

New Solutions

Products that make light work of demanding projects

Time is a precious commodity, and *HANDY* editors are always on the lookout for new tools, techniques and building materials that help us work smarter and faster. These new offerings promoted at the National Hardware Show, the product-packed Craftsman Conference and other events this past year should enable DIYers to work more efficiently, more quickly and with less effort than ever before. For additional highlights, be sure to check out Web Extra.



No-Slip Grip

If you've ever been frustrated trying to remove overtightened bolts or ones with rounded corners, you'll appreciate Craftsman Extreme Grip wrenches. They won't slip because they apply leverage against the flats (sides) of the bolt head rather than the corners, and they have extra-long handles that allow you to apply much more force than you can with a conventional wrench. The double-end wrenches (two sizes on each wrench) are available in sets of three (\$30) in standard or metric sizes. Sears Craftsman, 800-549-4505

Instant Deck

Attic explorers won't have to worry about accidentally plunging a foot through the underlying ceiling with Attic Dek, a system of hard plastic grids that fasten to the tops of ceiling joists in unfinished areas. Whether they're used as a temporary walkway or for a permanent storage deck, Attic Dek grids fit easily through

tight access points where sheet goods won't go. After the success of the company's 16 x 16-in. models, Attic Dek has introduced a 16 x 24-in. grid for homes with joists spaced 24 in. OC. The grids come in eight-packs of 16 x 16-in. grids or four-packs of 16 x 24-in. grids (\$45). Attic Dek, 800-676-6904



Rotating Receptacles

The duplex receptacle developed by 360 Electrical (\$8) is a perfect example of inventing a new product to meet changing needs. Back when receptacles were being standardized, plugs were relatively small — at least by today's standards. Now, with so many oversize plugs that contain transformers, breakers and other circuitry, it's often impossible to fit more than one plug in a duplex outlet. The solution: Make receptacles with plug-in slots that rotate so you can orient bulky plugs to fit. So far only the 15-amp, 120-volt version is in production, but the company plans to introduce additional products with 360-degree capability soon, including a power strip and GFCI receptacles. 360 Electrical, (801) 364-4900

