

# Intelligent Heat Pump

by Bill Brockway



Many utility companies are offering rebates to customers who install dual fuel systems because such units help reduce demand during peak usage periods. Carrier Corporation goes one better with its *48HX Dual Fuel Heat Pump* — an auto-switching system. In the summer, it operates as an efficient electric air conditioner (SEER = 12). When an outdoor thermostat senses a temperature drop to below what the company calls the “economic thermal balance point” of the region, the unit switches to gas for heating. The fuel-switch point is adjustable for different price conditions.

Contact: ACLS, Dept. 848-101, 108 Metropolitan Dr., Liverpool, NY 13088; 800/422-7743.

## New Air Nailers

Senco's newest tool release in this country is a pair of coil nailers — the SCN60 and SCN65. Both guns are well designed and light — they weigh in at 7½ and 8 pounds, respectively. They'll each hold up to 275 of the smallest nails they drive — 2 inches. The SCN60 fires up to a 2½-inch nail and the SCN65 will drive a 16d 3½-inch smooth-shank nail.

I've done some work with the larger nailer, and I was impressed with the handling and power. The tool has a depth-of-drive adjustment near the



nose that allowed me to either countersink nails or leave them standing proud when I wanted to. The new guns will probably sell for around \$425 each.

Contact: Senco Products, 8485 Broadwell Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45244; 800/543-4596.

## Drop-Ceiling Track Lighting



Track lighting added onto a suspended ceiling grid usually looks like it was cobbled together. The new *Capri Integral Track* replaces one runner in the grid, so the track is recessed above the ceiling. The track can be wired as two separate circuits that can be dimmed independently since each has its own neutral wire. Connectors for turns and junc-

tions are also available.

Contact: Capri Lighting, 6430 E. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90040; 213/726-1800.

## Cooling Fan Holds the Heat



Whole-house cooling fans are a great idea, but their installation is seldom troublefree. The equipment is often noisy, and the fan openings can be a source of cold drafts in the winter. The *HV1000* from Tamarack Technologies is designed for quiet operation and good air sealing when closed. The key is the insulated doors on top of the unit that open for venting, then close automatically when the fan goes off. The manufacturer claims an R-value of 22 with the doors closed. Installation is easy, too — the rectangular housing fits between either 16- or 24-inch-on-center joists. The HV1000 sells for around \$375.

Contact: Tamarack Technologies, 11 Patterson's Brook Rd., West Wareham, MA 02576; 800/222-5932.

## The Baby of the Clamp Family

The latest Quick-Grip bar clamp from American Tool is a familiar design in a tiny size. *Micro* bar clamps have a maximum opening of just 4½ inches, yet they can still exert up to 100 pounds of pressure, according to the manufacturer. I found this smaller size perfect for clamping cosmetic repairs on furniture. The clamping pads can also be mounted backwards and used as a spreader. *Micro* bar clamps sell for about \$10 each.



Contact: American Tool, 8400 Lakeview Pkwy., Suite 800, Kenosha, WI 53142; 414/947-2440.

### ADA-Compliant Shower



Next time an ADA-approved shower stall is specced on a set of plans, try the *Wheelchair Accessible Shower* from Florestone (model 40-40H). It measures 40 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, 80 inches tall, and has grab bars, a hand-held showerhead, and a folding transfer seat. A three-piece version is available for remodeling jobs. The 40-40H sells for about \$1,850.

Contact: Florestone Products, 2851 Falcon Dr., Madera, CA 93637; 800/446-8827.

### Pattern Predictor



A pressure-washer can do some damage if you lose control of the spray. The new *Q-Meg* and  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-Meg tips from Titan have a flared housing that corresponds to the spray pattern that the tip delivers. The operator knows where the water will be going before he pulls the trigger. Both styles are available with from 0° to 40° patterns and accommodate quick-disconnect fittings. Pricing for the Q-Meg and  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-Meg tips varies, but is comparable to other manufacturers' tips.

Contact: Titan Inc., 556 Commerce St., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417; 800/526-5362.

### Sliding Rope Grab



As OSHA's new fall protection regs are sweeping our industry, builders are learning how to work with a lot of extra equipment attached to them. One common complaint is about having to reach over and loosen your rope grab each time you want to move along a life line. Miller Equipment's *Trailing Rope Grab* eliminates this step when climbing next to a vertical life line, such as on a ladder. The rope grab slides up or down as you move, leaving both hands free for climbing or carrying equipment; but a sharp downward movement, like a fall, causes the rope grab to lock onto the line. Miller offers the Trailing Rope Grab by itself (\$109), with a standard three-foot lanyard (\$150), or with a Sofstop shock absorbing lanyard (\$148).

Contact: Miller Equipment, 1355 15th St., Franklin, PA 16323; 800/873-5242. ■