



Problem Solved: Electrical Outlets That Spin

"When I was young, electrical outlets were sedentary, so if you needed to recharge your drill/driver and juice up your iPod at the same time, you had to pull out a power strip or find another wall with a free receptacle. Then came 360 Electrical, which let you connect two bulky plugs at the same time."

That's the story you'll be telling your grandchildren one day, after you've retrofitted all of the outlets in the kitchen, bathroom, home office, and workshop where such large plugs are typically used. The 360 outlets are designed to fit into a standard-size electrical box, so all you need is a screwdriver and about five minutes to swap in the new receptacles in the same manner you would any replacement outlet. —ASHLEY WOMBLE

Look for 360 Electrical's 15-amp, 125-volt outlets at hardware stores later this fall for about \$8. For more information, visit 360electrical.com.

COPPER SMOKESTACK CAPS

NEW WAY TO IMPROVE DRAFT AND ADD STYLE TO CHIMNEYS

To stop nesting birds, sneaky squirrels, and gallons of rainwater from infiltrating your fireplace, you've had just two choices:

Top the chimney with a heavy terra-cotta pot or—if you're like most people—finish it with a steel cap that looks like a flying saucer perched on a chicken-wire fence. Now there's a stylish copper alternative, from Oklahoma architect Jack Arnold, that won't sully the look of your roofline or topple a fragile prefabricated chimney.

The copper caps have the regal look of chess pieces, and after several months outside, they'll develop a patina that's as timeworn as that of your old house's. The caps improve the chimney's draft by adding to its height and by creating a mini-tornado in the stack when cold air from outside mixes with warm air inside. This may conjure disturbing visions of Dorothy and Toto spinning about in your chimney, but trust us, it's a good thing: It prevents smoke from billowing out of the firebox. Priced from \$700 to \$1,400, the caps are patented and UL-listed for use on both masonry and prefabricated metal chimneys.

—NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

For more information, visit jackarnold.com.



{ ORIGINS: QUIZ }

It seems that for every twist of a monkey wrench's threaded nut, there's a story about the tool's invention. Some say Charles Moncky, a Baltimore mechanic, dreamed it up, while others point the finger at Charles Monck, a British blacksmith. Yet we put our money on "Monkey" White from Springfield, Mass., whose tool with the adjustable jaws functioned like an all-in-one wrench set.

In which year did this monkey business take place?

- A. 1829 B. 1900 C. 1887 D. 1840

(turn to "Origins: Answer," page 24, for the answer)