

Products

by David Frane

Fluorescent Downlight

Since 1995, when federal energy regulations outlawed some types of lamps commonly used in downlights, builders have been searching for suitable replacements. A new *Capri Fluorescent Downlight* (cataloged as Capri F6213ICN1) may fit the bill. The fixture features a new housing that fits in 2x8 joist bays and can be used in direct contact with ceiling insulation. The two horizontally mounted compact fluorescent lamps draw 33 watts and produce 1,720 total lumens. Options include clear or gold specular reflector trim, black or white aperture baffles, and electronic or dimming ballasts.

Contact: Thomas Lighting Accent Division, 6430 E. Lauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90040; 213/726-1800.



Extra-Wide Corner Bead

Double layers of drywall are often the perfect solution for fire and noise protection — but they create a problem at corners, because standard corner bead is too narrow to cover both sheets. To the rescue comes the extra-wide *Jumbo Corner Bead*. The 1³/₄-inch legs are wide enough to cover two layers of 5/8-inch drywall and still leave 1/2 inch for fastening. The rigid vinyl corner trim comes in straight or arched profiles.



Contact: Trim-Tex, Inc., 3700 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60645; 800/874-2333.

Self-Tapping Wall Anchor

The search for a better wall anchor might be over. Designed for fastening to drywall and other low-density substrates, the new *Wall-Lok* anchor is self-drilling — all you need is a Phillips screwdriver. The wide threads also make the anchor removable and give it a pull-out

strength of 69 lb./ft. and shear strength of 142 lb./ft. in 1/2-inch drywall, according to the manufacturer.



Available

in nylon or zinc (for use with particleboard or plywood), Wall-Loks are sold in packages of 4, 25, or 100, or in bulk cartons of 5,000. A 25-pack with screws costs \$1.79; a 100-pack is \$6.99.

Contact: Simplex Nails and Fasteners, 100 Petty Rd., Suite A, Lawrenceville, GA 30243; 800/622-3354; simplex@mindspring.com.

Job-Site Glue

Elmer's glue has long been popular as a multipurpose household glue, but it wasn't used much around the job site. Now the company has introduced several new products it claims are designed specifically for professionals.

ProBond Professional Strength Wood Glue is a sandable, paintable carpenter's glue that sets up in 15 to 25 minutes. Two useful new features are the offset spout, which makes it easy to spread glue into hard-to-reach corners, and the wide-mouth dispenser bottle which makes refills a breeze. A 12-ounce bottle sells for between \$5 and \$7; a one-gallon refill sells for \$12 to \$14.

ProBond Ultra Polyurethane Glue is formulated for both indoor and outdoor use. It's waterproof, accepts stain and paint, and bonds to a wide variety of materials, including metals, wood, ceramics, brick, stone, glass, and most plastics. According to the manufacturer, ProBond Ultra has the strength of epoxy but spreads like conventional wood glue. A 16-ounce bottle sells for between \$12 and \$14.

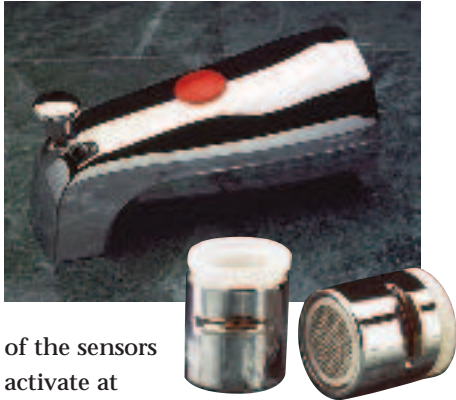
ProBond Wood Filler is made from what the manufacturer calls "wood flour," so patched areas can be stained, sawed, planed, nailed, and drilled just like wood. It's available in white and in six wood tones. A 6-ounce can sells for \$2 to \$3.

Contact: Elmer's Products, Inc., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215; 800/848-9400.



Retrofit Scald Protection

Pressure-balanced plumbing fittings guard against scalds, but only when water is drawn from another part of the system. Now a series of *Scaldsafe Water Sensors*, including a tub spout and shower and faucet fittings, can be retrofit to prevent scalds at each fixture. All



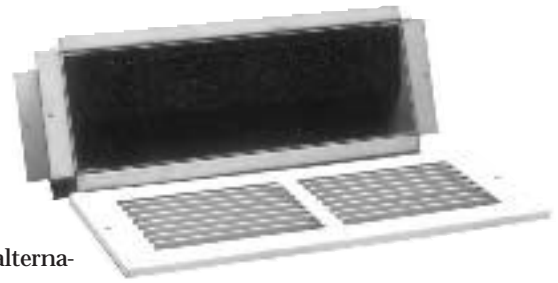
of the sensors activate at 114°F, shutting off the water supply in 300 milliseconds (150 milliseconds for the faucet sensor) and can withstand supply pressure of up to 120 psi. The tub spout (\$24.99) replaces all standard spouts, and the faucet sensor (\$6.99) replaces standard aerators; the shower sensor (\$12.99) fits between the shower head and the mounting tube. All are equipped with reset buttons that resume water flow after the hot water has been turned down, and all include built-in anti-waterhammer protection.

Contact: Resource Conservation, P.O. Box 71, Greenwich, CT 06836; 800/243-2862.

Through-Wall Vent

In a forced-air heating system, warm air can't get into a room if cold air can't get out. In a tight house, even a closed door can act as a damper. One alternative to the expense of installing separate cold-air returns for each room is a unique through-the-wall vent called *Zenon*. Designed to expand to fit walls from 3 to 5½ inches thick, the Zenon requires a rough opening of 4x12 (small enough to fit over most doorways) and is equipped with 5¾x13¾-inch finish grilles. Inside, black foam baffles guide air in a Z-shaped path from the room side of the wall into a hall or other open area, from which it can easily reach the central return. The vent, which sells for about \$25, has the same resistance to airflow as a ½-inch door undercut, according to the manufacturer; for greater airflow, more than one vent may be used.

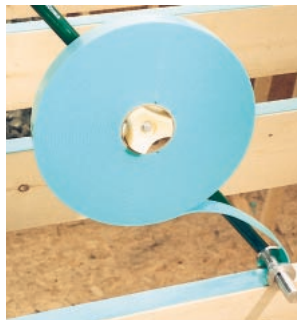
Contact: Tamarack Technologies, Inc., P.O. Box 490, West Wareham, MA 02576; 800/222-5932; praymer@tamtech.com.



Squeakproof Floors

Most floor squeaks are caused when the subfloor rubs against fasteners that have worked loose because of expansion and contraction of the joists. A new product called the *Integrity Floor System* is said to eliminate this problem by using a closed-cell gasket to absorb movement. The gasket, which comes in widths of 1⅞, 2¼, and 3 inches, has an adhesive backing and can be applied by hand to joists before they are installed or to in-place framing using a walk-along applicator. A smooth Mylar top surface helps subfloor panels slide into place without rippling the foam. According to the manufacturer, the Integrity gasket dampens sound transmission through the floor; does not oxidize, dry out, crack, or become brittle; and can be applied to clean, dry wood or metal joists and rafters. (If the surface is damp, the gasket can be stapled to hold it in place until the framing dries.) The material cost of 85¢ per linear foot (for the narrow gasket) is higher than the cost of construction adhesive, but that difference is offset by reduced labor costs: Installation on a 1,200-sq. ft. floor is said to take about 30 minutes. The applicator sells for about \$54.

Contact: Shadwell Co., Inc., 7207 Chagrin Rd., Suite 6, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023; 800/494-4148.



Eaves and Ridge Vent System

On houses with shallow soffits or no soffits at all, the *Smartair Intake Vent* solves the problem of finding a place to locate eaves vents. Each 61-inch-long section consists of a white or brown vinyl cover that adjusts to most roof pitches and that runs 5 inches onto the roof and 4 inches down the fascia. The vertical leg houses a ½-inch-thick continuous polypropylene baffle that provides 3.47 sq. in. of net free area per linear foot. Installation in new or existing construction involves cutting a ½- to 1-inch channel in both the roof sheathing and fascia, then fastening the upper edge of the intake vent through prepunched holes. Designed to be hidden by gutters, the vinyl surface can also be left exposed as finish

fascia. The cost of \$2.25 to \$2.50 per linear foot includes foam end blocks and aluminum end caps.

The Smartair Intake Vent is part of a venting "system" that includes the manufacturer's shingle-over Smartair Ridge Vent, proprietary felt paper and bituminous membrane, and a line of organic and fiberglass asphalt roof shingles.

Contact: Globe Building Materials, 2230 Indianapolis Blvd., Whiting, IN 46394; 800/473-7151. ■

