. Next, working with the faces up and using pipe clamps (photo 2), add the A2 pieces one at a time to the side panels. (Cedar is too soft and pliable to use bar clamps for this step — I tried, and the assemblies just kept popping apart under pressure.) Keep in mind that as you work with the faces up, you need to add the



6 Temporary supports
Glue and nail the first slat in place using a pneumatic brad nailer and 18-gauge x 1-1/2-in.-long galvanized brads. Place two brads at each end. Use a damp rag to remove any excess glue before it dries.

short pieces to opposite ends of the blanks so that you create both a right and a left side blank.

Align the template leg bottoms with the bottom edges of the side blanks and trace the shapes onto each blank. Use a jigsaw to cut out the shapes. Cut close to the lines, but leave 1/16 in. to 1/8 in. extra to be trimmed away when you rout the shape. Be very careful when handling the sides; at this stage they are very flimsy.

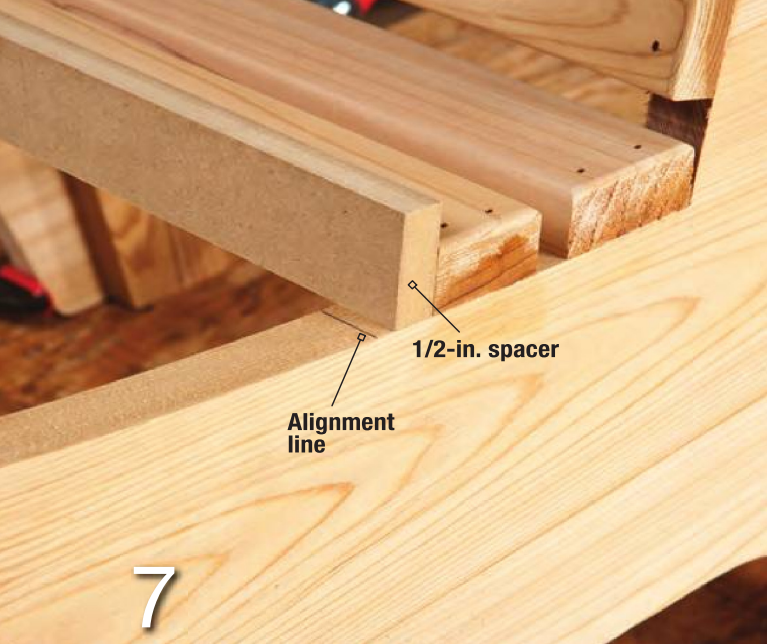
Where there's smoke, there's fire.



TUNE IT WAY UP



ngksparkplugs.com



Space the slats 1/2 in. apart as you glue and nail them in place. Keep the distances between the slat edges and the alignment lines equal at both ends.

Next, make the stiffeners (B1, B2 and B3). Use glue and 1-1/4-in. screws or brads to fasten the stiffeners to the inner faces of the sides. Once the stiffeners are in place, the sides will be much sturdier. The stiffeners also raise the sides to make routing easier. Align and clamp the template to each rough-cut side and rout the shapes (photo 3, p. 10).

Assembling the chair

Make all of the slats (C1 through C4). Cut a few extras of each size in case you find a few bad ones during assembly. Round over the top edges (photo 4); then finish sand the slats.

Draw slat-alignment lines across the outside edges of the chair sides (photo 5, p. 11). Space the lines roughly every 5 in. These guides will help you to space the slats evenly and keep the slats perpendicular to the sides.

Set the sides upright and temporarily clamp a C2 slat at the outside bottom of the front and rear legs. This defines the spread between the sides and holds the sides so that it's easier to attach the first batch of slats. Position the first slat (C1) tight in the corner between the seat and the back; then fasten it with glue and nails (photo 6).

Attach the next few seat and back slats (photo 7). Finish adding the seat top slats, including four C3 slats. Use one brad at each end when attaching the C3 and C4 slats. Then lay the chair on its back and add the rest of the seat back slats (photo 8, opposite). Continue adding slats, being careful to attach the correct number of C3 and C4 slats in the proper sequence. Flip the chair over and add the back slats (photo 9). Flip the chair over again and add the remaining front slats.

As you add slats near the leg bottoms, you may find

GET REVVED!

Join the HANDY TOOLBOX F4 Belt Sanding Team

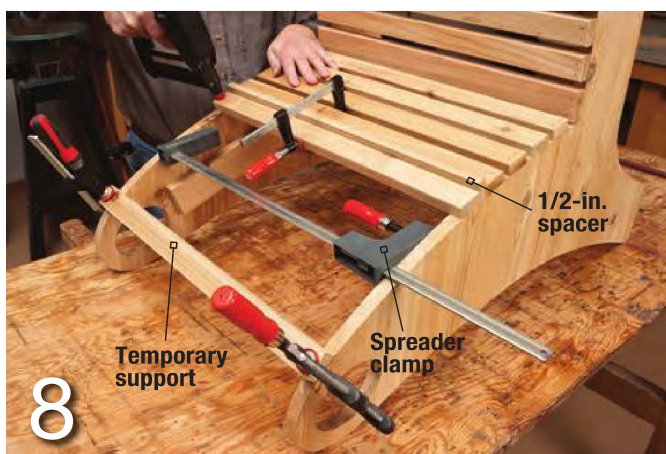


OK, not really, but when it happens, you'll get the call first by reading HANDY TOOLBOX.

TOOLBOX is F4: *fast, fun, informative — and FREE!* Subscribe today, and tomorrow you'll be racing to your e-mail to read about:

- Innovative new tools
- The latest DIY products
- Downloadable project plans
- Wow woodworking how-to
- High-value giveaways
- Deals on exclusive products

For a chance to win a \$250 Home Depot gift card, sign up at: GetHandyToolbox.com/enroll



8 When adding the slats, you may need to spread the sides apart a bit so the slat ends are flush with the sides. Use a spreader clamp to do this.

that you need one more or one less C2 slat to complete your chair. (This would result from a cumulative spacing error, but it's nothing to worry about.) Stop adding slats when the next one would cover any part of the radius corners of the leg bottoms.

All that's left is to finish sand the chair sides and any remaining unsanded surfaces and smooth all sharp edges. There's no need to fill the nail holes. Your chair is ready to take outside and enjoy. ♦



9 As you add the slats, you may need to pull the sides closer together so the slat ends are flush with the sides. Use a 24-in. bar clamp to do this.

Handyman Club life member Bruce Kieffer is a custom furniture builder, freelance woodworking author and technical illustrator. You can see a collection of his work at www.kcfi.biz.

SOURCES ONLINE

For online information, go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on WEB EXTRAS.

Woodworker's Hardware

(CMT Pattern Series straight router bit, No. CMT811.690.11B;
CMT 1/8-in.-radius roundover bit, No. CMT838.190.11)
800-383-0130, www.wwhardware.com

STOP SQUEAKING AND KEEP PNEUMATIC POWER TOOLS LUBRICATED.

3-IN-ONE. MAKES YOUR JOB EASIER.
ITS PRECISION-DRIP SPOUT DELIVERS LONG-LASTING PROTECTION RIGHT WHERE YOU NEED IT, GIVING YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ON ANYTHING SINCE 1894.
WANT A FREE BOTTLE? DETAILS AT 3INONE.COM

©2011 WD-40 Company



DECK DRESSING

Embellish an ordinary deck with privacy-enhancing style

BY MIKE BERGER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WES THOMSEN AND MICHAEL ANDERSON

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL ANDERSON



The ideal deck invites you to relax, unwind and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, many decks place you on display for all your neighbors to see. As soon as you step outside, your every move can be scrutinized by prying eyes. Add to that the sun's glare and your deck becomes an uncomfortable spot that you avoid.

However, you can reclaim your deck from nosy neighbors and harsh sunlight — and add a sense of style and sophistication — by incorporating arborlike structures into its design. Integrated into the deck's railing system, these structures are a great place from which to hang draping plants or outdoor privacy screens. Here's how you can retrofit your deck to block the neighbors' view and create shade in the process.

INSTALLING THE POSTS

The key to this project is proper placement and installation of the cedar 4x4 posts that support the railing sections and form the base of the two corner arbors. Because every deck is unique, actual spacing from post to post will depend on your deck's size and construction. In general, you'll want the posts that make up the corner arbors to be no more than 36 in. apart, and the spacing of the rest of the posts should follow local building codes. If you plan to use a manufactured railing system as we did, you'll also need to follow its installation requirements for post spacing.

Once you've determined the posts' placement, mark their locations on your deck by drawing a box for each post. Drill holes at two opposing corners of the box; then use a jigsaw to cut away the decking (**photo 1**).

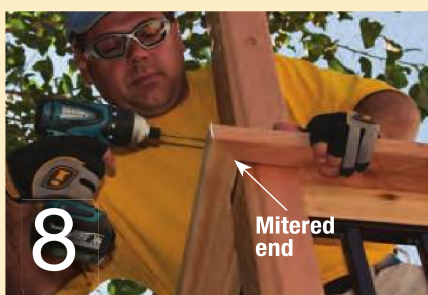
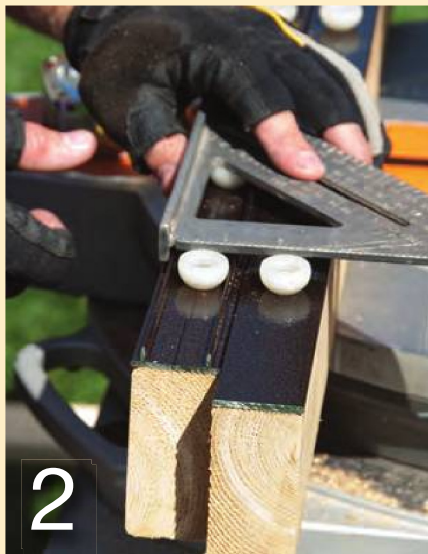
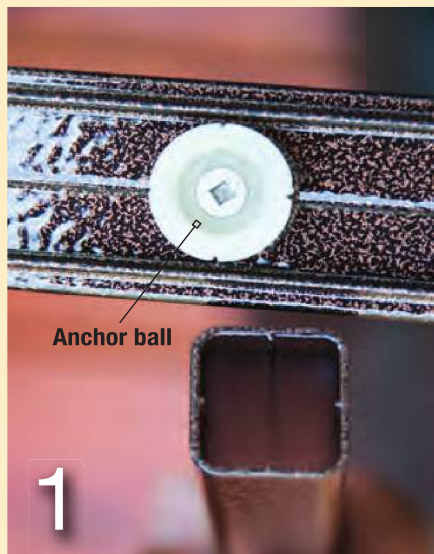
Cut the posts to the correct heights. For this project, we needed six 94-in.-long posts, four 70-in.-long posts and four 45-1/2-in.-long posts. (The lengths include an extra 10 in. to allow the posts to be bolted to the deck's framing.)

Insert each post into its respective hole (**photo 2**). Have a helper hold the post in position, check that it is plumb and then use lag screws and a building strap to secure the post to the deck framing (**photo 3**).

POST PLACEMENT



RAILINGS



BUILDING THE RAILINGS

For this project, we used a modular railing system from Anchorail (see SOURCES ONLINE) that features a metal top and bottom track with “anchor balls” that lock the individual powder-coated metal balusters in place (**photo 1**). Here’s an overview of the basic steps involved in installing the system.

To build the railing sections, start by cutting lengths of 2x4 that are 8 in. longer than what would be required to fit between the 4x4 posts. Attach the tracks to the edges of the 2x4s, and screw the anchor balls onto the tracks. Carefully align the top and bottom tracks, and mark the actual required railing lengths so that the first and last balusters will be equally spaced from their respective posts (**photo 2**); then use a miter saw to cut the 2x4s with the attached track to the required actual lengths (**photo 3**).

Push the individual balusters onto the anchor balls of the bottom rail (**photo 4**). Hold the top rail in position so that its anchor balls fit loosely into the tops of the balusters; then use a rubber mallet to tap the top rail firmly into place (**photo 5**).

Set scraps of 2x4 material on the deck to act as spacers for the positioning of the railing sections. Make sure that each section is vertically centered on the posts to which it attaches; then screw the railing sections to the posts (**photo 6**).

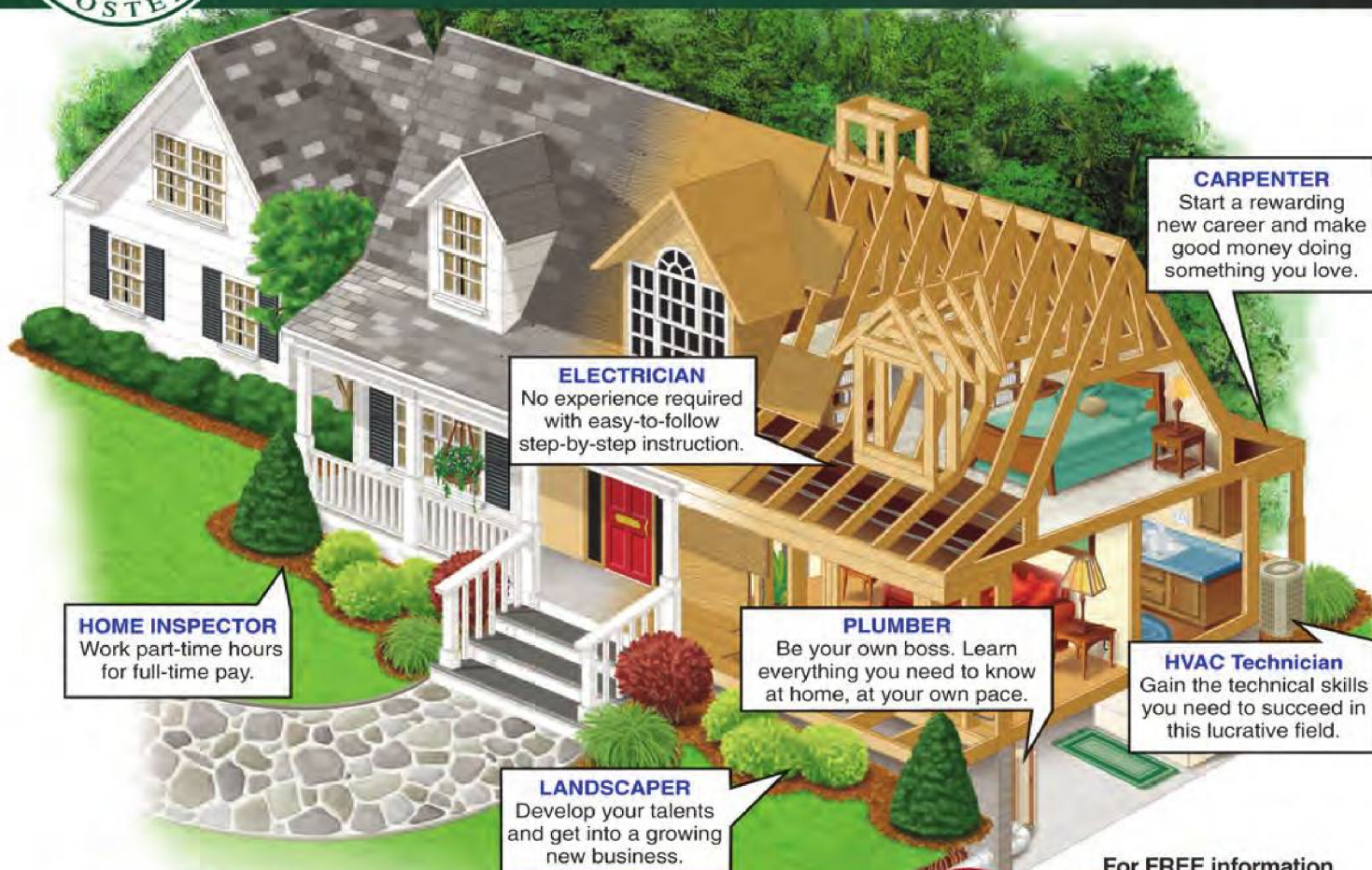
Once you have all of the railing sections installed, you’ll need to attach a cap rail fashioned from 1x6 cedar that has been notched to fit around the posts (**photo 7**). For a professional look, miter the ends of the cap rails (**photo 8**), and make sure that any seams where two cap rails meet fall behind a post so they’ll be out of sight.

Video: An Entire Deck in Two Minutes





Turn Your Weekend Projects Into Weekly Cash. Get the skills you need for a great new career.



HOME INSPECTOR
Work part-time hours
for full-time pay.

ELECTRICIAN
No experience required
with easy-to-follow
step-by-step instruction.

CARPENTER
Start a rewarding
new career and make
good money doing
something you love.

PLUMBER
Be your own boss. Learn
everything you need to know
at home, at your own pace.

HVAC Technician
Gain the technical skills
you need to succeed in
this lucrative field.

LANDSCAPER
Develop your talents
and get into a growing
new business.

Do Work You Love!

You can turn your hobby into a profitable career. If you enjoy home improvement projects, Penn Foster can help you train at home to build, repair, and remodel homes, and earn great money. There's nothing like the feeling of fulfillment that comes from enjoying your job.

Make Great Money!

You'll not only save money on your own repairs, but you'll also make money on clients' home repairs. Get the knowledge and skills you need in the building trades by training at and practicing on your own home.

Learn the Smart Way.

- Study online, in print, or a combination of both.
- Expert instructors are just a phone call, message board, or email away.
- You can interact with other Penn Foster students through eCampus, the school's online community, which includes social networks, blogs, forums, and discussion groups.
- We offer 0% APR financing and customized payment plans.
- Current students and graduates are notified of job openings in their fields of study.
- Penn Foster graduates can take advantage of our Career Services.
- Penn Foster Career School is nationally and regionally accredited.

ACT NOW!
**SAVINGS
OFFER**
AVAILABLE

For **FREE** information
1-800-572-1607 ext. 2379
Call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.PennFoster.edu

Online enter ID# PD9S71T

Or mail the postage-paid card today.



PENN FOSTER
CAREER SCHOOL

925 Oak Street
Scranton, PA 18515
www.PennFoster.edu

CAREER DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Home Service/Building Trades

- ☐ 72 Appliance Repair
- ☐ 104 Carpenter
- ☐ 06 Electrician
- ☐ 384 Furniture & Cabinet Maker
- ☐ 15 Home Inspector
- ☐ 145 Home Remodeling & Repair
- ☐ 14 HVAC Technician
- ☐ 102 Landscaper
- ☐ 151 Plumber
- ☐ 31 Professional Locksmithing

High School

- ☐ 07 Penn Foster High School
- ☐ 755 Penn Foster High School w/ Electrical Concentration
- ☐ 756 Penn Foster High School w/ Carpentry Concentration
- ☐ 757 Penn Foster High School w/ Plumbing Concentration

Finance & Business

- ☐ 70 Small Business Management

Technology

- ☐ 492 Computer Support Technician
- ☐ 54 Drafting with AutoCAD®
- ☐ 27 PC Maintenance and Repair
- ☐ 83 Web Page Designer

Mechanics

- ☐ 04 Auto Repair Technician
- ☐ 55 Diesel Mechanics
- ☐ 33 Motorcycle Repair Technician
- ☐ 89 Small Engine Repair

Other Exciting Programs

- ☐ 25 Gunsmith
- ☐ 58 Private Investigator
- ☐ 22 Wildlife/Forestry Conservation



PENN FOSTER
COLLEGE

Administrative Office
14300 N. Northside Blvd.
Suite 120
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
www.PennFosterCollege.edu

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- ☐ 60 Business Management
- ☐ 65 Electrical Engineering Technology
- ☐ 62 Mechanical Engineering Technology
- ☐ 408 PC Maintenance Technology

Please send me **FREE** information on the Career School or College program I have selected above.
No obligation. Choose **ONE** only.

Name _____ Age _____
Street _____ Apt. # _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Email _____

Mail coupon to Student Service Center,* Dept. PD9S71T, 925 Oak Street, Scranton, PA 18515-0700.

*Under contract with Penn Foster College, AZ.



ARBOR



CUTTING LIST

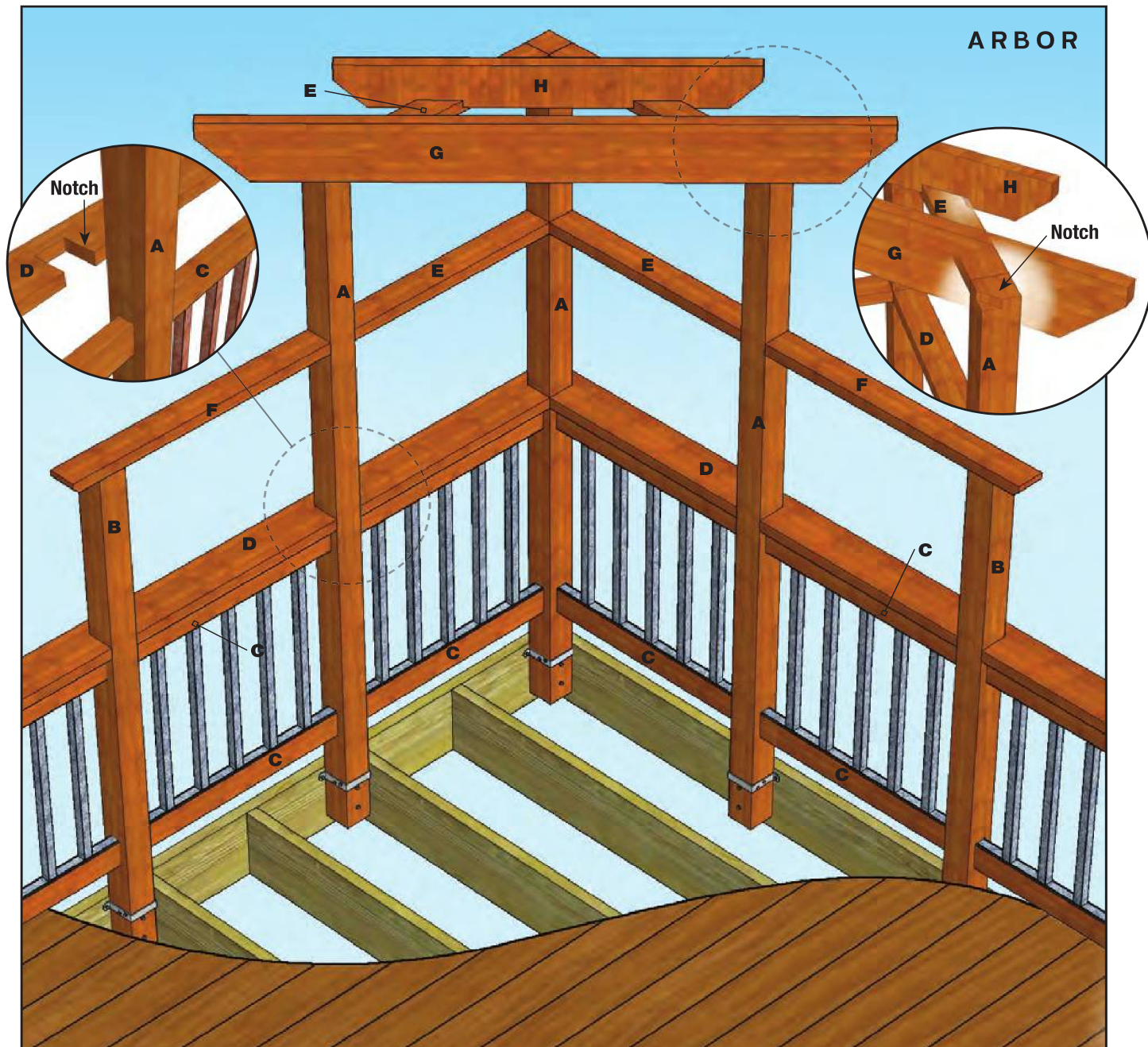
Dimensional cedar (Note: Quantities listed are for one arbor.)

Key	No.	Description	Dimensions (nominal)
A	3	Main posts	4x4 x 94 in.*
B	2	Secondary posts	4x4 x 70 in.*
C	8	Railing members	2x4 x 29 in.
D	2	Railing cap	2x6**
E	4	Arbor horizontals	2x4 x 29 in.
F	2	Arbor horizontals	2x4 x 36 in.
G	1	Front cross member	2x8 x 72 in.
H	1	Rear cross member	2x6 x 45 in.

*includes 10 in. for mounting

**Overall length will vary depending on size of deck.

ARBOR



CREATING THE ARBORS

The two corner arbors lend style to the overall design and create shade and privacy. To build them, start by toescrewing the horizontal 2x4s in place (**photo 1; see illustration for dimensions and placement**). To accommodate the front 2x8 cross member (**G**), notch the tops of the tallest posts (**photo 2**); then set the front cross member into the notches, check that it's equally spaced between the two posts and toescrew it in position (**photo 3**).

You'll need to cut two diagon-

al notches in the rear 2x6 cross member (**H**) so that it can fit over the arbor's top horizontal 2x4s (**photo 4; see illustration for the location of the notches**). There are a variety of ways you can do this; we made repeated passes with a circular saw, cleaned away the waste with a chisel and then used a file to smooth the notches (**photo 5**). Set the rear cross member in place and then toescrew it to the 2x4 upon which it rests.

For increased strength during high winds, you can attach a pair

of triangular gussets to the back of the front cross member and to the topmost horizontal 2x4s (**photo 6**). Finally, stain the railings and arbors. Once they're dry, you can hang any privacy screens or plants you desire and enjoy your newfound retreat. ♦

SOURCES ONLINE

For online information, go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on WEB EXTRAS.

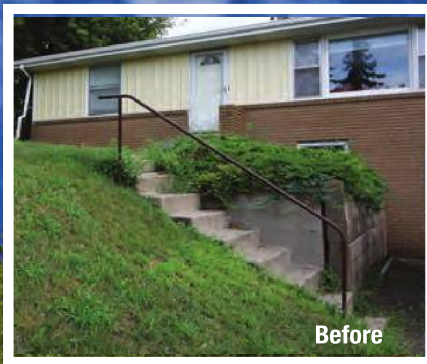
Anchorail

800-233-9349, www.decksolutionsllc.com

Taming a Slope

Refine your landscape with striking retaining walls and steps

BY DAN CARY



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN CARY,
PHIL LEISENHEIMER AND MICHAEL ANDERSON
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL ANDERSON



There's no sugar-coating it: Building a retaining wall and steps like these is a big project. In my case it involved removing an old poured-concrete wall and steps and moving a lot of heavy materials, including dirt, compactable gravel, sand and 80-pound blocks. But although the work was physically challenging, it wasn't as complicated as you might think.

Like most successful projects, this one starts with a good design. I've designed and built several retaining walls, patios and paths, but this project combined all three and added the complicating factor of a steep 7-ft.-high slope, so I sought help. A wall higher than 4 ft. requires additional structural reinforcement and should be designed by a professional who understands the structural engineering requirements. I sketched out a basic plan and then handed it over to Villa Landscapes, the design division of the landscape center where I planned to buy my materials, for completion.

STRATEGY

The steps and the walls of this project are constructed from Versa-Lok standard blocks. We chose these blocks for multiple reasons. First, Versa-Lok provides many detailed drawings and thorough instructions on the company's Web site (see SOURCES ONLINE, p. 25). Second, the blocks use a pin system that makes alignment easy and results in a very strong wall. And finally, it's surprisingly easy to build steps with these blocks. Once the base is formed, all you do is stack the blocks. Called the "base pedestal" installation method, it's similar to building a pyramid. Several blocks are buried and seemingly wasted under the surface, but you're trading the cost of those blocks for the time you save and potential errors you avoid by not having to compact and level multiple tiers.

Machines are essential to a job of this scale. A mini-excavator and skid-steer loader finished in one day what would have required a week of hard labor from two people to accomplish; their rental was money well spent. If you don't have a place on your property to put the extra dirt, you'll need to hire a dump truck to haul it away.

Because we had a professional design and Versa-Lok's excellent installation instructions and drawings, we could have tackled the construction ourselves. But recognizing the value of experience, we hired installers at Highstone Landscapes Inc. to show us how the pros work

BUILDING THE RETAINING WALL



WALL CONSTRUCTION

"The key to building any retaining wall or steps is a good design and getting the elevations [for the base pads] correct — the rest is just stacking blocks," says Highstone's owner, Jay Meyer. The bottom of the steps and the bottom wall are both built on the same level pad. We dug down approximately 10 in. below the grade in front of the wall and 4 ft. into the slope behind the wall (**see illustration, p. 25**) so we could install the geogrid wall-reinforcement mesh. We also had to dig approximately 9 ft. into the slope for the steps. Make measurements as you excavate to check that your depths and layout are accurate (**photo 1, above left**). You must install the pad materials on undisturbed or compacted soil. If you dig a little too deep, do not replace the dirt. Instead, use more base materials to bring the pad up to final grade.

After the excavation is complete, drive stakes into the ground in several locations along the wall layout to establish the compacted pad elevation. Pound in the stakes, checking them with a surveyor's level, until the top of each stake is at the final compacted gravel elevation (**photo 2**). Lay down landscape fabric and compacted gravel until the pad is level at the final base elevation. The accuracy of the base pad is critical, so take your time to

“THE KEY TO BUILDING ANY RETAINING WALL OR STEPS IS A GOOD DESIGN AND GETTING THE ELEVATIONS [FOR THE BASE PADS] CORRECT — THE REST IS JUST STACKING BLOCKS.”

JAY MEYER, OWNER, HIGHSTONE LANDSCAPES INC.



make the compacted pad level and smooth. Next, place two 1-in.-o.d. pipes on the compacted base and dump a layer of fine material such as sand over the pipes and base. The crew from Highstone prefers to use a driveway trap material instead of sand. Screed the fine material across the pipes to leave an even 1-in.-deep layer. Remove the pipes and carefully fill in the pipe tracks with more fine material.

Place the bottom course of blocks on the base material. Check each block to make sure that the top is level, and use a straightedge to align the back edges (**photo 3**). Install the second course of blocks, staggering them so that the vertical seams do not align. The 3/4-in. setback distance is easy to maintain with the Versa-Lok wall blocks because pins connect and align with the course. The pins fit through holes in the top block and into a channel in the bottom block (**photo 4**). Use a string line to align the back edges of each course. Backfill and tamp behind the blocks after each course is installed.

You must use alternating half blocks to build outside corners. We built one outside corner at the return wall (the wall section that turns 90 degrees back into the hill). The half blocks are broken (**photo 5**) rather than cut to create a rough face that matches the other exposed

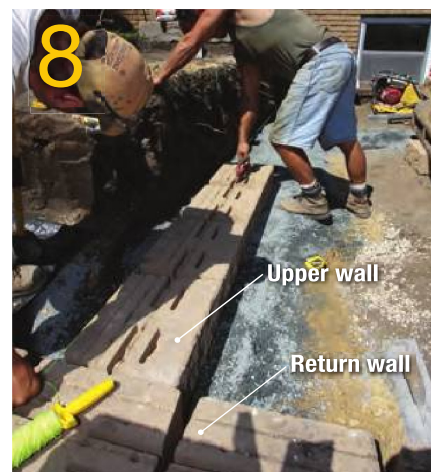


block faces. The corner blocks are secured with concrete adhesive.

We installed the first layer of geogrid on top of the third block course. Place the geogrid on top of the wall, making sure that it overlaps the pin channels. Then lay the next course of wall blocks (**photo 6**). We installed another layer of geogrid on top of the sixth course of block. Backfill and compact the soil behind the wall as you install each course.

DRAINAGE

Providing a path for water to drain from behind the wall is critical to prevent potential damage caused by water pressure and water freezing behind the wall. Drain tile (perforated flexible drain pipe) provides the path for water to drain



from behind the wall. We installed a drain-tile grate between two blocks in the third course. Then we graded the drainage backfill behind the wall to slope down toward the grate. Lay the drain tile behind the wall and connect it to the grate with a coupling (**photo 7**).

We built the upper wall following the same process that we used to build the lower wall. The upper wall is located behind the lower wall at a distance that is twice the height of the lower wall. The upper-wall blocks are connected to the lower return wall (**photo 8**). The base elevation of the upper wall was determined by the elevation of the lower return wall. We excavated to a level so that the upper-wall blocks would match the elevation of the return-wall blocks.

BUILDING THE STEPS



STEP CONSTRUCTION

We used the same Versa-Lok wall blocks to build the steps as we used to build the wall. As with constructing the wall, the most important aspect is to first create a level base pad at the proper elevation. Once the base material was installed, building the steps basically involved stacking up a lot of blocks — a job that was laborious but not complicated.

The steps and walls in our project are connected, but you can also use this system to build steps without any walls. For example, this type of step construction would work well for the steps and stoop on the front of a house.

The bottom course of step blocks

is the most important. The layout must be accurate, and the tops of the bottom-course blocks must be level and flush (**photo 1**). In our case, the front row of the bottom-step course is a continuation of the bottom-wall course, and the return wall is the right side of the steps. We created the 44-in.-wide steps by placing two blocks facing forward and one block turned sideways to make the width of the steps.

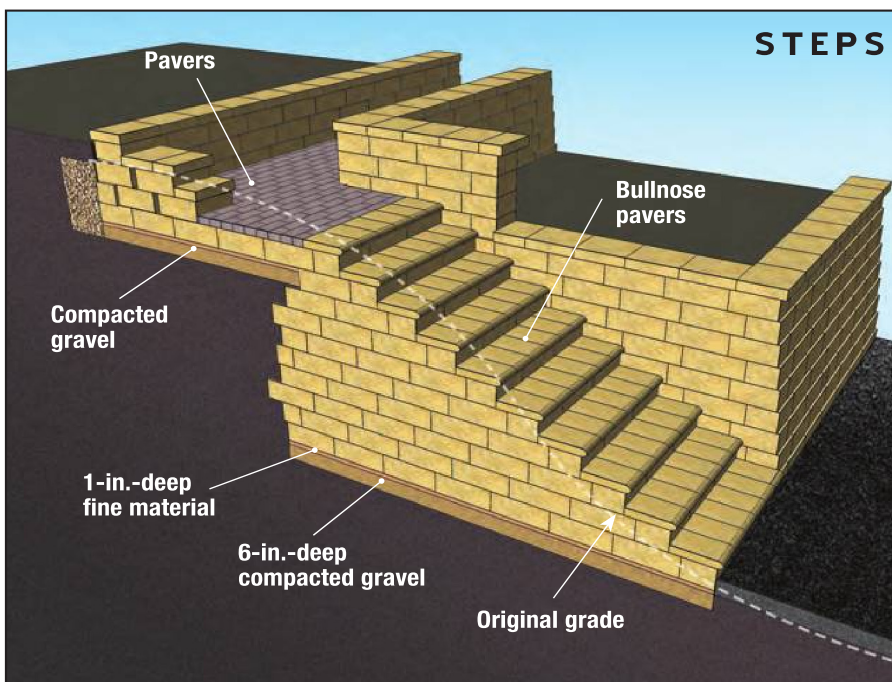
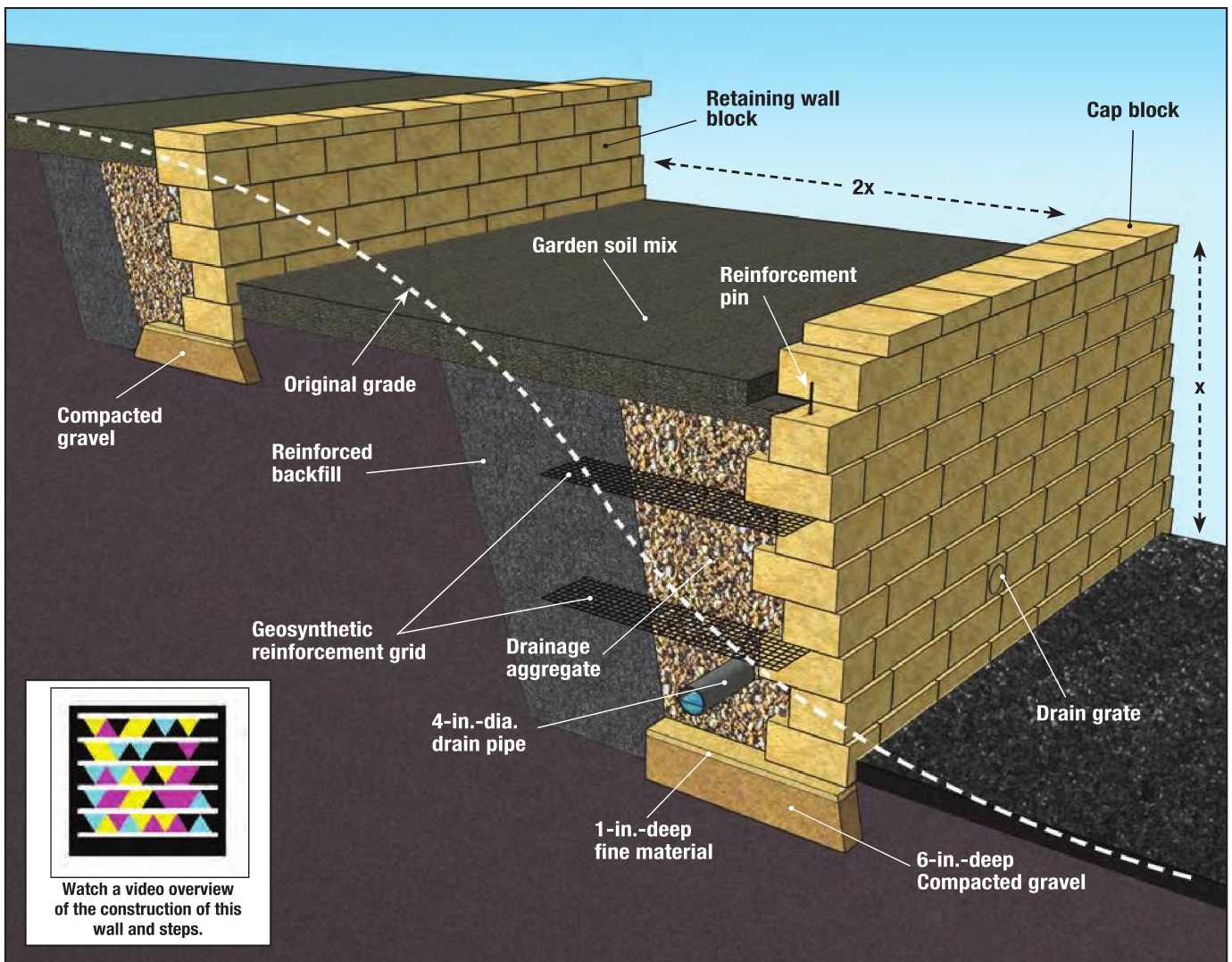
The front edge of each course is set back 11 in. from the previous course (**photo 2**). Each course of blocks is secured using concrete adhesive. Brush the tops of the block clean before applying the adhesive and placing blocks on

top. Even a tiny pebble left under a block can prevent a good fit and cause the next block to rock.

The left side of the steps is partially exposed (**photo 3**). The blocks for the left side are turned sideways to expose the front cut face of the block. The front block of the exposed side must be cut in half so that there is a rough face that matches the other front-face blocks — similar to an outside wall corner.

We capped the steps with bullnose pavers. You could also use wall cap blocks, but we preferred the round face of the pavers. We secured the caps with concrete adhesive and aligned them with a straightedge (**photo 4**).

RETAINING WALL ANATOMY



The landing and path at the top of the steps are made with pavers. The process is the same as building a patio. A gravel base is leveled and compacted and topped with a 1-in.-deep layer of leveled sand or other fine material so that the top of the pavers is flush with the top of the top step.

Though it was a lot of work, the finished project adds curb appeal and function that will last for many years — certainly worth a few days of heavy lifting. ♦

SOURCES ONLINE

For online information, go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on WEB EXTRAS.

Versa-Lok

(product information and detail drawings)
www.versa-lok.com/homeowner/cad-details

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed! • Lifetime Warranty On All Hand Tools!

SALE STARTS TODAY!

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How does Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such ridiculously low prices? We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! Come see for yourself at one of our 350 STORES NATIONWIDE and use this 20% OFF Coupon on one of our 7,000 products* plus with any purchase of \$9.99 or greater, pick up a FREE 7 Function Digital Multimeter, a \$9.99 VALUE with our compliments. We stock Automotive products, Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Tarps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Material Handling, Woodworking Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Outdoor Equipment, Generators, and much more.

NOBODY BEATS OUR QUALITY, SERVICE AND PRICE!

SUPER COUPON!

FREE!
WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE OF \$9.99
CENTECH.

Item 90899 shown

ITEM 90899/98025

7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER

REG. PRICE \$9.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1 Free item only available with qualifying minimum purchase (excluding price of free gift item). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if free item not picked up in-store. Coupon cannot be bought, sold or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP/SPREADER
PITTSBURGH

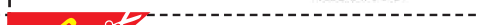
LOT NO. 46807

SAVE 77%

\$1.99

REG. PRICE \$8.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 9 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM!

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1 Use this coupon to save 20% on any one single item purchased when you shop at a Harbor Freight Tools store. *Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on any of the following: gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans, Compressors, Generators, Tool Cabinets, Welders, Floor Jacks, Campbell Hausfeld products, open box items, Parking Lot Sale items, Blowout Sale items, Day After Thanksgiving Sale items, Tent Sale items, 800 number orders or online orders. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

CENTECH.

12" COMBINATION SQUARE SET

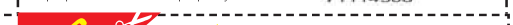
LOT NO. 92471

SAVE 60%

\$3.99

REG. PRICE \$9.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

LOT NO. 97626

80 PIECE ROTARY TOOL SET
drillmaster

SAVE 65%

\$6.99

REG. PRICE \$19.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

HaulMaster

12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT

LOT NO. 96933/67455

SAVE 66%

\$9.99

REG. PRICE \$29.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

OSCILLATING MULTIFUNCTION POWER TOOL

Item 68303 shown

SAVE 66%

\$19.99

REG. PRICE \$59.99

LOT NO. 68303/67256

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

6" DIGITAL CALIPER
CENTECH.

LOT NO. 47257

SAVE 66%

\$9.99

REG. PRICE \$29.99

Includes two 1.5V button cell batteries.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

550 LB. CAPACITY HAND TRUCK
HaulMaster

LOT NO. 96489

SAVE 25%

\$29.99

REG. PRICE \$39.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

CENTRALPNEUMATIC

3 GALLON 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR

LOT NO. 95275

SAVE 46%

\$39.99

REG. PRICE \$74.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.



SUPER COUPON!

CENTRALPNEUMATIC

2-IN-1 COMBINATION AIR NAILER/STAPLER

LOT NO. 97586

SAVE \$70

\$99.99

REG. PRICE \$169.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

SUPER COUPON!

LOT NO. 68316

5" DOUBLE CUT SAW
PROFESSIONAL CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

SAVE \$40

\$79.99

REG. PRICE \$119.99

10-pack of lubricating sticks for cutting metal included.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 3 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON ALUMINUM RACING JACK

LOT NO. 68053

SAVE \$40

\$59.99

REG. PRICE \$99.99

3-1/2 PUMPS LIFTS MOST VEHICLES!

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 11/18/11. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

CENTRAL
PNEUMATIC



SAVE
65%

drillmaster



PITTSBURGH PRO



SAVE
50%

PITTSBURGH



SAVE
40%

CHICAGO POWER
ELECTRIC SYSTEMS



CHICAGO ELECTRIC
POWER TOOLS



US★GENERAL



CHICAGO
Electric Generators

CENTRALPNEUMATIC



NEW!

CHICAGO ELECTRIC
POWER TOOLS



DANGER
LITHIUM-ION BATTERY
RECHARGEABLE
POWER TOOL
#1000000000000000

Showing Potential

BY JENNY STANLEY

Innovation outshines the bright lights of Vegas at the 2011 National Hardware Show

With a boost in both attendance and exhibitor bookings for next year's event, the **2011 National Hardware Show** proved that the sluggish economy can't dampen DIYers' and innovators' enthusiasm. Read on for a sampling of new products from the show and highlights from the second-annual *HANDY* Product Test Shop.



LIGHTING THE WAY

Typical compact fluorescents take a little time to completely light up. For consumers who don't like to wait, **GE Energy Smart Soft White and Reveal hybrid halogen-CFL bulbs** (\$6 to \$8) combine instant bright light with energy efficiency. The bulbs feature a halogen capsule nestled inside the swirl of a CFL and surrounded by a traditional glass bulb. The halogen element provides instant brightness and turns off to save energy once the CFL reaches full illumination.

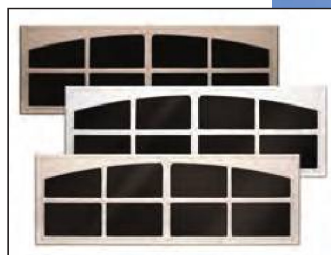


CLEAN CUT

Although it features a 7-amp grinder motor and drivetrain, the **ZipSaw** from RotoZip (\$100) is designed specifically for cutoffs. Its slim, ergonomic body and built-in dust collection offer superior control and visibility.

GARAGE DOOR DETAILS

Coach House Accents (\$120 to \$275) offer easy and affordable ways to update garage doors with realistic window overlays, durable hinges and working handles.



CONVENIENT SCRAPERS

A **retractable razor scraper** with onboard blade storage (shown, about \$3) and a **4-in. glass, tile and wall scraper** with a quick-blade-change feature (about \$5) stand out among several new offerings from Hyde.



Limited Availability

Less Than
~~400~~ 290
Ounces
of Tanzanite
Remain in
This Special
Purchase.

2 carats of
Genuine
Tanzanite

Save near \$700!

African Gem Cutter Makes \$2,689,000 Mistake...Will You?

This story breaks my heart every time. Allegedly, just two years after the discovery of tanzanite in 1967, a Maasai tribesman knocked on the door of a gem cutter's office in Nairobi. The Maasai had brought along an enormous chunk of tanzanite and he was looking to sell. His asking price? Fifty dollars. But the gem cutter was suspicious and assumed that a stone so large could only be glass. The cutter told the tribesman, no thanks, and sent him on his way. Huge mistake. It turns out that the gem was genuine and would have easily dwarfed the world's largest cut tanzanite at the time. Based on common pricing, that "chunk" could have been worth close to \$3,000,000!

The tanzanite gem cutter missed his chance to hit the jeweler's jackpot...and make history. Would you have made the same mistake then? Will you make it today?

In the decades since its discovery, tanzanite has become one of the world's most coveted gemstones. Found in only one remote place on Earth (in Tanzania's Merelani Hills, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro), the precious purple stone is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. Luxury retailers have been quick to sound the alarm, warning that supplies of tanzanite will not last forever. And in this case, they're right. Once the last purple gem is pulled from the Earth, that's it. No more tanzanite. Most believe that we only have a few years supply left, which is why it's so amazing for us to offer this incredible price break. Some retailers along Fifth Avenue are more than happy to charge you outrageous prices for this rarity. Not Stauer. Staying true to our contrarian nature, we've decided to **lower the price of one of the world's rarest and most popular gemstones.**

Our 2-Carat **Sunburst Tanzanite Ring** features marquise-cut gems set dramatically in gorgeous sterling silver. Each facet sparkles with the distinct violet-blue hue of the precious stones. Behind the shine you'll find that the exquisite silverwork of the setting calls to mind the detailed treasures being produced by Europe's finest jewelers. This is a ring designed to impress and it does not disappoint.

Now is the point where opportunity knocks. If you open that door today, you can own this spectacular ring for less than \$100. If you wait? We can't say for sure.

Your satisfaction is completely guaranteed. For our client-friendly approach, Stauer has earned a rare **A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau**, a rating we wish to keep. So, of course, your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you are not completely aglow with the **Sunburst Tanzanite Ring**, send it back within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund. But, please don't wait, our supply is dropping rapidly.

JEWELRY SPECS:

– 2 ctw genuine tanzanite – .925 sterling silver setting – Ring sizes 5–10

Sunburst Genuine Tanzanite Ring (2 ctw)—~~\$795~~

Now \$99 +S&P Save \$696

Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.

1-888-201-7112

Promotional Code TZR401-02

Please mention this code when you call.



ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

Stauer has a Better Business
Bureau Rating of A+

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. TZR401-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

stauer.com

EVERY BRUSH CARRIES OUR SIGNATURE. AND OUR WORD.



At Purdy®, we craft our brushes by hand to the highest standards. And our brush makers complete each brush with a sticker bearing their name. It's a personal promise of quality unmatched in the industry, the signature of Purdy.



Have a painting question? Ask interior designer and TV star Lisa LaPorta for a chance to win a trip to Los Angeles to meet her. **Scan QR code or text "PURDY" to 524824.**

Message and data rates apply. For terms and conditions, visit www.jagtag.com/t&c

Purdy®

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING TOOLS

purdy.com
1.800.547.0780



FOLD FOR STORAGE

SnowBear's new **StrongBox Trailer** (\$1,500) functions as both a traditional 8-ft. trailer and a durable, towable box. Its folding design offers an innovative twist on hauling and securely storing building materials and tools.



CLEAR WINNER

Loctite's new **Power Grab Clear Construction Adhesive** (\$4) goes on white but dries clear, so there's no need to worry about squeezeout on projects such as a chair rail or crown molding.



WOODWORKING SIMPLIFIED

General Tools & Instruments has introduced two must-haves for woodworkers. The **E-Z Pro Mortise & Tenon Jig** (\$150) produces fully aligned 1/4-, 3/8- and 1/2-in. joints using a plunge router. And the **Digital Sliding T-Bevel Gauge** (\$35) takes the guesswork out of measuring, storing and transferring inside and outside angles.



RAISED-GARDEN GREENHOUSE

A DIY space- and back-saving solution for backyard gardening, the new **Plant Inn** from Palram Applications Ltd. (\$349 to \$399) combines the ergonomic benefits of a raised garden bed with the growing advantages of a greenhouse — and provides convenient storage underneath.

2011
HANDY
AWARDS
NOMINEE



PORTABLE PROPANE POWER

A first of its kind, Generac's **LP3250 portable propane generator** combines the green benefits of liquid propane with a compact, easy-to-maneuver design. It features onboard tank storage, a Generac OHV 212cc engine, automatic shutdown when oil is low, and more.



SMART SPRAYER

Wagner SprayTech's **Power Painter line** (\$130 to \$150) eliminates spitting problems with its EZ Tilt technology, which employs a flexible suction tube that remains submerged inside the cup no matter which direction the sprayer is pointed.

VOICING THE ALARM

When it comes to waking children in an emergency, studies show that voice alarms are more effective than beeping, according to First Alert. That's why the company's **Voice Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms** add a recorded voice to the traditional high-decibel beeps. The alarms also announce the location of smoke or carbon monoxide to help inhabitants find the best escape route.



World's #1 Selling Pool Gate Hardware

MAGNALatch®

**Proven, reliable
magnetic technology**

Lowe's Item
#168366

- Highly child resistant
- Key lockable
- Fits new and existing gates
- Will not rust, corrode or jam
- Vertical & horizontal adjustment



TRUClose®

Lowe's Item
#168219

Self-Closing Gate Hinges

- Quick & easy to install
- Safe & easy tension adjustment
- No external closing springs required



Find these products under the brand

STANLEY®

Designed & Manufactured by
D&D Technologies
www.ddtechglobal.com

LOWE'S

Let's Build Something Together™

Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC and Let's BuildSomething Together is a trademark of LF, LLC; all are used with permission



Latch release is out of a child's reach and key lockable for added safety

INSTALL GRATIFICATION TEMPRA® SERIES TANKLESS ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS



- UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF HOT WATER
- SAVES ENERGY AND REDUCES YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS
- SLEEK DESIGN SAVES SPACE
- PROVEN RELIABILITY BACKED BY A THREE YEAR WARRANTY



STIEBEL ELTRON
Simply the Best

TOLL FREE **800.582.8423**

www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com



**Do it the hard way,
or the HYDE® way.**

Get the job done
with one tool,
not 14, with
a HYDE®
14-in-1
Multi-tool.



Scrapes,
patches,
pulls,
opens, closes,
screws and
unscrews
just about
anything on
your to-do list.

**For a better finish,
start with HYDE.®**

hydetoools.com • 800.872.4933

©2011 Hyde Tools, Inc. All rights reserved.



RAIN HARVEST

Get a double-dose of eco-friendliness with the **RainPerfect solar-powered rain-barrel pump** from ITT Corp. (\$139): It allows you to put rainwater to good use without requiring any electricity. The unit can pump as much as 100 gallons on a single solar charge, and it's compatible with standard garden hoses.

SMARTER OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

Eco- and safety-conscious tool manufacturers have made major improvements in these cutting-edge OPE offerings:



The **Worx IntelliCut 36-volt self-propelled mower with PaceSetter** (\$500, model WG789) automatically adjusts to match your walking pace. Also from Worx, the **JawSaw** (\$120) chain saw boasts three safety-enhancing features: a durable jaw that surrounds the chain, a scissor-cutting action that slices wood at a safe angle, and steel teeth that secure workpieces in place.



Black & Decker's **36V Variable-Speed Self-Propelled Cordless Rechargeable Mower** (\$450) allows users to adjust the mowing speed, and it folds to a compact size for storage.



Ryobi's **48V Self-Propelled Cordless Mower** (\$399) features a boost of power without releasing harmful emissions. Also from Ryobi, the **24V Lithium-ion Cordless String Trimmer** (\$159) and **24V Lithium-ion Cordless Extended Reach Hedge Trimmer** (\$159) are light-weight yet powerful tools for tackling landscaping tasks.



Create the Ideal Shaded Retreat...

Turn your deck or patio into your own personal "vacation spot" — perfect for relaxing, dining, and entertaining ...

SunSetter Retractable Awnings provide cool shade and protection for your family and guests, instantly. One touch of a Remote Control and your SunSetter opens, quietly and effortlessly, blocking harsh sun and 99% of UV rays. It can be as much as 20° cooler under your awning. Perfect for parties, with far more shade and protection than a patio umbrella, these beautiful, affordable "outdoor rooms" help reduce energy bills and air conditioning costs as well. SunSetter Awnings have earned the prestigious Good Housekeeping Seal after evaluation by the Good Housekeeping Research Institute.

We invite you to request a free Awning Idea Kit and DVD and learn why SunSetters are the #1 best-selling awnings in America. Our wide selection of designer color choices assures that you'll find the ideal SunSetter for your home.



Motorized and Manual Awnings Available

SunSetter®
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS



©2011 SunSetter® Products

Your FREE Awning Idea Kit & DVD is waiting for you...

Request your kit in any of 4 simple ways:

- 1. Call Toll Free: 1-800-876-8060, ext. 23876**
You can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 2. Email to ideakit@sunsetter.com**
Be sure to include your full name and mailing address.
- 3. Go to www.sunsetter.com** You can request your Idea Kit and use our Dealer Locator.
- 4. By Mail:** SunSetter Products, Dept. 23876
184 Charles Street, Malden, MA 02148. Be sure to include your complete mail address and email address.

Respond to this ad to receive your \$200 Awning Savings Certificate.

What is Purple Ice?



Purple Ice is an advanced, high performance radiator coolant additive.

- Reduces engine temperatures
- Protects against rust and corrosion of aluminum
- Prevents cooling system deposits
- Safe to use with water-only or anti-freeze/water blends

ROYAL PURPLE
SYNTHETIC OIL

Advance
Auto Parts

JECS

O'Reilly
AUTO PARTS

PEPBOYS
AUTO
Parts, Service and Oil Change

SUMMIT
RACING EQUIPMENT



CORDLESS AND COMFORTABLE

In September DeWalt will introduce the **20 Volt Max Lithium Ion line** (\$49 to \$489). Offering a choice between 1.5- and 3-amp-hour slide-lock batteries, these tools feature a slim, ergonomic grip, stellar balance and increased user control. The tools come with a charger that's compatible with DeWalt's 12 Volt Max tools. A currently available highlight from DeWalt is its **24-in. Tote with Power Tool Case** (\$25), a two-level carrier that houses power tools in the bottom and hand tools and accessories in the top.

MEMBER TESTED — IN LAS VEGAS!



Four Club members won a free trip to Las Vegas to test new tools at the 2011 National Hardware Show. The following are a few of their favorites. To watch videos and a slideshow of the event, go to <http://hardwareshow.ning.com>.



Skil's new **Oscillating Multi-Tasker** (\$80) features a 2-amp motor, a no-mar head and an integrated dust-extraction port — plus accessories for cutting, sanding, removing grout and more.



The One+ Cordless 7-1/4-in. Miter Saw (\$99) from Ryobi is lightweight and compact, and it's great for home-improvement tasks such as cutting hardwood flooring and trim.



Professional-grade yet reasonably priced, Ridgid's **Portable Job Site Wet Tile Saw** (\$199) features a rip/miter gauge, a T-square design for fast self-alignment and a sliding fence rail for large tiles.



FETCHING FAUCET

Moen's **Brantford pull-down kitchen faucet** (\$287 to \$446) features an innovative Reflex system that extends and retracts effortlessly, prevents snags under the cabinet and automatically returns to the docked position. It also features a swivel joint between the hose and wand for a full range of spray direction. The Reflex system will be incorporated into all Moen pull-down faucets throughout 2011.



IF PLANTS COULD TALK

Providing guidance for gardeners of all skill levels, the **PlantSmart** from Black & Decker (\$50) analyzes growing conditions and makes recommendations for what to plant, when to water and more. Users simply plug it into a computer to unveil a wealth of personalized information.



NEW PVC GLUE

Gorilla PVC's new **Gorilla Blue Hot Glue** (\$5 for a 4-ounce can, \$8 for an 8-ounce can) is a fast-acting PVC cement that allows for quick pressurization in wet conditions. It is also low-VOC.



**Tough. Reliable.
USA Made.**

UWS provides professionals with a complete assortment of Aluminum and Steel Toolboxes, Step Bars and Accessories. Made in the USA, we have the right product for your vehicle - No compromises.



For more information on products and vehicle compatibility, visit www.uwsta.com



GET RID OF YOUR GUTTERS!



Self-Cleans.

Unique louver design allows leaves and debris to blow or wash away.

Protects Property.

The Rainhandler self-cleaning system eliminates clogged, overflowing gutters and downspouts. No ground erosion. No more destructive ice dams from frozen gutters.

Protects You.

The Rainhandler self-cleaning system protects you from climbing ladders and roofs.

Prevents Erosion.

Runoff is converted to a 2 to 3 foot wide band of soft rain-sized droplets.

Maintenance-Free.

All-aluminum Rainhandler louvers make messy, leaking gutters history.

Guarantees.

Money-back satisfaction guaranteed for one full year, 25-year warranty.

10 SCORE!



Beautifies.

The Rainhandler system is practically invisible. No gutters, downspouts, leaders or splash blocks to detract from the natural beauty of your home.

Installs Easily.

Each 5-five foot section comes with 3 brackets & 6 screws. Do an entire home in 3 or 4 hours.

For **FREE** info or to order call or fax
Ph: 800-942-3004, Fax: 800-606-2028

OR write RAINHANDLER DEPT AH0811

2710 North Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604

www.rainhandler.com/ah

Buy on-line! Enter code **AH811** at checkout
for extra 10% SAVINGS





ask me

Will the right TEMPUR-PEDIC
pillow change *your* life?

Ask your neighbors.

Ask your friends. Find one
of the millions of people

who spends every night with one.

There are actually 11 different
kinds of TEMPUR-PEDIC Pillows,
including our famous NeckPillow,
the popular ComfortPillow and our
plush new TEMPUR-Cloud™ Pillow.

There's a TEMPUR-PEDIC pillow
that's right for you.

"Ask me why I love my TEMPUR-PEDIC® PILLOW."

© 2011 Tempur-Pedic Management, Inc.

EXPERIENCE THEM FOR YOURSELF AT:

Brookstone®

**BED BATH &
BEYOND**

RELAX THE BACK®

Call 800-433-4508 for more information or visit TempurPedic.com
to see our complete pillow line or to find a retailer near you.



The most highly **recommended** bed in America™

Special Delivery

BY MIKE BERGER

Build this stylish metal mailbox stand from easy-to-purchase steel square tube



In 1775 when the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to establish an independent government, one of the first questions its members faced was how to deliver the mail. Benjamin Franklin was appointed chairman of a Committee of Investigation to establish a postal system, and after his report in July of that year, the Second Continental Congress agreed "... that a Postmaster General be appointed for the United States, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia, and shall be allowed a salary of 1,000 dollars per annum" Thus the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the United States Postal Service, was born. And now, 236 years later, we're still enjoying the benefits of that decision.

Of course, to receive mail today, you need a mailbox. Rather than simply attach it to a wooden post, you can easily weld together a stylish steel mailbox stand that will look great and provide years of trustworthy service. Follow these easy steps to craft your own stand that will admirably serve through snow, rain, heat and gloom of night.

WEB EXTRAS



Need to build a wooden mailbox stand? Log onto www.HandymanClub.com to see how to build a four-box stand that can be modified to fit almost any neighborhood.

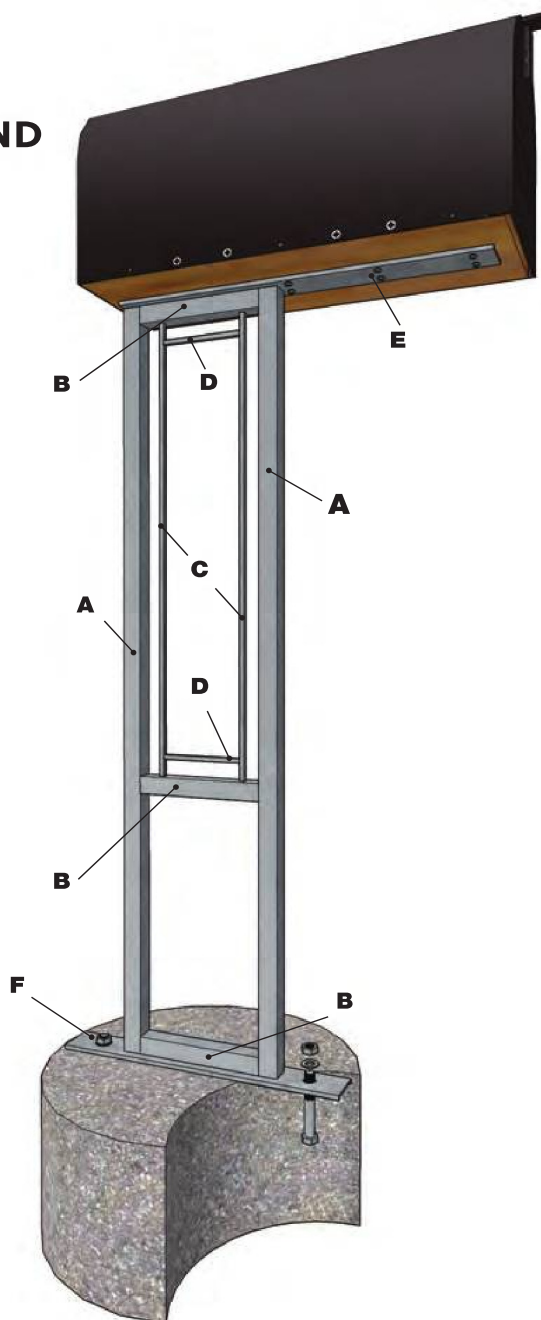
MAILBOX STAND

MAILBOX SPECIFICATIONS

When building a mailbox stand, it's important that you follow these basic guidelines from the United States Postal Service:

- Install the mailbox so the bottom of the box is 41 to 45 in. above the road surface, unless you have a road or curb condition that prevents this. If you do, be sure to contact the postmaster before you change your mailbox location.
- Boxes must be on the right-hand side of the road and in the carrier's direction of travel in all cases in which driving on the left-hand side to reach the boxes would pose a traffic hazard or violate traffic laws and regulations.
- The mailbox should be set back so that the door is 6 to 8 in. from the front face of the curb or road edge.
- The letters or numbers on the mailbox should be at least 1 in. tall.
- A mailbox with a lock must be a model that's USPS approved by the Postmaster General with a slot large enough to accommodate your daily volume of mail.
- Advertising on a mailbox or its supporting post is prohibited.

• You can attach a receptacle for newspaper delivery by a private company to the post of a curbside mailbox used by the Postal Service as long as it doesn't touch or use any part of the mailbox for support, doesn't interfere with mail delivery or obstruct the view of the mailbox flag, doesn't extend beyond the front of the mailbox when the box door is closed, and doesn't display any advertising except for the publication's title. — MB



CUTTING LIST

Key	No.	Description*	Size
A	2	Main uprights	1 x 1 x 43 in.
B	3	Main cross members	1 x 1 x 7 in.
C	2	Infield uprights	1/4 x 1/4 x 26 in.
D	2	Infield cross members	1/4 x 1/4 x 4-1/2 in.
E	1	Mailbox support plate, steel C channel	1/8 x 2 x 20 in.
F	1	Base support, steel C channel	1/8 x 2 x 16 in.

*All parts hollow steel tube except as noted.

SHOPPING LIST

1-in.-sq. x 4-ft. hollow steel tube (2)
 1-in.-sq. x 3-ft. hollow steel tube (1)
 1/4-in.-sq. x 3-ft. hollow steel tube (2)
 1/8 x 2 x 36-in. steel C channel (1)
 1/2 x 4-in. stainless steel bolts, nuts and washers (2)
 No. 10 x 1-1/4-in. stainless steel screws (16)
 Lumber for mailbox base (size according to your mailbox)
 Mailbox



Start by welding together the 1-in.-sq. hollow-tube main uprights (A) and main cross members (B) that make up the framework of the mailbox stand. Carefully align the parts and check for square before striking a weld bead.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!



POWER MIG® 140C (K2471-1)

120 Volt Input MIG Welder

\$599 After \$75
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Helmet
A \$181 Value!



POWER MIG® 180C (K2473-1)

230 Volt Input MIG Welder

\$699 After \$75
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Helmet A \$181 Value!



POWER MIG® 216 (K2816-1)

216 Amp Output MIG Welder

\$1,499 After \$125
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Spool Gun
A \$229 Value!



Square Wave™ TIG 175 (K1478-5)

175 Amp TIG Welder

\$1,699 After \$150
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Spool Gun
A \$229 Value!



Outback® 145 (K2707-2)

Engine-Driven Welder/Generator

\$1,799 After \$150
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Value Accessory Pkg.
A \$405 Value!



Ranger® 225 (K2857-1)

Engine-Driven Welder/Generator

\$2,999 After \$200
Manufacturer Rebate

OR Free Value Accessory Pkg.
A \$424 Value!



To learn more go to
www.lincolnelectric.com

(Customer pricing determined by suggested retail
price less manufacturer rebate)

METALSHOP



Weld in place the two long 1/4-in.-sq. hollow-tube sections (C) that serve as the vertical members of the infield (see illustration, p. 39). Use a short scrap of 1-in.-sq. hollow tube as a spacer to ensure proper placement.



Again use a scrap of 1-in.-sq. hollow tube as a spacer and weld into place the two 1/4-in.-sq. hollow-tube cross members of the infield (D) as shown in the illustration.



Weld the mailbox support plate (E) to the top of the stand. Make sure the support is aligned flush with the back edge of the stand before beginning your weld bead.



Position the stand in the middle of the base support (F), and weld the stand to the base. After all the welds have cooled, grind them smooth.



Drill two 5/8-in.-dia. holes through the base support to accept the ground mounting bolts; then drill eight (four per side) equally spaced 3/8-in.-dia. holes through the mailbox support plate to accept the stainless steel wood screws that will secure the wood mailbox base to the support plate.



Call 811 to have utilities marked before you dig the hole for your mailbox post. Pour a fast-curing concrete base that adheres to your local codes (including frost depth). While the concrete is still wet, insert two 1/2-in.-dia. x 4-in. mounting bolts. Once the concrete has cured, fasten the mailbox stand to the bolts.



Attach a wooden base to the mailbox using eight No. 10 x 1-1/4-in. stainless steel screws; then use the same screws to attach the box to the stand. ♦

Gorilla Tough On A Roll

Incredibly strong, tough and thick; Gorilla Tape is made to stick to rough and uneven surfaces like wood, stone, stucco, plaster, brick and more.



FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH®

GORILLA TOUGH

1-800-966-3458 Made in USA 

Also available in a portable Handy 1" Roll.

© 2011 Gorilla Glue Company

GUARANTEED RELIEF FOR DRY HANDS THAT CRACK & SPLIT

Absolutely Odorless • Non-Greasy



Don't miss out. Buy today or find a store near you. Visit us at www.OKeefesCompany.com

1-800-275-2718 © 2011 The O'Keeffe's Company

100% Money Back Guarantee

Overcoming Gravity

BY MIKE TAVIS

How to choose the right ladder and work safely with your feet off the ground



Before you shop for a ladder — or climb on one — elevate your knowledge of their many styles, types and sizes.

If we could levitate, changing light bulbs and skim coating ceilings would be a snap. Unfortunately, gravity requires that we seek other ways to get our feet and our tools off the ground. Ladders and scaffolding are the two most popular solutions, but they can be dangerous when used improperly. Here's what you need to know to elevate your safety practices when working on high-rise projects.

Ladder basics

Every DIYer has used a ladder at one time or another and probably given it little thought. Yet the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that ladder accidents result in 150 deaths and 180,000 injuries in the United States each year. I've been one of those statistics: Several years ago I was hanging gutters when my ladder slipped out from under me. As I fell, my feet got

tangled in the rungs, and I landed on the outside of my right foot, dislocating my ankle and breaking a bone in my foot. In addition to suffering severe pain, I missed more than five months of work. That accident cost me about \$35,000 in lost wages and medical bills. Needless to say, today I am extremely conscientious about ladder safety.

The material a ladder is made of can significantly affect its performance and your safety. **Aluminum ladders** are a good choice because they combine strength with little weight. **Fiberglass ladders** are the best choice for doing electrical work or when working near power lines because fiberglass is nonconductive. **Wood ladders**, on the other hand, are almost a thing of the past. They are heavy and more fragile than aluminum or fiberglass. Although I still have a couple of wood ladders at home, I use them only for light-duty tasks such as replacing light bulbs and dusting the blades of ceiling fans. At my place of work we no longer use wood ladders — most of them became unstable and warped with age, and many were cracked or missing pieces. Unless your wood ladder is in good condition, stick with more modern materials.

Ladder ratings

Ladders are rated by the amount of weight they can safely bear (including the person using the ladder plus any tools and materials). Each is clearly marked with a color-coded label stating its duty rating:

- **Red (Type III)** is for light-duty and household use and can support up to 200 pounds.
- **Green (Type II)** is medium-duty (up to 225 pounds) and suffices for most painting jobs and typical handyman tasks.
- **Blue (Type I)** is considered heavy-duty (up to 250 pounds).



TUBO' TOUGH



Don't call them wipes!

They're bigger, tougher and soaked with a knock-your-socks-off cleaning solution that annihilates even the most onerous grime. Unlike typical wimpy wipes, our towels hold up to vigorous scrubbing. Inside, outside, on the job, or on the go, there's almost nothing they can't clean. And while they're tough on dirt, they're easy on hands.

Now available at Lowe's® stores nationwide.



REQUEST YOUR

**FREE
SAMPLE
TODAY!**

toll free: 1-855-385-9964
tubotowels.com

See website for details. While supplies last.

©2011 Federal Process Corporation. All rights reserved.



You can modify a stepladder's tray by drilling a hole in it to accept tools — in this case, the handle of a plastering hawk, which is difficult to set down without spilling the plaster.



Besides helping to secure the top end of an extension ladder, a stabilizer bar also props the ladder a few inches from the wall so you can paint or work on the surface directly behind the ladder.

- **Orange (Type IA)** is extra-heavy-duty (up to 300 pounds).

- **Yellow (Type IAA)** is special- or rugged-duty (up to 375 pounds).

I tip the scales at 195 pounds. I need a Type IA extension ladder to safely climb onto my roof with my work belt and a bundle of shingles in tow. If I'm merely changing



To check for a 75-degree angle on an extension ladder, stand with your toes at the ladder's base. If you reach your arms straight out from the shoulders, your fingers should be able to touch the ladder.

a light bulb, a Type III stepladder will be fine.

Styles and accessories

Ladders come in a variety of styles, some more familiar than others.

- **Stepladders** are typically 4 to 8 ft. high, providing a safe reaching height of 8 to 12 ft. (To calculate your range of reach, add 4 ft. to the ladder's height.) The highest permitted standing position on a stepladder is two steps from the top — climbing any higher makes the ladder unstable and increases the risk of losing your balance.

My favorite stepladder is a platform stepladder (upper left photo). It has wide treads instead of rungs, which greatly reduces leg and foot fatigue. Mine also has a large fold-out tray at the top, so I don't have to climb up and down to fetch tools and materials.

- For tasks requiring greater height, an **extension ladder** becomes necessary. These ladders range from 16 to 40 ft. long (when both sections are fully extended with the required four-rung overlap). The highest safe standing position on an extension ladder is four rungs from the top. In addition to

your position, you must consider the horizontal distance from the base of the ladder to the surface where the top of the ladder is propped. Safety requires a 75-degree angle, or 1 ft. of horizontal distance for every 4 ft. of rise (upper right photo, opposite). The maximum reach of a person on an extension ladder is usually 1 to 3 ft. shorter than the ladder's height.

- **Combination ladders**, also known as articulating, telescoping or multiladders, fold and extend in different combinations to offer a variety of configurations. They can be used as stepladders or extension ladders, as a pair of bases for short scaffolding or as a stairway stepladder. Regardless of the style of ladder, it must be properly set up for safe use (see "Ladder Precautions," p. 46).

Several useful accessories are available for various ladders — trays, hooks, tool keepers and paint cups, to name a few. One of my favorites is a ladder stabilizer, which attaches to the top of an extension ladder like a wishbone. It provides a wider "stance" for the top of the ladder and has rubber caps to keep the legs from marring the wall (lower right photo, opposite). **Caution:** Although you can reach a bit farther to the side using a stabilizer, always remember to keep your belt buckle between the ladder's rails so your center of gravity remains within the ladder's width; otherwise you could tip over.

Scaffolding

Scaffolding is typically used when the height or width of the work area makes using a ladder impractical or when the load is too heavy for even a Type IAA ladder. Installing siding, applying stucco and completing masonry projects often require the use of scaffolds. Most DIYers do not own scaffolding, but it's easy and inexpensive to rent. (If you do not have a truck or trailer to transport scaffolding, ask the rental service about delivery.)

Scaffolding sets come in two varieties: rolling (typically used indoors) or fixed (for outside projects). Locking casters prevent the wheeled models from moving during use. Of



SELF-FEEDING DR® CHIPPER!

Just load a DR® RAPID-FEED™ CHIPPER, step back, and watch it chip branches up to 5½" thick!

SELF-FEEDING saves time and energy. Most branches can be dropped into the hopper and will self-feed, instead of you having to force-feed them.

POWERFUL ENGINES up to 18 HP.

PRO-SPEC™ CHIPPER KNIFE is made of forged alloy tool steel, making it exceptionally strong with an excellent edge-holding ability.

72279X © 2011



Call for a FREE DVD & Catalog!

TOLL FREE 1-888-206-5303

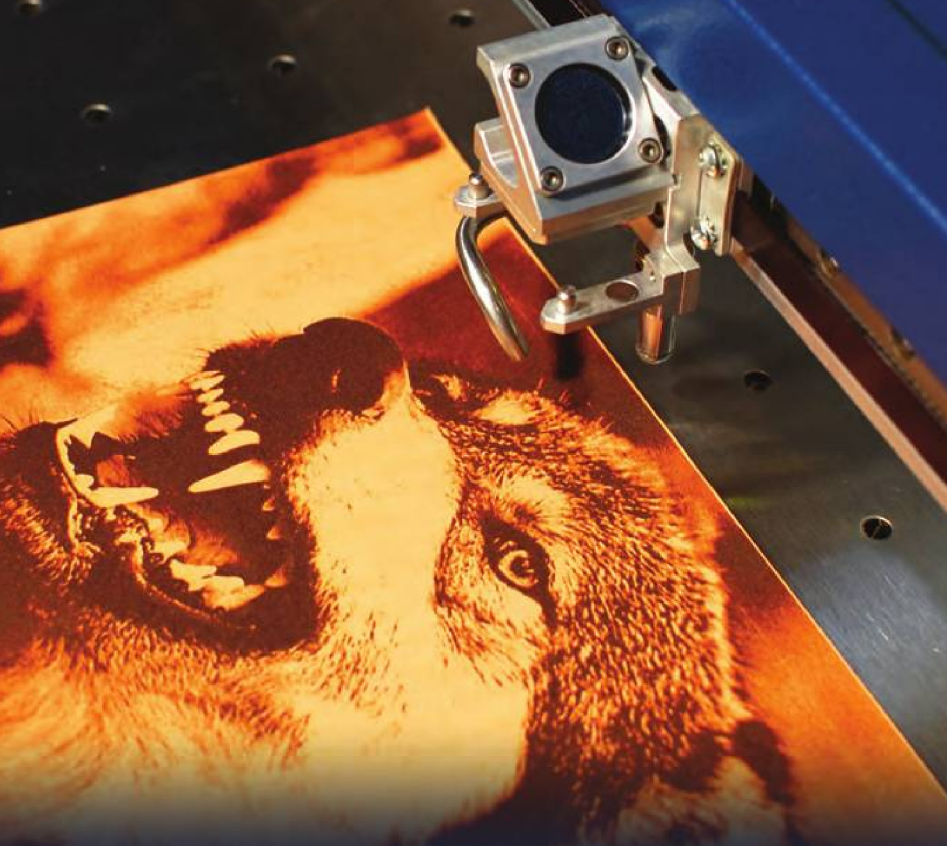
www.DRchipper.com

TRACTOR OWNERS!
3-Point Hitch, tractor-mounted models available.





Laser Engraving and Cutting Systems



MADE IN USA

Systems starting at \$7,995

To request a brochure, DVD, and laser engraved and cut samples visit www.epiloglaser.com/handy.htm today.

sales@epiloglaser.com • 888-437-4564

4 NEW COOL TOOLS

Before starting your next big project, make sure you've got the right tool for the job. Look for these incredibly handy new tools from Kreg on the DIY Channel's upcoming season of 'Cool Tools' with Chris Grundy.

Square-Cut



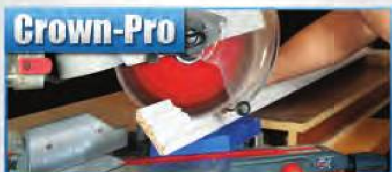
Fast and easy cross cuts. No more 'eye-balling' your pencil mark.

Multi-Mark



Incredibly handy multi-purpose measuring and marking tool.

Crown-Pro



Crown molding – simplified! No more complicated compound cuts.

Deck Jig



Beautiful concealed decking in 3 easy steps. "Drill. Drive. Done!"

Learn more and watch the videos at kregtool.com/ct1



On a job site, OSHA requirements state that when using ladder jacks, the plank may not be higher than 20 ft. from the floor or ground. This is good advice for DIYers, too.

LADDER PRECAUTIONS

Each time you use a ladder, inspect it to ensure that it's in good working order and free of any grease, dirt or oil that might cause you to slip. Make sure that all of the mechanical parts operate smoothly. As you set it up, follow these rules:

- Open stepladders to their full width, and make sure that the cross braces are locked in place.
- Never use a stepladder as you would an extension ladder (folded flat and leaning against the wall).
- A ladder's legs must rest on a firm, level surface. This is usually not a problem indoors, but outdoors you may need to shim one or both of the legs with wood or another flat, hard material. These supports must be able to bear the combined weight of the ladder, the person climbing and any materials and tools. The supports should also be large enough that the ladder's legs won't slip off of them if your weight shifts the position of the ladder slightly. Ladder levelers, short extensions for the legs of extension ladders, will do the same job without the risk of slippage.
- Extension ladders must extend at least 3 ft. above the highest support point (such as the gutter or roofline) to provide a handhold when stepping from the ladder to the roof and to allow for extra contact area in case the ladder shifts.
- If your ladder's legs must rest on a slope (as mine did when I was hanging my parents' gutters), be sure to block behind the ladder by driving stakes, such as pieces of pipe or rebar, deep into the ground. The little metal teeth on the feet of the ladder are not enough to keep the ladder from slipping.
- No matter how well you position your ladder, it never hurts to have a spotter, especially if the ladder is leaning against a curved surface, such as a tree.
- Never move a ladder while standing on it. Always climb down, move the ladder, check its stability and then climb back up. — MT

course, scaffolding should never be moved while people are onboard.

As with ladders, be sure to inspect scaffolding before every use. Check that it is clean and dry and that all parts, such as the locking pins and cross braces, are working and tightly secured. If the unit is 10 ft. or higher, add guard rails and toe boards on the top section to help prevent a fall. On mobile units 10 ft. or higher, outriggers must be used.

When climbing up or down a scaffold (or a ladder), always maintain three points of contact (two feet and one hand, or two hands and one foot). Use a rope or other

hoist to raise tools and materials, or have a partner hand them up to you so you can keep both hands free for climbing.

Other systems

For a midsize project where renting scaffolding is impractical, consider these alternatives:

- Place a plank (2x10 or larger) on the rungs of two facing stepladders, but not higher than the second step from the top of each ladder.
- Install ladder jacks (photo, above) on two extension ladders to hold staging, a third ladder or a plank (again, 2x10 minimum).

In either case, the plank should not hold more than 25 pounds per square foot, and no more than two people may work on such a setup at one time.

If you need a really long span, or if you are working in a space too narrow for scaffolding or ladder jacks, consider renting a pump-jack system. This is a set of two poles, either wood or aluminum, secured to the ground and braced to the building at the top. A plank is raised and lowered by foot-operated jacks.

For roofing work, you can use roof scaffolding or a "chicken walk." Similar to ladder jacks, roof scaffolds are angled braces that support a plank. (They must match the pitch of the roof.) A chicken walk is a long board laid up the pitch of the roof with shorter boards nailed or screwed to it to provide footing (similar to the rungs of a ladder). Both roof scaffolding and chicken walks must be fastened to the roof or secured by 3/4-in. manila rope (or an equivalent).

You'll find more information about scaffolds and ladders at the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Web site (see SOURCES ONLINE). Manufacturers also offer safety guidelines online. Louisville Ladder's C.L.I.M.B. Academy, for example, has training films and DIY tests where you can see results instantly. Some of the precautions may seem like overkill, but trust me, avoiding falls is worth every effort. ♦

Club member Mike Tavis is a DIYer who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SOURCES ONLINE

For online information, go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on WEB EXTRAS.

American Ladder Institute
www.laddersafety.org

Cosco Home and Office Products
www.coscoproducts.com

Ladders.net
www.ladders.net

Louisville Ladder Inc.
www.louisvilleadder.us.com

OSHA
(Occupational Safety & Health Administration)
www.osha.gov

Werner Co.
www.wernerladder.com

Wing Enterprises (Little Giant Ladder Systems)
www.littlegiantladder.com

AVAILABLE AT ZIPPO.COM

LIGHTS ANYTHING. IN A TWISTY-TURNY KIND OF WAY.




The Flexible Neck Utility Lighter has a slim nozzle that fits into most grill openings. Wind resistant, with dual-flame technology, it's the ideal lighter for any outdoor setting.

zippo
OUTDOOR



AIR COMPRESSORS



AIR TOOLS



PRESSURE WASHERS



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT



PORTABLE GENERATORS

smart phone to learn more!
Snap QR code with your



EMPOWERING

Repair, Refinish, Rebuild Furniture. Rotate Car Tires. Power Wash Decking, Siding. Home Generate Power. Till Garden Soil. Paint, Repair Outdoor Furniture, Repair, Build Fences. Repair, Build, Seal Decks. Power Wash Driveway. Inflate Tires, Sporting Goods. Wash Car, Hang Shudders, Build Bird Feeder.....

Powermate

You can find Powermate® products at fine retailers across North America. Call us TOLL FREE: 1-800-628-8815 • powermate.com



Walking on Wood

BY MIKE BERGER

Building a boardwalk is a quick, easy way to create a stylish path



Building a boardwalk is an inexpensive and easy alternative to other pathway projects.

Boardwalks have been a part of American history for close to 150 years. Originally designed to help railroad passengers avoid wet or sandy conditions as they walked to the entrances of luxury hotels in places such as Atlantic City and Virginia Beach, boardwalks have become an iconic part of American scenery.

Closer to home, a boardwalk is a great option if you're considering building a ground-level walkway over stable soil. (Though a boardwalk can also offer a dry path across wet or swampy land, the construction of that type is far different and best left to professionals.) Because a traditional boardwalk rests on the ground, it

requires no footings or concrete — a simple base of leveled, compacted gravel provides plenty of stability for its pressure-treated sleepers. In fact, a boardwalk is so simple to build that you'll only need a shovel and a wheelbarrow, a level, a saw and a drill-driver to complete the project.



Multiple gloves for multiple uses.



Where's your next project? Whether it's at home, in your workshop, at a jobsite or in your own garage, Mechanix Wear has a glove specifically designed to protect your hands and help you work faster, safer and cleaner. So next time you're looking for the perfect tool for the job, start with Mechanix Wear Gloves. The Tool That Fits Like a Glove.® US: 800.222.4296 Canada: 604.542.7055





Start by removing the sod from the area where the boardwalk will rest. Use your spade to carefully shave off any high spots in the soil.

INSTALLING A BOARDWALK



To prevent weeds from growing up through the spaces between boards, install landscape fabric over the soil. Do not use a plastic barrier — it will not drain properly.

TRY A DR® FIELD AND BRUSH MOWER WITH OUR 6-MONTH TRIAL!

CLEAR meadows, trails, underbrush from woodlots, pastures

CUT 8-foot field grass, saplings 3" thick, tough brush

CHOP everything into small pieces



Self-Propelled and Tow-Behind Models

Call for a FREE DVD & Catalog!



TOLL-FREE
888-206-5303
DRfieldbrush.com

DECK & PATIO OWNERS!
Enjoy Your Outdoors More With...

ShadePorch!®

Sunroom/Screenroom

With Windows, Screens & Roof



Turn Your Deck or Patio into a Beautiful Outdoor Room!

- Beat the bugs, rain and weather!
- Spring starts sooner, Summer lasts longer, Fall is fantastic and Winter is Warmer!
- 3" ENERGY STAR® insulated roof is cool in Summer & warm in Winter
- Mounts on your deck or patio with... No site prep! No permits & No taxes!*



ShadePorch®
Sunroom Screenroom



FREE Catalogs and Prices!

www.goshadeporch.com

Savings Code: 1623

or call: 203-557-2576

SunPorch-Dept. 1623
495 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880

*Varies by locale.

1623/INC



3

To create the proper base, cover the landscape fabric with 4 in. of gravel, keeping it level as you go. Lay three pressure-treated boards to serve as sleepers facedown on the gravel — we used 2x4s for edges and a 2x6 for the center — and then check for level one more time.



4

Install the boardwalk's decking (in this case, 5/4x6 cedar boards) by screwing the individual boards to the sleepers below. Allow a 1/8-in. space between boards for drainage, and drive two screws at each point where the board rests on a sleeper. Once construction is complete, apply exterior-rated stain and waterproof finish to maximize your boardwalk's longevity. ♦

consumes less. warms more.

introducing the stylish, new super-efficient *envi* wall-mounted heater

SAVE ^{up to}
50%
or more on
your heating costs.

economical. safe. simple.

Say goodbye to rising heat bills! The super safe, low wattage, *envi* heater costs as little as 4 cents per hour to heat an average room. It is fanless, has no moving parts yet is cool to the touch. Leave it running 24/7 with peace of mind for your children, seniors and pets. The *envi* is totally silent, eco and allergy friendly and is stunningly beautiful in any décor. The *envi*, a revolution in home heating, is designed with "dual stack convection" and has a 3yr warranty. Sold nationwide at fine retailers.

Order Online www.eheat.com or Call 1-800-807-0107

Exclusive 15% OFF Coupon Code: **HANDY1511**

envi
Made in the USA

ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE



New Woodshop



Living Space



Dry Storage



Laundry Room



Basements are 1/3 of your usable living space. DRYLOK® Masonry Waterproofer allows you to transform your damp, useless space into usable space.

Rated #1

Easy to apply

Tintable to custom colors

Guaranteed to stop water

1-800-272-3235 | www.ugl.com

MEMBER FORUM

Tip Trader

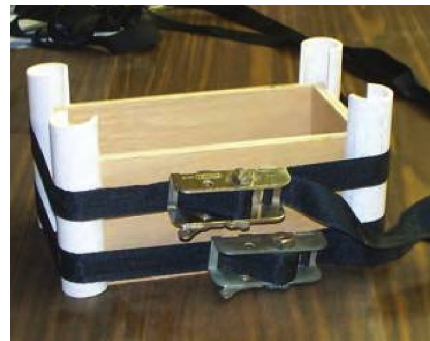
BY MIKE BERGER

Home and workshop hints from Club members



Proper Hole Placement

When Club member **Ken Plante** of Castro Valley, California, was building a storage cabinet for his 100-plus router bits, he wanted a quick and accurate way to drill all of the holes that would be required to store them. So he created a hole-placement index. To use it, he measures and drills the first hole in the series; then he flips down the index so that its point rests in the hole he just drilled. The index's spacer block is the same width as the required spacing between holes, so all Ken has to do is position his drill press bit against the block to achieve even hole spacing.



Shop-Made Corner Cauls

Club member **James Floyd** of Klamath Falls, Oregon, uses 1-in.-dia. sections of PVC pipe to create corner cauls for gluing up boxes. He removes a quarter of the pipe's circumference; then he cuts the cauls to the lengths he needs for his specific project. James notes that the cauls also help to keep glue off of the band clamps during assembly.



Comfortable Gardening

To make his gardening tools easier and more comfortable to use, Club member **Anthony Siegmann** of Liberty Township, Ohio, uses 1-in.-dia. schedule-40 PVC pipe to extend their handles. Because the pipe's inner diameter is just a bit smaller than that of the implement's wooden handle, he first uses a heat gun to soften one end of the pipe. When the pipe is warm enough to stretch, he slips it over the wooden handle, allows it to cool and then cuts it off at a comfortable length. Finally, he uses a file to remove any sharp edges. ♦

SUBMIT YOUR TIP

The member who submits the best tip wins \$200. Other published tips are awarded \$50. Submit your tips by e-mail to:

tiptrader@HandymanClub.com

or mail them to:

**Tip Trader c/o Mike Berger
HANDY, 12301 Whitewater Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343**

Include your name, member number, address and daytime phone number. Sketches and photos are welcome. We regret that we cannot acknowledge or return submissions.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY CLUB MEMBERS

Create-A-Bed Build your own Murphy bed with the Create-A-Bed® Murphy bed mechanism. Step-by-step instructions and DVD included. Call 1-877-966-3852. **Check 1**

Charmaster Wood Furnaces. Oil and gas backup-forced air and hot water. Heat up to 5,000 sq. ft. 20 year warranty. Made in the USA. www.charmaster.com, 218-326-6786. **Check 2**

Drill Doctor® drill bit sharpener is built with the sharpening power needed to restore dull or broken drill bits. It's built tough to last, and is backed by a three year warranty. www.drilldoctor.com 800-597-6170. **Check 3**

D&D Technologies Rust-free gate hardware from D&D Technologies is molded of engineering-strength polymers with stainless steel components and comes with a limited-lifetime warranty. www.ddttechglobal.com, 866-256-4499. **Check 4**

Detailed Play Systems Visit the Build@Home Playground Equipment Store and save! Wooden forts, swing sets, swings and slides. We offer a complete line of playground accessories. Free catalog! www.detailedplay.com, 800-398-7565. **Check 5**

Donald Durham Co. Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty fills cracks and holds in wood or plaster and will not shrink. www.waterputty.com, (515) 243-0491. **Check 6**

DRYLOK by UGL DRYLOK Masonry Waterproofer is guaranteed to stop water. It is tintable, paintable and can be applied by brush, roller or sprayer. Comes with a fully transferable warranty. www.ugl.com, 800-272-3235. **Check 7**

Epilog Laser Epilog's powerful, user-friendly equipment lets you customize woodworking projects, cut parts for custom furniture and more. 100 percent USA-made. www.epiloglaser.com, 888-437-4564. **Check 8**

Econo-Heat Introducing the envi wall-mounted heater. Patented, fanless "Stack Convection Technology." Cool exterior, slim design. Silent, simple installation, three-year warranty, made in USA. www.eheat.com, 800-807-0107. **Check 9**

Goldec Great for debarking, notching and the general handyman. Also saves your expensive band saw blades. www.logwizard.com, 877-640-2240. **Check 10**

Federal Process They're bigger, tougher and soaked with cleaning solution. Our towels hold up to vigorous scrubbing inside, outside or on the go. Loaded with lanolin and aloe, they leave your hands clean and soft. www.tubotowels.com, (855) 385-9964. **Check 11**

FrogTape by ShurTech Brands FrogTape® is the only painter's tape treated with PaintBlock® Technology. PaintBlock® forms a micro-barrier that seals the edges of the tape, preventing paint bleed. FrogTape. www.frogtape.com, 877-FrogTape. **Check 12**

Gorilla Glue is incredibly strong and 100 percent waterproof. It's the idea solution for indoor/outdoor projects. Bonds wood, stone, metal, ceramic, foam, glass and much more! www.gorillatough.com. **Check 13**

Harbor Freight Quality tools at ridiculously low prices! We buy factory direct and pass the savings on to you! HarborFreightUSA.com, 800-657-8001. **Check 14**

IceBlox Inc. Our polycarbonate snow guards feature large, forward-mounted faces that help prevent the dangerous movement of snow and ice on metal roofs. www.snowjax.com, 800-766-5291. **Check 15**

Laser US Guide saves you money by updating your power saw. It will alert you when body parts are aligned with the blade. www.laserusinc.com, 888-767-1262. **Check 16**

Mechanix Wear is the leader in high-performance work gloves, engineered to help you work faster, safer and cleaner. The Tool That Fits Like a Glove.® www.mechanix.com, 800-222-4296. **Check 17**

Moduline Cabinets all-aluminum tool and storage cabinets for home and garage. "Organize with Style" and turn your workshop and garage into a professional work area. www.modulinecabinets.com, 888-343-4463. **Check 18**

Monkeyrack The mobile Monkeyrack provides ultimate safety, strength, and stabilization for extension ladders. www.monkeyrackproductsllc.com, (941) 747-8697. **Check 19**

O'Keeffe's Working Hands O'Keeffe's products offer guaranteed relief for dry hands and feet that crack and split. O'Keeffe's products are odorless, oil-free, hypoallergenic and non-greasy. www.OKeefesCompany.com **Check 20**

Osborne Wood Products Offering decorative table legs, corbels, molding and more. Though we offer a vast collection of stock items, we are also happy to quote custom pieces. www.osbornewood.com, 800-849-8876. **Check 21**

PexSupply PexSupply.com offers plumbing and heating supplies from top brands including Honeywell, Taco and Weil McLain. Free shipping on orders of more than \$300. www.pexsupply.com, 888-757-4774. **Check 22**

Rainhandler Maintenance-free gutter. Converts roof runoff back to rain and disperses it gently in a swath 3 ft. wide. No clogging, no ground erosion. Rugged aluminum, 25 year warranty. www.rainhandler.com. **Check 23**

Red Dragon Propane Torch Kits put the heat on weeds and other tough jobs all year long. Many models to choose from. Made in USA. www.RedDragonTorch.com, 800-255-2469. **Check 24**

Steibel Eltron Temptra® Plus tankless electric water heaters have a digital display for °F or °C readout and Advanced Flow Control™ to maintain set point temperature. www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com, 800-582-8423. **Check 25**

SCREENEZE® makes your work look better. An aluminum base and vinyl cap snap together to build your customer the porch of their dreams. Screen panel up to 150 sq. ft.! www.screeneze.com, 800 884-6697. **Check 26**

Step Saver Repair your stress cracks once and for all with Stress Crack Tape. 100 percent US made, patented. www.stepsaver.com, 888-778-4537. **Check 27**

Stoner Solution Invisible Glass. When compared to ordinary "blue water" glass cleaners, you'll immediately see how quickly Invisible Glass removes even the most difficult grime! www.invisibleglass.com, 888-STONER3. **Check 28**

Summit Chemical Co. Why use dangerous chemicals to kill insect pests? Summit Year-Round Spray Oil and Summit Mosquito Dunks kill insect pests organically. Available at garden centers and hardware stores. www.summitresponsiblesolutions.com, 800-227-8664. **Check 29**

Tempur-Pedic Find your perfect Tempur-Pedic® Bed. Tempur-Pedic gives you better sleep, helps relieve your everyday aches and pains and melts away your stress. Get your best night's sleep! **Check 30**

TracRac by Thule UWS manufactures aluminum and steel truck boxes, storage solutions and accessories. USA Made. TracRac manufactured professional-grade aluminum rack systems for Trucks and Vans. TracRac — Engineered to Deliver. www.tracrac.com, 800-501-1587. **Check 31**

The WeatherTech by MacNeil Automotive Products The WeatherTech® line provides interior and exterior protection for your vehicle. Protect your investment with WeatherTech®. www.WeatherTech.com, 800-441-6287. **Check 32**

WD-40 Company 3-IN-ONE Multipurpose drill oil offers and retailer purchase locations can be found on the Web site. Visit us online. www.3InOne.com, 800-448-9340 **Check 33**

CabinetWorks Available in DIY heavy duty mechanism only or complete all wood beds. We feature the strongest wood foundations. Complete instructions. www.disappearingwallbeds.com 888-249-6188

Central Boiler Central Boiler manufactures outdoor wood, corn and wood pellet furnaces designed to thermostatically heat entire homes, shops, domestic water, and more. www.CentralBoiler.com, 800-248-4681

Clog Hog Remove tough drain clogs with your pressure washer or your money back. Order online and get free shipping (excludes AK, HI, Int'l). www.ClogHog.com

Cyclone Rake Woodland Power Products. The Cyclone Rake turns any riding lawn mower into a powerful, year-round cleanup machine that mulches all your yard debris as you drive. Request a free catalog and DVD. www.cyclonerake.com 888-531-7253

HYDE® 14-in-1 Multi-Tool Hyde's ultimate do-it-all tool scrapes paint, cleans rollers, opens cans, pulls nails and even has screwdriver bits in the handle. Keep one with you while you work and another one handy at home. www.hydetools.com, 800-872-4933.

Pioneer Steel buildings are economical, versatile, durable, maintenance-free and easy to erect. Providing high-quality steel buildings to suit any budget. www.pioneersteel.com, 800-668-5422.

Snorkel Hot Tubs Classic wood hot tubs. Choose our go-anywhere wood-fired tubs or state-of-the-art digitally controlled gas or electrically heated tubs. www.snorkel.com, 800-962-6208.

Waterproof.com Do-it-yourself basement waterproofing products and information. Dry up your wet basement with The SquidGee™ Dry System! A leak-free basement is only a click away! www.waterproof.com, 800-828-2947.

HandyWorks

BY JENNY STANLEY

Your vote will help decide who wins this month; next time, enter a project of your own



On a mission

Club member **James Young** of Sterling Heights, Michigan, handcrafted this Mission-style chair and matching ottoman out of quarter-sawn white oak. He attached the legs of the chair with lock-miter joints and used dowels for all other connections. A 9-degree slope to the arms adds comfort and style. James finished the wood with two coats of Minwax antique oil and topped the chair and ottoman with handmade cushions that complement his living room's decor.



Fresh front entry

After removing an overgrown arborvitae in front of his house, Club member **Jeffrey Rondeau** of Woodbury, Minnesota, wanted to incorporate a sitting area into the newfound space. So he covered the existing concrete stoop with this curb-appeal-boosting open-air porch. Jeffrey used pressure-treated 2x6s and vinyl deck boards with hidden fasteners to create a picture-frame-style pattern that required time and effort, but the result is worth it. "We really enjoy our



new porch and have received many compliments on it," he says.



Lawn tractor transformation

Making use of new and used iron, Club member **James Zacher** of Rugby, North Dakota, crafted this impressive custom loader for his Cub Cadet lawn tractor from scratch. "The parts came from a machinery salvage yard," James says, adding that the main cylinders were once part of a baler, the bucket cylinders came from the power-steering mechanism of an I-H combine, and the hydraulic pump was taken from a pull-style swather. To complete the project, James hired a local shop to make the hoses.



Inspiration strikes

When lightning felled a walnut tree on his property, Club member **Roy Judd** of Fountain Valley, California, decided to put the wood to use. After letting it dry in his barn and then having a local lumberyard plane it, Roy built this rustic outdoor bench. He cut a thick slab for the seat and attached four square legs; then he hand planed two small sections for the L-shape backrest. "The eight spindles were the fun part," Roy says; he used a neighbor's antique belt-driven lathe to turn them. "I take silent, personal pride in that I took an act of nature and created something useful," he says. ♦

CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD

WINNER: Lou Minna of Northville, Michigan

PROJECT: "Mantel to the Max," April/May 2011

PRIZE: Lou will receive an official certificate and a 56-piece Universal Mechanics Tool Set from Craftsman.

Congratulations, Lou!



Craftsman Universal Mechanics Tool Set



VOTE ONLINE FOR YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT

Vote online for one of these projects to receive the Critics' Choice Award. Go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on WEB EXTRAS.

ON A MISSION
FRESH FRONT ENTRY
LAWN TRACTOR TRANSFORMATION
INSPIRATION STRIKES

Voting for this issue will end September 30, 2011. The winner will be announced in the December 2011/January 2012 issue.

SHOW OFF YOUR PROJECT

To have your project considered, send:

1. A photo of your project
2. A detailed description of your project

Address to:

HandyWorks (or GoodWorks)
c/o Jenny Stanley
HANDY
12301 Whitewater Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Or e-mail to:

HandyWorks@HandymanClub.com
or
GoodWorks@HandymanClub.com
We regret that we cannot acknowledge or return submissions.

GoodWorks

HANDY applauds those who extend a helping hand

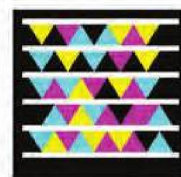


Library for DIYers

Imagine having access to 2,500 affordable tools. Residents of Colorado do, thanks to the **Center for ReSource Conservation's ReSource Tool Library**. The organization accepts donations of unwanted or seldom-used tools and then lends them out for small handling fees with the purchase of an annual membership (\$25 for an individual). More than two dozen similar tool libraries exist in the United States, so look up a location near you to start checking out tools or donating your extras. ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN CASTNER

WWW.HANDYMANCLUB.COM



Check out your local tool library to start checking out tools!



MEMBER-TESTED SEAL

This seal is awarded to products that at least two out of three testers recommend to fellow Club members. The test scores are compiled from all test reports. Ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest.

Member Tested

BY ROSS TANNER, PRODUCT TEST EDITOR

473 Club members tested more than \$62,929 in products



PATIO DOORS

MEMBER RATING: 8.9 BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE

Simonton Windows Inc., 800-746-6686, www.simonton.com

Offering a combination of custom styling and energy efficiency, Simonton replacement patio doors (starting at \$1,100) feature popular hardware and a choice of grid patterns, exterior colors and interior wood-grain laminates. The durable, low-maintenance doors boast fusion-welded vinyl panels and various energy-efficient glass options, including region-specific Energy Star glass packages.

Eric Cichy, Fergus Falls, MN: "Simonton replacement patio doors have excellent style features such as locking hardware and track covers. I've installed many patio doors, and these rank among the best."

Mark Reed, Pataskala, OH: "The Simonton Patio Door is a great value for the price. Its quality, craftsmanship and appearance are far above any other patio door, and it immediately improves your home's energy efficiency."



OSCILLATING TOOL KIT

MEMBER RATING: 9.5 BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE

Bosch Tools, 877-267-2499, www.boschtools.com

Offering the ability to cut, grind, scrape and sand, the versatile corded Bosch MX25EK-33 Multi-X Oscillating Tool Kit (\$199) provides versatility and power for remodeling, woodworking, carpentry, floor installation and more. It features a powerful 2.5-amp motor, a variable-speed dial, constant electronic circuitry to maintain speed, a durable accessory holder with 33 easy-to-change accessories, and a ball-jointed cord swivel. The tool's small, more ergonomic circumference and soft pads enhance comfort and control.

Diana Martin, Otis, OR: "The attachments are easy to change, everything stores in a nice case, and the tool can adapt and assist in many different jobs."

Mark Righter, Blachly, OR: "I used the scraper attachment to take off three coats of paint, the sanding attachment to get in close corners and the wood-cutting attachment when laying flooring. I was able to use one tool for the whole project!"



ACRYLIC-BLOCK WINDOW

MEMBER RATING: 9.5 BEST FEATURE: EASE OF INSTALLATION

Hy-Lite, a U.S. Block Windows Co., 888-256-2599, www.hy-lite.com

Hy-Lite acrylic-block single-hung windows (starting at \$325) are fully operable to allow for ventilation and privacy. They feature a limited lifetime warranty, vinyl-frame construction and specially developed mold- and mildew-resistant caulk that provides a beautiful finish. The windows are available in two block styles and three vinyl-frame colors; you can also have them custom-built.

Howard Nillis, San Antonio, TX: "The window fit perfectly with only three shims, making it extremely fast to install. I like the security of double locks."

Bryan Pike, Goldsboro, NC: "My family thought the Hy-Lite window was a great addition to our bathroom. I liked the ability to open it without the bulkiness of a large privacy window."



OUTDOOR LIGHTING

MEMBER RATING: 9.6 BEST FEATURE: APPEARANCE

i-lighting LLC, 888-305-4232, www.i-lightingonline.com

The I-Lighting Outdoor Lighting System adds illumination, safety and security to a deck and deck stairs. The kit can be installed with only a drill, a 7/16-in. drill bit and a hammer, and it includes wiring, LED light fixtures and mounting hardware along with color-matched screws and wire staples. The simple plug-and-play wiring harnesses make installation easy, and all of the wiring and connections are sealed. The unit plugs into an outlet and includes a PhotoEye that will automatically turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn.

Paul Crutcher, Rineyville, KY: "My family was amazed at how easy the lights were to install. They just snap together with no need for wire pliers or tape, and the lighting is simply beautiful."

Kelly Hanna, Terrell, TX: "The lighting system is well-thought-out and has the easiest installation of any system I've used. The light shines in three directions, putting out more light than a conventional design."



BUCKET ACCESSORY

MEMBER RATING: 8.6 BEST FEATURE: QUALITY

Bercom International LLC, 877-464-1170, www.handypaintpail.com

The Handy Bucket Builder (\$8.99 to \$9.99 each) is a unique accessory that allows you to put 5-gallon buckets to work in a variety of configurations. Each accessory features a slot to hold a 2x4 and can be attached to the top and bottom of a bucket so you can stack buckets to form legs for sawhorses, workbenches, tables, etc.

Tom Weiss, Huntingdon Valley, PA: "Handy Bucket Builders easily fit in the trunk of a car and can form a sturdy, portable bench that holds 200-plus pounds. These things are pure genius!"

Michael Klice, Waterford, NY: "They stack together for easy transportation and can be set up in minutes to create a work surface of whatever length you need."

POWER WASHER

MEMBER RATING: 9.7

BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE

Generac Power Systems Inc., 888-436-3722, www.generac.com

Generac's new residential 3,000-psi power washer (\$399) features a 212cc overhead-valve horizontal-shaft engine. The engine has a low-oil shutdown function to prolong its life and delivers 2.7 gpm for DIY cleaning tasks. Other features include an ergonomic spray gun with a soft grip and an easy-to-pull fulcrum spray trigger, two 3/4-gallon soap tanks, five quick-click nozzle tips that are easy to change without turning off the unit, a 30-ft. hose and a two-year limited warranty.



Michael Payette, Westbrook, ME:

"The Generac 3,000-psi power washer starts easily, runs excellently and has plenty of power, eliminating the need to scrub vinyl siding with a brush. The best feature is that it has two tanks."

Chris Lilly, Delaware, OH:

"I like the quick-click nozzle feature along with the grommet nozzle holders to ensure they are not lost. The setup puts nearly everything you need on the cart."



MITER DUPLICATOR

MEMBER RATING: 8.3 BEST FEATURE: EFFECTIVENESS

Affinity Tool Works LLC, 866-588-0395, www.affinitytool.com

Cut perfect complex miters with the durable Bora Angle Master Miter Duplicator (\$72). The tool easily duplicates all inside and outside angles from 70 to 180 degrees. A graduated scale tells you the angle measurement as well as the angle of your cut. Simply duplicate the angle, lock the thumb knob, split the Angle Master and transfer the cut angle to your saw.

Kevin Kronewitter, Newark, MD:

"The Bora Angle Master Miter Duplicator allows for the transfer of exact angle measurements to a variety of tools, saving valuable time, and it's built to last."

Joe Cesta, Redfield, NY:

"This tool is simple to use and accurate. The miter duplicator allows you to measure and cut once because the fit is always perfect, even on compound joints."

HCOA RECOMMENDED



Products earn these additional seals when favorable ratings are received from members who are trades contractors, automotive mechanics or avid woodworkers.

DEALS AND DISCOUNTS



This icon appears next to select tested and recommended products to signify a special members-only offer. For details about the offer, go to www.HandymanClub.com, roll over the Member Benefits tab and click on Deals & Discounts.

YOU CAN BE A TESTER

To be a product tester, you must fill out a Product Test Profile form. To request a form, call Member Services at 800-243-7679 or go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on Product Testing Program in the left-hand column of the home page. From there, you can fill out the form online.



CLEAR ACRES OF LEAVES — WHILE YOU RIDE!

The DR® LEAF and LAWN VACUUM turns your riding mower into a powerful yard clean-up machine!

VACUUMS leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your lawn using an incredible 85 mph suction force!

SHREDS most everything it vacuums. Reduces the volume of leaves by 90%.

DUMPS OR BAGS collected material.

CHIPS fallen tree branches and prunings up to 2" thick with a built-in chipper.

**WALK-BEHIND
MODELS
AVAILABLE!**



Call for a FREE DVD & Catalog!



TOLL-FREE
1-888-206-5303
www.DRleafvac.com



Smooth Out Driveways with the DR® POWER GRADER!

Tows behind ATV or Lawn Tractor

LOOSENS & REDISTRIBUTES composite driveway surfaces without the need to haul, shovel, or rake new material.

POWERED ACTUATOR controls grading depth with a remote control.

**CARBIDE-TIPPED
SCARIFYING TEETH**

loosen the hardest composite surfaces.



Call for a FREE DVD & Catalog!



TOLL-FREE
1-888-206-5303
DRpowergrader.com



CEILING GRID COVER

MEMBER RATING: 8.8 BEST FEATURE: DURABILITY

Armstrong World Industries Inc., 877-ARM-STRONG, www.armstrong.com

Instantly upgrade an industrial-looking, stained or yellowed drop-ceiling grid with Armstrong StyleStix Ceiling Grid Cover (\$1.25 a lineal foot). Its rigid PVC construction allows for easy snap-on installation, and its elegant detailing adds architectural interest to 2 x 2-ft. drop-ceiling tiles.

Keith Michels, Effingham, IL: "The grid cover was very easy to install and is extremely durable, and I liked the option to paint it. It is perfect for anyone who wants a classier look to their ceiling tiles."

Dan Bateman, Hobart, IN: "Armstrong's StyleStix Ceiling Grid Cover was a snap to install, and everyone who has seen it has commented on how great it looks."



Russell Berlan, Mentor, OH: "The scrapers were useful for pulling up peel-and-stick floor tiles and glued-down carpet. The 2-in. scraper dug out hinge mortises without a chisel and hammer."

Jim Himmelberg, Lincoln, NE: "The Spyder Scraper makes a laborious task much easier by removing dried adhesive from concrete, wood and flaking paint. It saves me time and energy."

SCRAPING TOOLS

MEMBER RATING: 8.3

BEST FEATURE: QUALITY

Spyder Products, 888-471-2239, www.spyderproducts.com

The Spyder Scraper (\$34.99 for a pack of three) is a powerful scraping tool that works with any reciprocating saw, eliminating the need for manual scraping. Three sizes are available (as a set or individually): The 2-in. scraper performs precision scraping and chiseling on tough materials such as ceramic tile adhesive, thinset and vinyl tile; the 4-in. general scraper works well on materials such as glue, linoleum and drywall mud; and the 6-in. scraper is designed for soft materials and maximum volume removal of materials such as paint, rubber-back carpet and wallpaper. Blades can be resharpened as needed.



William Manning, Acworth, GA: "The Echo Bear Cat 3-in. chipper/shredder has an easy-to-start motor and produces finely processed mulch. It's ideal for urban yards, and the pneumatic tires provide easy movement."

CHIPPER/SHREDDER

MEMBER RATING: 9.1

BEST FEATURE: QUALITY

Echo Bear Cat, 888-625-4520, www.bearcatproducts.com

The durable and easy-to-maneuver Echo Bear Cat SC3206 3-in. chipper/shredder (\$1,099) turns leaves, twigs and pruned branches into mulch and compost. Powered by a 206cc Briggs & Stratton overhead-valve motor, it has two reversible blades that will chip a 3-in.-dia. branch or bundle of branches and eight serrated shredding knives for leaves. Other features include two 8-in. pneumatic tires, separate chipping and shredding chutes, solid, welded construction and strong motor mounts.

Eugen Hul, Palm Beach Gardens, FL: "The amount of mulch I got from my yard work was more than needed, so I shared with my neighbors. The machine is easy to store and has reduced my costs for mulch." ◇

MAGNETIC KNEE THERAPY

Helps Relieve Stiffness & Fatigue



- Relieve Pain
- Reduce Swelling
- Improve Circulation

ONLY \$9.97

FREE SHIPPING

**With
32
Internal
Magnets**

**S-T-R-E-T-C-H-A-B-L-E
For A Perfect Fit!**

Dept. 64871 © 2011 Dream Products, Inc.



Without

With

www.DreamProductsCatalog.com

(website offers may vary)

OR

ORDER NOW
TOLL-FREE

1-800-530-2689

MIRACLE SUPPORT FOR YOUR KNEES

Magnetic therapy has been used by the Chinese for centuries to help improve circulation, reduce swelling & relieve pain. Our miracle imported knee support is crafted with layers of washable polyester/spandex for warmth and internal magnets that are believed to help provide relief from stiffness and fatigue in joints and muscles. 9"L x 5 1/4"W. Hurry, order today and get **FREE shipping!** and **FREE gift!**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

MAGNETIC KNEE THERAPY

(89755)

Knee Support(s) @ \$9.97
Plus A **FREE** Gift! \$

CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax \$

Add Regular Shipping ~~\$3.95~~ **FREE**

Add \$1.00 Handling \$ 1.00

☒ **FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional)**
Add An Additional \$2.95
(receive your order 5-7 days from shipment) \$2.95

Please print clearly.

TOTAL \$

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover@/NOVUS™ Cards

Dept. 64871

Card#

Expiration Date

Name

Address

City

ST

Zip

Daytime Phone #

Email Address

Check or money order payable to: **Dream Products, Inc.**
Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496



Completely Custom
Made to order Table Apron Kits.

EQUALIZER SLIDES
TABLE SLIDES



YOUR NEW SOURCE
FOR TABLE SLIDES



WWW.WOODLEGS.COM

866.963.5581

Monkeyrack®

Exclusive
New
Product!

The
Mobile
Ladder
Stabilizer

you've
been
waiting
for!



941.747.8697

www.Monkeyrack.com

Order online or call to place a credit card order today.

Monkeyrack Products LLC
Bradenton, FL USA

**ELIMINATE HIGH
HEATING BILLS!**

**CENTRAL BOILER
E-CLASSIC®**

Outdoor Wood Gasification Furnace

Don't wait any
longer! Start saving
money on your
heating bill when
you heat your entire
home, water and
more with the safe,
comfortable heat
of a Central Boiler
outdoor furnace.*

*Furnace and system
must be properly sized
and installed.



To learn about limited-time, money-saving
offers and for the dealer nearest you, visit
CentralBoiler.com
or call 800-248-4681

©2011 Central Boiler • ad6018

Unclog Drains with Your Pressure Washer

**\$10 OFF
WEB COUPON
HC22**

100 Ft. Sewer Jetter Only \$129.00



**BUILD YOUR OWN POOL
BUY WHOLESALE!**



864-583-4386

ATLANTIC POOL SUPPLY
www.atlanticpoolsupply.com

Wood Heat

- Furnace Heats in "Power Outages"
- Heats Entire Home
- Oil & Gas Backup
- 20-Year Warranty
- Super Efficient
- Free Domestic Hot Water

SINCE 1972

Call or write for factory direct catalog

Charmaster™

2307 R Hwy 2 West
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-326-6786 • www.charmaster.com

WeatherTech®

Complete Coverage...

for Whatever
You Drive!

Keep Your
Vehicle Clean!
Custom Products,
Perfect Fit!



800-441-6287 WeatherTech.com

See and
Order Everything at

FloorLiner™

Shown in
Ford Focus

MacNeil
AUTOMOTIVE
PRODUCTS LIMITED

Specialists in Original Equipment and
Aftermarket Automotive Accessories

©2011 by MacNeil IP LLC



15
Snow
Guard
Models

ICEJAX.com Snow Guards For Metal Roofs



EASY
Gutter
Leaf
Protection

LEAFBLOX.com Keep Leaves Out Of Gutters



METAL
ROOF
ACCESSORY
ATTACHMENT

ROOFCLAMP.com Attach Roof Accessories



Toll Free: 800-766-5291

Phone: 717-697-1999

www.ICEJAX.com

Stop Dangerous Snow Slides On Metal Roofs

SnoBlox-Snojax 1405 Brandon Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

THE AMAZING

Cyclone Rake®

Effortless Property Cleanup!

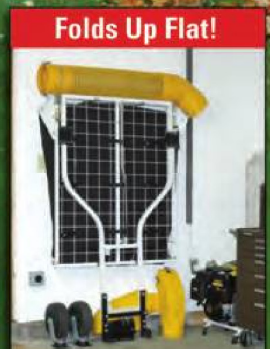
Hitch a Cyclone Rake to your mower and relax!
Powerful engine-driven vacuum mulcher gives ten
times the lifting power of mowers and many times the hauling
capacity— up to 44 bushels in a single load. Lifts and pulverizes tons of
debris and mows lawns clean as a fairway. Plus, it vacuums up the weed seed
that mowers just scatter around. Best of all, it folds up flat for easy storage.
Many models to fit every budget and property size.

Try it Risk-Free
for 12 months

CALL FOR **FREE** INFORMATION KIT **1-866-243-4495**
or visit **www.CycloneRake.com**

Mention the Discount Code **AT811** when you call,
or enter it on our web site for a special discount on any Cyclone Rake unit.

©Woodland Power Products, Inc., 72 Acton St., West Haven, CT 06516



Folds Up Flat!



Mosquito Dunks®

- #1 biological mosquito killer
- Approved for organic production
- Kills mosquitoes before they're old enough to bite!®
- Keeps working for 30 days in ponds, bird baths, water troughs and any standing water
- Will not pollute water or harm animals, fish or birds
- Use Mosquito Bits® in marshy areas, potted plants, standing water, and other areas

Summit Year-Round® Spray Oil

- OMRI listed for organic use
- No dangerous chemicals
- No odor
- Kills aphids, spider mites, scale, thrips, leaf beetle larvae and other insect pests
- Use on garden plants and fruit trees right up to day of harvest

Available at garden centers, hardware stores and other fine retailers.

Summit
...responsible solutions.

(800) 227-8664

www.summitchemical.com

® is a registered trademark of Summit Chemical Co.

**COVER YOUR ASSETS
WITH PIONEER STEEL BUILDINGS**

Specials start at \$5 to \$12/sq. ft.

MANY MODELS & SIZES AVAILABLE!

PIONEER **800-668-5422**
PIONEERSTEEL.COM 30 YEAR REPUTATION...BUILT OF STEEL

SCREENEZE®

The Professional's Choice
US Patent #6378267

- No Stretching
- Reduce Labor Cost

1-800-884-6697
www.SCREENEZE.com

WON'T SHRINK *From Any Job*

Use Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty to fill cracks and holes, rebuild missing material, and mold new objects. It permanently adheres in wood, plaster, and tile without shrinking. You can then saw, chisel, sand, polish, and color it.

The go-to solution of demanding craftsmen for more than 75 years. Available from hardware, lumber, building material, and paint dealers everywhere. waterputty.com

Donald Durham Co.
Box 804-AH, Des Moines, IA 50304

Snorkel Wood-Fired Hot Tubs

BUILD YOUR OWN ALL-WOOD HOT TUB!

100% Complete Precision-Cut DIY Kit

Wood Fire Under Water!

Heat with our UNDERWATER WOOD STOVE or choose from gas/electric systems.

Fascinating, practical handyman project that will provide family fun, relaxation and therapy for years to come. The perfect addition to your deck or deck plans

- Classic tub design in 10 easy-to-assemble sizes.
- Beautiful, durable, 100% clear Western Red Cedar!
- NO Electric or plumbing – build anywhere!
- Affordable – 1/2 the cost of plastic spas!
- Hydrotherapy jets available for wood-fired tubs (elec. req'd.)
- Jetted gas or electrically heated systems also available.

Made in USA Since 1979

FREE SALE CATALOG!

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-962-6208
www.snorkel.com Dept. AH118B

Save space and money...
build your own murphy bed.

do-it-yourself mechanism includes illustrated plans and step-by-step DVD

Create-A-Bed®
murphy bed mechanism

TOLL FREE: **1-877-966-3852**
www.wallbed.com

DETAILED Play Systems

Backyard Playground Equipment

FREE CATALOG!

Just Add Lumber!

FREE SMILES!

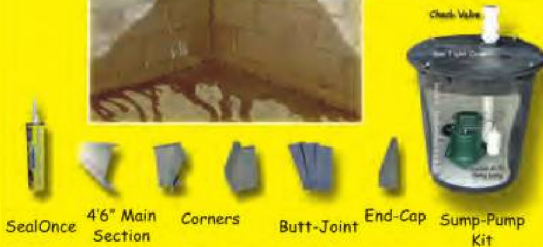
Do it Yourself and Save!
www.detailedplay.com
1-800-398-7565

Basement Waterproofing!

**Do-It-Yourself
Its Easy!**



For Fast Delivery. Order Online...
www.waterproof.com
3419 Osgood Place North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 644-2000



Drain roof water 8ft away from your foundation. Proper water management around the foundation of your home can be very effective at keeping the water from reaching your basement.

UnderGround DownSpout Kit

When the soil around your foundation becomes water-saturated, hydrostatic pressure forces water up through the joint where your floor and wall meet. SquidGee Dry™ can cure that problem. It is designed as a hollow (PVC) baseboard to collect the seeping water and quietly drain it to your floor drain or sump pump. The only skill needed for installation is the ability to follow directions. Just seal the pre-molded corners and easy to handle main sections to the floor using the SquidGee SealOnce™ Adhesive.

With the SquidGee Dry™ system in place, walls can easily be paneled or finished.



5-Minute Fence Stain



FIVE MINUTE FENCE STAIN
Stain 100 feet of fence in just 5 minutes! Sprayer attaches directly to garden hose. No masking, simply hose off over-spray. One quart covers 600 square feet. Select from three natural wood tones; Natural Cedar, Dark Cedar or Redwood.

www.FiveMinuteFence.com

Debark Your Logs With Your Chainsaw
Log Wizard Saves Your Valuable Bandsaw Blades!
Attachment turns your chainsaw into an amazing tool. Mounts to saw w/ two bolts.
• Debarker • Planer • Notcher • Router • Post Sharpener
To Locate a Dealer Near You
Call 1-877-640-2240
GOLOS INTERNATIONAL EQUIPMENT
Ph: 780-960-2727 • E-mail: info@logwizard.com
www.logwizard.com

Makes a Great Gift!
Laser Guide 4 Saw
Add to your existing circular saws!
Bright red laser line showing where to cut the wood & not your fingers!
888-767-1262
www.laserguide4saw.com

BRING THE HEAT & ELIMINATE WEEDS
Here's The Dirty Little Secret: **IT'S FUN!**
A split second of intense heat from a Red Dragon Torch Kit is all it takes to kill weeds. Many kills to choose from. **Up to 500,000 BTU!** Perfect for weeding driveways, sidewalks, patios, gardens, fence rows, around hardwood trees, lawn edges, and much more. Great in winter for removing dangerous ice/snow and many other tough jobs all year long! **CSA Certified.**
Red Dragon **MADE IN THE USA**
Order online & receive **FREE** Shipping in the Lower 48 by using the Coupon Code "HEAT" at checkout!
1-800-255-2469 • www.RedDragonTorch.com

LARGER SIZE PERMANENT

100% Money Back Guarantee!
Doctor Approved. Free 6 Months Supply!

**Male Enlargement
Up To 5 Inches And
50% Gain In Width
In 60 Days Or Less!**

PRO+PLUS PILLS
**FEATURED ON
20/20 TELEVISION
SIZE MATTERS**



LONGER, WIDER, FIRMER
**WE GUARANTEE PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT
ONLY WITH PRO+PLUS PILLS**

The exclusive ingredients of **PRO+PLUS PILLS** not found in other brands makes it possible for you to maintain your enlargement **PERMANENTLY**. Your new larger size can be a part of you forever. Continue to take **PRO+PLUS PILLS** to reach your maximum potential and maintain your sexual stamina and performance.

**INCREASES SIZE, STRONGER ERECTIONS AND
MAINTAINS YOUR SEXUAL VITALITY**

We guarantee your sexual performance can improve substantially. **PRO+PLUS PILLS** boosts your sexual energy, stamina and endurance. Never go soft again and you will stop premature ejaculations.

PRO+PLUS PILLS outperforms all other brands pills and creams. Compare the results from our consumer survey.



PRO+PLUS PILLS ADVANCED FORMULA

Our exclusive formula for men with a form of **HYPOSPADIAS** or small penis. Size is less than 6 inches and need a guarantee of accelerated enlargement to reach a much larger size. Can also be used by men larger than 6 inches and need guaranteed maximum enlargement.

CREDIT CARD ORDERS TOLL FREE ANYTIME
1-866-765-PILL (7455) FAX 1-818-345-4643
ONLINE **www.avidpromedical.com**
www.proplusmedical.com

SEND ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
AVID PRO MEDICAL dept. 19H9A
Box 1835 North Hollywood, CA 91614

CREDIT CARD ORDERS ONLY Toll Free Anytime

1-866-765-PILL (7455) or FAX 1-818-345-4643

Phone & Credit Card Orders specify products and dept. (shown above, next to company name)

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

CREDIT CARD NO.

EXPIRES: Month/Year CVS CODE 3-digit Security Code found on back of card or 4-digits on front of American Express

PRO+PLUS ADVANCED FORMULA

☐ 30 Days Supply Plus 30 Days Supply Free
Total 60 days supply Only \$60.00 \$
☐ 60 Days Supply Plus 60 Days Supply Free
Total 120 days supply Only \$110.00 \$
☐ 120 Days Supply Plus 120 Days Supply Free
Total 240 days supply Only \$160.00 \$
☐ 180 Days Supply Plus 180 Days Supply Free
Total 360 days supply Only \$210.00 \$

SUPER FORMULAS ONLY \$25.00 EACH OR SELECT ONE FREE

WITH ANY PRO+PLUS ORDER

Please Specify Quantities

Sexciter To Excite Women FREE \$
Attract-A-Mate "W": Attract Women FREE \$
TOTAL PURCHASE: \$

CA Residents add 9.75% sales tax: \$

Shipping, Rush Service and Insurance \$20.00 VALUE ONLY. \$ 12.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED OR CHARGED: \$

Orders discreetly shipped with UPS or Priority Mail.

Foreign Orders - Money Order in U.S. Funds Only. Add \$10.00 S&H.

SIGNATURE (I am over 18 years old)

NAME (print)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

COPYRIGHT ©1999 PRO+PLUS is a trade name of Avid Pro Medical. Intellectual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

Make Glass Invisible – Complete Kit for \$29⁹⁵

Get NEW products
NOT found in stores!



Everything you need to make glass invisible from USA's #1 auto glass cleaner. 28-piece kit worth \$45 for just \$29⁹⁵. Includes new products plus \$15 in bonus coupons. Learn more or buy at 1-888-STONER3 or InvisibleGlass.com

WALLBED KITS!



It's easy to build
your own with our
Tried and True
Coil Spring
Mechanism.

Comes with CD &
full instructions.

**COMPLETE BEDS
ALSO AVAILABLE!**

WWW.DISAPPEARINGWALLBEDS.COM

EarthWay[®] SPRAY-PRO

S15 SPRAY-PRO
Ground Driven
Push Sprayer

- 5 Gallon Tank
- 10" Wheels
- Fully Assembled
- Easy to use



For information,
call 1-800-294-0671
or visit
www.earthway.com to find a dealer.

STORAGE WITH STYLE!



- Garage Storage
- Organization Cabinets
- Wall Cabinets
- Closets
- Tool Chests
- Custom Cabinets
- And More



MODULINE[®]
MODULAR ALUMINUM CABINETS

For More Information Call
Toll Free: 888-343-4463
www.modulinegarage.com

Stress Crack Tape[™]



Peel

"Repair your
Stress Cracks once
and for all"



"Patented,
100% US
Made"

Stick &
Paint

"Strong &
Flexible"

- Repair cracks in drywall, or plaster.
- Self adhesive, paint ready.
- Feathered edges blend into wall surface.
- No Skills, no Sanding, no Mud, no Mess.
- Repair Ceiling & wall cracks.



Buy at The Home Depot
www.homedepot.com

Call **888-778-4537**

www.stepsaverproducts.com
Energy Saver Products Inc Vancouver, WA

NEED PLUMBING, HEATING OR HVAC SUPPLIES?

**When we say fast delivery...
We mean fast.**

- The Largest Selection
- The Lowest Prices
- Delivery at 80 Knots



Save 5% when you
use coupon code **HANDY**
(Offer Expires 10/31/11)

Real People. Real Service.
PexSupply.com

www.pexsupply.com • 888.757.4774





Great Giveaway

For your chance to win, go to www.Handymanclub.com and click on the Contests tab. Enter every day!

Sponsored by



AND



TracRac® G2, cantilever extension, UWS Crossover Toolbox and a toolbox-mounting kit

Enter the August/September Great Giveaway for your chance to win an extensive truck-storage system from TracRac® and UWS Truck Accessories valued at about \$2,115. The TracRac® G2 is a 1,250-pound load capacity, rust-resistant, aluminum-constructed, adjustable sliding rack system for carrying ladders, lumber, drywall and more without taking up space in the truck bed.



UWS Aluminum Toolbox

The luck winner will receive:

- TracRac® G2
- TracRac® G2 Cantilever Extension
- TracRac® G2 Base-rail Tie-downs
- TracRac® G2 Locking TracKnobs
- TracRac® G2 Toolbox Mounting Kit
- UWS Crossover Toolbox
- UWS Aluminum Toolbox



TracRac® G2 Base-rail Tie-downs



TracRac® G2 Locking TracKnobs

For more information about these and other TracRac® or UWS Truck Accessories products, visit www.tracrac.com or www.uwsta.com.

Enter today — you can win!

You can win a prize from the Handyman Club of America. Enter online at www.HandymanClub.com or by mailing a postcard (see below). Prizes are donated by the manufacturers. Entries must be received between August 1, 2011, and September 30, 2011; the winner's name will be drawn October 6, 2011. For April/May 2011 prizewinners, see p. 67.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Making a purchase will not improve your chances of winning. See the official contest rules at www.HandymanClub.com. Submit your entry at www.HandymanClub.com or send your name, member number (if available), address and phone number on a postcard to: Great Giveaway, CRID #3932, P.O. Box 3428, Hopkins, MN 55343.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY TRACRAC AND UWS

Member Benefits

Make the most of your HCOA membership
Snapshots From Vegas



HANDY's Managing Editor Mike Berger (left) and Club member Bob Phelan prepare to shoot a video review of the Skil 1830 router with plunge base.



Club members Tami Love (left) and Greg Majoros test drive Ryobi's new 18V One+ Handheld Reciprocating Pruner.



Ryobi's lawn-and-garden expert, LeeAnne Hooper, takes members of the Handyman Club of America and the National Home Gardening Club on a tour of Ryobi's latest outdoor power tools.



Watch HCOA members test these tools and more at the National Hardware Show.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIVIAN BERNETT

HANDY TOOLBOX

Six Fs for You!

Handy club members love to open HANDY TOOLBOX. It's an almost daily DIY e-newsletter that's:

- **Friendly**
- **Fast (150 words)**
- **InFormative**
- **Fun (try flying lawn mowers)**
- **Funny (often)**
- **and FREE!**

Subscribe today, and tomorrow you'll be the first-to-know when it comes to innovative tools, the latest DIY products, downloadable project plans, wow woodworking how-to, high-value giveaways and great deals on exclusive products.



Win a \$250 Home Depot gift card. Sign up today!

Get your free subscription at gethandytoolbox.com/signup

April/May 2011 GREAT GIVEAWAY prizewinner



Cub Cadet Z-Force S
zero-turn riding mower
Mitchell Zeller, Aloha, OR
Check out this issue's
GREAT GIVEAWAY on p. 65.

Member Directory

Manage your account online
Update your profile, pay membership
dues, purchase products and more:

www.HandymanClub.com

Contact HANDY editors

For questions and comments
regarding editorial content:

Editors@HandymanClub.com

To submit a letter for HANDY's
Member Mail column:

MemberMail@HandymanClub.com

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY CUB CADET



Handyman Club of America

General Manager
George Saul

Executive Director
Larry Okrend

Vice President, Membership Development
Laura Burkholder

Member Benefits Director
Doug McDougal

Assistant Vice President, Member Services
Andrea Meester

Executive Marketing Director
Bruce Revman

Product Test Editor
Ross Tanner

Senior Member Benefits Specialist



President and CEO
Bryan Ellis

**Executive Vice President,
Chief Development Officer**
Tony DeFrance

CFO
Kate Pope

Vice President, Technology
Michael Graves

Vice President, Human Resources
Betty Potasnak

Handyman Club of America members receive these valuable benefits:

HANDY Magazine

E-newsletters

Product-testing privileges

Chances to win free products

Cash for winning tips

HandyWorks coverage

Special product offers

Charter membership card

Official Club decal set

and much more!

Contact Member Services

If you need help with any aspect of your Club
membership, please contact us.

VISIT the Club Web site
www.HandymanClub.com

E-MAIL the Club
memberservices@HandymanClub.com

CALL Member Services
800-243-7679

Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

WRITE to the Club
HCOA Member Services
P.O. Box 3401
Hopkins, MN 55343-2101

**Remember to include your membership
number on all correspondence and have
it ready when you call.**

Important Notice: For your safety, use caution and good judgment when following the instructions described in this magazine. Take into consideration your skill level and the safety precautions related to the tools and materials shown. North American Media Group and its affiliates cannot assume responsibility for any damage to property or persons as a result of the misuse of the information provided. Consult your local building department for information on permits, codes, regulations and laws that may apply to your project.

12/13 Premium Handmade Cigars



\$12 Value
\$29.95 Special Introductory Offer
Compare at \$83

The Thompson Baker's Dozen II includes Rocky Patel, Oliva, Toraño, Don Lino, & more... **Plus a FREE BONUS Gurkha European Selection cigar, worth \$12 alone will be added to your order!**

Here's your chance to savor 13 hand-rolled cigars from some of the most elite cigar makers in existence, introductory priced at just \$29.95!

If you went elsewhere and paid full retail for this incredible selection, it would set you back over \$80.

For 96 years Thompson Cigar has been offering cigar aficionados premium quality, handmade cigars at incredibly low prices. Don't miss this opportunity to indulge in these incredible smokes, each a unique smoking experience in its own right. Call the toll free number or visit us online for this amazing low price. This is a limited time offer.



1-888-298-0417

www.thompsons specials.com

Use promo code **T9399** for special pricing

Get your Baker's Dozen II now! 13 top-notch brands for \$29.95

(#899321). (All shipments to AK, HI, Guam, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico must go priority mail - add an additional \$10.00. Florida residents add 6% sales tax + appropriate county tax). Remittance of any taxes on orders shipped to a location outside of Florida is the responsibility of the purchaser. In the event we are out of a Premium brand, Thompson reserves the right to substitute another premium brand cigar or size, of equal or greater value. All written orders MUST include your signature and date of birth. Limit one per customer.



America's Oldest Mail Order Cigar Company, Est 1915
P.O. Box 31274 • Tampa, FL 33631-3274 • Fax: 813-882-4605
**OFFER GOOD FOR 30 DAYS • NOT AVAILABLE TO MINORS
AND GOOD ONLY IN THE USA**

©2011 Thompson Cigar Co.

Trends in High Places

BY CONNIE BASTYR

Improvements in materials and engineering have raised the bar in ladder design

REPAIR



REPRIMAND



ROMANCE



RESCUE



Ladders are universally recognized to be indispensable for a broad range of applications.

Among all the tools in a handy person's arsenal, the ladder has perhaps the widest range of applications — and interpretations. To subscribers of superstition, a ladder conjures thoughts of danger and really bad luck. To firefighters, it is a lifesaving tool. As children, we all knew ladders as routes to fun — a tree house, a bunk bed or a jungle gym. But to tradespeople and homeowners, a ladder simply represents accessibility.

Ladders are downright omnipresent, which makes tracing the origins of these ancient yet basic structures such a challenge. They have no recorded beginning or single inspiration. The first models were merely the natural outcome of people's ability to problem-solve. Need to reach the fruit on top of that tree? Climb the tree. Need to scale a high ledge in your cave? Cut the tree, crop its branches and prop it against the rock. Need stability? Try using two limbs with sticks strapped across them. According to ancient cave art, that's how it's done.

For centuries, tree parts lashed together to form two rails with some cross members offered ad-

equated footing. For more complex climbing needs (constructing towers and cathedrals, etc.), builders devised scaffolding and longer ladders — initially of wood or bamboo. As milled lumber became available, people made ladders out of boards — a bit less crude and more stable than stick ladders.

Until the end of the 19th century, only homemade and site-built ladders existed, so the commercial production of ladders is a relatively new development. At 110 years old, Michigan Ladder Co. claims it's this country's oldest ladder manufacturer. Of course, its ladders were originally constructed of wood. The first company to manufacture *aluminum* ladders was born of a request from Oslo, Norway: That city's fire department asked the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) to develop an alternative to its heavy — and combustible — wood ladders. (Imagine the strength required to maneuver a 50-ft. wood ladder!) ALCOA declined the offer, but Sam Carbis, an employee of the company, thought the idea was viable. He resigned and formed the

Aluminum Ladder Co. in the 1930s. Both it and Michigan Ladder Co. are still operating today.

The aluminum extension ladder was a lifesaving advance in firefighting; its strength, light weight and water-resistance made it ideal for industrial use as well. However, rationing of aluminum during World War II caused a setback in production — until the postwar housing boom, which drove ladder sales and design to new heights.

Despite aluminum's advantages over wood, it has one big drawback: It's a keen conductor of electricity. The search for a safer alternative led Louisville Ladder to introduce a fiberglass stepladder in 1946. Durable, lightweight and nonconductive, fiberglass ladders are climbing in popularity among homeowners and contractors.

In response to safety guidelines and customer needs, manufacturers have stepped up design and engineering of all types of ladders. Having evolved from simple sticks to hinged models that contort for versatility (think Little Giant), today's ladders meet elevated standards to help us climb high safely. ♦



RAM

THE 2011 RAM HEAVY DUTY.

IT NEVER TAKES A
DAY OFF. NOT EVEN
ON YOUR DAYS OFF.

RAMTRUCKS.COM



Shown with MOPAR accessories.
RAM and HEMI are registered trademarks of Chrysler Group LLC.

WITHSTANDS EVERYTHING FROM HAIL TO HIGH HEELS.

Olympic® Exterior Stain brings out the natural beauty of your wood while its exclusive Scuff Guard® formula protects it from most scuffs and scrapes. Water-repellent Olympic® Stain also blocks U.V. rays, prevents water damage and resists mildew. If those aren't enough reasons to insist on Olympic® Stain, you can get all of this for a great low price. Learn more at InsistOnOlympic.com.

AVAILABLE AT



AND OTHER
FINE RETAILERS

INSIST ON OLYMPIC

© 2011 by PPG. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC.



SNAP THIS TAG TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT
OLYMPIC® STAIN.

