

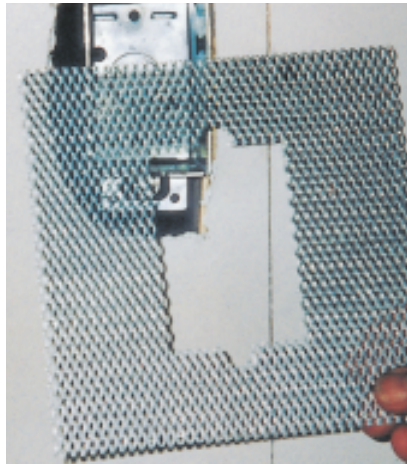
Products

by Dave Crosby

Easy Patch

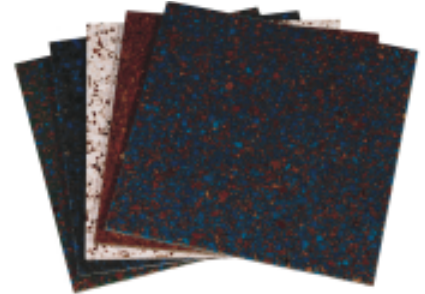
Sooner or later, everybody cuts the hole for an electrical outlet too big. Not to worry: The self-adhesive, aluminum mesh *Electrical Outlet Repair Patch* is designed for a fast, easy fit around single boxes. No cutting is required, and the joint compound shouldn't crack or sag. Retail price is \$1.79 each.

Contact: Pro Patch Systems, P.O. Box 84, McHenry, IL 60051; 800/358-5394; www.propatchsystems.com.



Looks Like Terrazzo

Lighter, thinner, and more flexible than conventional terrazzo, *Metron* combines glass mosaic, artificial stone, and epoxy resin technology in a versatile surface that can be installed over existing floors, walls, and counters. Available in 11 colors, the material



comes in a variety of sizes and shapes — including 12- and 24-inch squares, and 25x118-inch countertop slabs — starting at \$35.90 per square foot.

Contact: Renato Bisazza, Inc., 8530 NW 30th Terr., Miami, FL 33122; 305/597-4099; www.bisazzausa.com.

Humidity Measurement

Moisture in a slab can break down the adhesives used to lay carpet or sheet goods, and it wreaks havoc with wood flooring. At \$850, the *HM44 Structural Humidity Measurement Set* is still cheaper than redoing the floor. According to the manufacturer, the device goes beyond surface readings to provide accurate measurements of moisture content in the middle of the slab.

Contact: Vaisala, 100 Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801; 888/824-7252; www.vaisala.com.



Fiberglass Sliding Patio Doors

For those who are seeking an alternative to wood or aluminum sliding patio doors, the *Fiber-Class* combines wood stiles with fiberglass top and bottom rails. The solid polyurethane core is sheathed in prefinished fiberglass-reinforced plastic that is embossed with a wood-grain texture; the interior face of the door can be stained or painted. The door jambs are made of pultruded fiberglass, and the sill is plastic composite. Available in two different heights and widths, cost for a 6-0/6-8 door with insulated glass is about \$1,320.

Contact: Therma-Tru, P.O. Box 8780, Maumee, OH 43537; 888/366-7799; www.thermatru.com.

Anti-Scald Valve

The ceramic disc cartridge in this pressure-balance valve resists the damaging effects of hard water while maintaining tub or shower water temperature regardless of changes in water pressure. The *Hardwater Anti-Scald Tub/Shower Valve* has a temperature limit stop that can be preset to ensure safety and save energy. The \$77 single-handle valve (\$83 for double-handle) is available in chrome, polished brass, white, and almond.

Contact: Gerber Plumbing Fixtures, 4600 West Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; 847/675-6570; www.gerberonline.com.



Anchoring Cement

This water-resistant, shrinkage-compensated cement is designed for anchoring bolts and other metal parts to concrete. With an open time of between 10 and 30 minutes and a pull-out strength of 14,000 psi, *Commercial Grade Exterior Use Anchoring Cement* can be mixed stiff for use on vertical surfaces or thinned to a pourable consistency for use in horizontal applications. The cement, which expands slightly to fill all voids and lock itself into place, has a compressive strength of 2,000 psi after two hours, and 7,000 psi at 28 days, according to the manufacturer.



Available through dealers in 50-pound buckets (.42 cubic foot).

Contact: Quikrete, P.O. Box 2836, Norcross, GA 30093; 404/634-9100; www.quikrete.com.

ADA Handrail Bracket

When used with 1½-inch tubing, this cast iron handrail bracket's 2¼-inch centerline provides the 1½-inch clearance between the handrail and the wall required by ADA. The *DD225 Dimensionally Compliant Cast Iron Handrail Bracket* retails for \$5.



Contact: Cowelco Steel Fabricators, 1634 W. 14th St., Long Beach, CA 90813; 562/432-5766; www.cowelco.com.

Drywall Crack Repair

This adhesive fiberglass mesh is intended to put an end to those pesky drywall cracks that keep coming back. Part of a full line of fiberglass mesh products, *WallSpan Crack Repair Fabric* works on drywall with any joint compound, as well as with plaster or stucco. A 6-inch by 25-foot roll costs \$4.89.



Contact: CCX Fiberglass Products, P.O. Box 1148, Walterboro, SC 29488; 800/828-5329.

Flexible Harness

If fall protection harnesses were more comfortable, not only would more tradespeople wear them, but productivity and morale would rise, too. The *Miller Duraflex Harness*, with stretchable webbing, is the result of two years of research into what makes a comfortable harness. Starting at \$75, the one-size-fits-most safety device comes in more than 30 different models with optional accessories, including side or front D-rings for positioning.

Contact: Dalloz Fall Protection, 1355 15th St., Franklin, PA 16323; 800/873-5242; www.cdalloz.com.



Space-Age Entry Door

Just when you think you've seen it all with wood, steel, and fiberglass residential entry doors, here's one made of carbon fiber. The manufacturer of the *Carbon Door* claims that the composite, known for its use in military aircraft, accepts stain better than fiberglass and has a grain that resembles wood. Contractor prices for 3-0/6-8 prehung doors start from \$260 to \$400.



Contact: Pease Industries, 7100 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, OH 45014; 800/883-6677; www.peasedoors.com.

