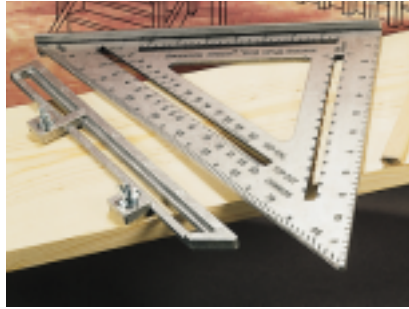


Products

by Leland Stone

Oversize Speed Square

That handy little layout square you're carrying around now has a big brother. The *Big 12* is made from the same aluminum alloy as the smaller version, and it's got all of those notches and scales that make



your regular square so useful. But the *Big 12* is twice the size; at 12 inches on each side, it's ideal for guiding crosscuts on larger stock. There are pencil slots every $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in the scribe bar, so rip cuts can be marked quickly. To mark repetitive off-angle cuts, move the adjustable layout bar and

lock it in place. *Big 12* is packaged with the "Blue Book" of roof and stairway layouts — a virtual bible of framing info that's small enough to fit in your nail pouch.

Contact: Swanson Tool Co., Inc., 1010 Lambrecht Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423; 815/469-9453.

Tool Relief

Every manufacturer issues a stern warning against lowering power tools by their cords. If you can't break the habit, try using a *Cord Saver*. Designed to run parallel to a power tool cord, the *Cord Saver* was created by an electrical contractor who got tired of fixing the frayed cords on his buddies' tools. At the tool handle, one end of the *Cord Saver* is attached with a nylon tie, then the rest of it is taped to the power cord every six to eight inches. A plastic handle at the other end ensures plenty of control while lowering tools, and a built-in tie secures the tool's plug to the extension cord. And when you're tired of parking your screw gun in a belt pouch, use the skyhook to hang it on a nearby nail. The manufacturer sells *Cord Saver* direct to contractors for \$9.95.

Contact: Quick Enterprises, P.O. Box 778, Carlsborg, WA 98324; 888/681-8581.



Nuisance Shield

Now there's a lightweight alternative to traditional safety glasses. The *MCJ Full Face Shield* is specifically intended to protect users against splatters, drips, and other minor hazards. If you're working overhead, using one of these shields makes a lot of sense. You can wear the shield over safety glasses for heavier jobs, and protect more of your face from sparks or chips. The disposable shields are packaged ten to a box for \$9.95. Give the distributor a call to find a source near you.

Contact: M.C. Johnson Co., Inc., 2037 J & C Blvd., Naples, FL 34109; 800/553-8483.



Composite Door Frame

Exterior door jambs tend to rot where they meet the deck, a problem that's usually solved later with putty and paint. Contractors can reportedly eliminate this headache with the *Framesaver*, a new kind of hybrid door jamb. The bottom 12 inches of each side jamb is made from wood fibers and plastic resins that have been blended and shaped to match the rest of the jamb. These composite ends may be nailed or screwed



in place just like the rest of the frame, but they are said to resist moisture better

than wood and carry a 10-year warranty against rot and insect damage. (For severe exposures, like along the coast, the manufacturer recommends an all-composite frame.) *Framesavers* should be cut to length only at the top of the side jambs, before installing the head jamb. For \$100, the manufacturer will ship you a pair of complete, preprimed frames by UPS.

Contact: Burns, Morris & Stewart, Inc., P.O. Box 631247, Nagogdoches, TX 75963; 409/569-8211.

Vapor Barriers Made Simple

You no longer have to use plastic sheeting for tightening the area where floor joists meet the rim. Polyethylene *Vapour Panels* are molded for a piston-tight fit between solid sawn joists or floor trusses. The heavy construction resists punctures, and though installation requires a bed of sealant and staples,

the panels are said to go up in half the time of sheeting. Panel dimensions vary according to depth and on-center spacing of the framing, but each panel seals two bays. The price runs from \$1.76 to \$2.99 each. Plastic enclosures for sealing electrical boxes are also available, starting at 45¢ apiece.

Contact: Vapour-Form, Inc., 83 Eastcote Dr., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2N 2Y7, Canada; 204/257-8076.

Go the Distance

Bad as-built measurements mean bad bids, and that leads to either losing the job or losing your shirt. If you need pinpoint accuracy, try using a *Disto* laser meter. With this Class 2 laser measuring tool, a single user can take accurate measurements anywhere from 11 inches to 98 feet away; using a spotter, the measurable distance jumps to 328 feet. Disto can also instantly calculate the area and volume of anything it can “see,” and its memory is able to store 10 measurements. You’ll need \$1,295 to buy this tool from the factory, and they won’t take COD orders.

Contact: Leica Surveying Inc., 3155 Medlock Bridge Rd., Norcross, GA 30071; 800/367-9453.

