

# New Safety Harness Aims for Comfort

by Dave Crosby

**L**ike it or not, safety harnesses are a fact of life for some of us these days. The most common complaint is discomfort, and anybody who has spent time in an approved harness knows what that's about. A few hours of restricted movement, binding, frequent adjustment, and the feeling you're in a snowsuit with a small alligator, makes you wonder, "What's so safe about this?" The *Miller Duraflex* is constructed of an elastic material to increase mobility and reduce discomfort and fatigue. To see if it really worked, I sent this harness out into the field with Rick Palmer of Palmer Construction and Metal

Roofing Specialists of Santa Fe, N.M. He used it for several months and sent the manufacturer a check rather than return the harness. When asked to describe the harness, he said, "It's comfortable. The elastic material seems to have the right amount of stretch, and I like how adjustable it is, especially the eyelets in the leg straps. Also, the D-ring is in a spot where you can reach it while you're wearing the harness, unlike some others." The one-size-fits-most harness comes in different models with optional accessories, including side or front D-rings. Prices start at \$75 retail.

Contact: Dalloz Fall Protection, 1355

15th St., Franklin, PA 16323; 800/873-5242; [www.cdalloz.com](http://www.cdalloz.com).

## New Scribing Tool

Designed by a stone mason and introduced in February of this year at the Masonry Show in Las Vegas, the *Stone-Scribe* makes short work of trans-



ferring profiles and contours for walls, floors, and top caps (see photos, above). The tool adjusts for joints from 3 inches wide to mortarless, and can be set up for overhang coping as well. Retail price \$89.95.

Contact: Cepco Tool Company, P.O. Box 153, Spencer, NY 14883; 800/466-9626; [www.cepcotool.com](http://www.cepcotool.com).

## Magna Dimple Blade

If you work with a table saw, you know the importance of a good blade. For many builders the table saw is a



Eyelets in the leg straps of the Miller Duraflex harness make for fast, easy adjustment (top, right); the D-ring is also easy to reach (right).



primary tool, so a good combination blade is worth having. If the manufacturer's claim of greater durability, better heat dissipation, and less blade warping is true, then the *Dimple Blade* would be worth a closer look, especially the 10-inch, 40-tooth combination blade.

For an unbiased opinion from someone who spends a lot of time with a table saw, about a year ago I sent the 10-inch 40-tooth Dimple Blade to Arlan Sanford of Robert Pepper Cabinetmakers in Santa Fe, N.M. Arlan, a master craftsman, has this to say:

"Changing blades is time-consuming. If I'm just ripping or just crosscutting, I will get set up for that, but when I'm constantly switching back and forth between ripping and crosscutting, like for raised-panel doors, then it doesn't make sense to be changing blades constantly. Because of the differ-



ence in blade thickness I have to reset my fence with every blade change, so it's not good for productivity. Ripping with a crosscut blade is bad news, crosscutting with a rip blade isn't so good either, and unfortunately most of the combination blades are the worst of both worlds. Thin-kerf crosscut blades with no hook make a decent compromise until you get into heavier ripping, but if the blade wasn't

designed for ripping and you rip with it, then you can expect overheating, wobbling, and ragged cuts.

"I've used the Dimple Blade every other day for about a year on walnut, pine, cherry, and poplar. It works great for crosscutting and rips very well through material up to about 2 inches thick. If you were ripping all day it wouldn't make sense, but for combination use it gives a good quality of cut with minimal sanding required. What I liked the most about this blade is that you don't need to push on the work as hard as with other combination blades. It seems to take sharpening well — we've sent this blade out twice now and it easily has several more sharpenings left in it. All in all, for a combination blade, it's great. For the price, you can't beat it."

The 10-inch Dimple Blade is available in 24-tooth for fast cutoff and heavy ripping where smooth cuts aren't necessary; a 40-tooth combination blade for trim and medium-thickness ripping; and a 60-tooth blade for smooth cuts and use in miter saws. Suggested retail prices range from \$46.85 to \$78.05. The Magna Dimple Blade is also available in 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-, 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-, and 12-inch diameters with a variety of tooth counts.

Contact: Magna Industrial Tool Co., 101 S. 5th St., Louisville, KY 40202; 800/624-9044; [www.magnatool.com](http://www.magnatool.com).

### Saw Hanger

Where do you put your saw when you're up in the framing? Tired of dropping it? Feeling guilty about all those beams you dug into? Falling saws are a distracting waste of time at best and an expensive safety hazard at worst. With the *Original Retractable Saw Hanger*, this problem is gone. The hanger installs in minutes on Skil,



The saw hanger provides a safe, convenient way to keep your saw from falling.

Black & Decker, and Craftsman worm-drives, and Hitachi framing nailers. \$13.95 from Toolhangers Unlimited.

Contact: Toolhangers Unlimited, P.O. Box 58, Castle Rock, CO 80104; 303/688-3926; [www.grooveline.com/toolhangers/saw](http://www.grooveline.com/toolhangers/saw).

### Carbide Cutter

Three tungsten carbide blades (two for scoring, one for chiseling) make easy work of laminates, countertops, roof tiles, shingles, floor tiles, and cement backerboard, according to the manufacturer. The *Carbide Cement Cutter* is available for a retail price of about \$8.50 in boxes of 12.



Contact: Marshalltown Trowel Company, 104 S. 8th Ave., Marshalltown, IA 50158; 800/987-6935; [www.marshalltown.com](http://www.marshalltown.com). 