

2,821 Club members tested \$70,882 in products

MEMBER-TESTED SEAL

This seal is awarded to products that at least two out of three testers recommend to fellow Club members. The test scores are compiled from all test reports. Ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest.



MEMBER TESTED AND RECOMMENDED

HCOA RECOMMENDED

Products earn additional seals when favorable ratings are received from Club members who are trades contractors, automotive mechanics or avid woodworkers. These products are identified with Contractor Tested, Mechanic Tested and Woodworker Tested icons.

DEALS & DISCOUNTS

The Deals & Discounts icon appears next to select tested and recommended products to signify a special members-only offer. For details, go to www.HandymanClub.com, roll over the Member Benefits tab and click on Deals & Discounts.

YOU CAN BE A TESTER

To be a product tester, you must fill out a Product Test Profile form. To request a form, call Member Services at 800-243-7679 or go to www.HandymanClub.com and click on the Member Benefits tab. There, you can fill out the form online.



Compact saw

MEMBER RATING: 9.1
BEST FEATURE: QUALITY
Dremel, 800-437-3635
www.dremel.com

The Dremel Saw-Max (\$129.99) is a compact, handheld saw that makes precise, clean, straight cuts while allowing for detailed work in tight spaces. It offers easy one-hand operation and features quick-change cutting wheels that make straight, plunge or flush cuts up to 3/4 in. deep in wood, plastic, laminates, drywall, sheet metal and tile. The kit includes a 3-in. multipurpose carbide wheel, a 3-in. metal cutoff wheel, a 3-in. tile diamond wheel and a 3-in. multipurpose flush-cut wheel.

Henry Cunningham, Morrice, MI: "I cut tile, plywood, 2x4s, cement board and drywall with the Saw-Max, and it performed extremely well. It's now my go-to cutting tool."

David Appleby, Port Neches, TX: "It's great for plunge cutting, especially when cutting outlets in panels or drywall, and it's perfect for trim and finish work where attention to detail is important."



Metalworking machine

MEMBER RATING: 8.5
BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE
Multiplaz LLC, (855) 314-5551
www.multiplaz.com

The Multiplaz 3500 (\$1,995) uses a patented welding technology that turns ordinary tap water into plasma so you can weld, solder, braze, harden and cleanse steel, aluminum, copper, cast iron, bronze and other metals. This compact system can be easily transported in a tool bag, and it replaces a variety of tools such as a welding machine, a gas torch, a plasma cutter, an inverter welder and more. Other features include two torches (to easily switch between cutting and welding applications) and the ability to cut ceramic tiles, quartz glass, bricks, concrete and other nonflammable materials.

Brian Torkelson, Princeton, MN: "I used the Multiplaz 3500 for welding brass, aluminum and stainless steel. It's portable, easy to maneuver and more convenient to use than my big, bulky stick welder."

Jerry Vreeman, Colorado Springs, CO: "The versatility and overall engineering make it a great tool. I enjoyed the fusion style of Mode 1, but Mode 2 with wire might become my favorite. It's now my first choice for remote locations and emergency welding."



Acrylic-block door insert

MEMBER RATING: 8.5
BEST FEATURE: NATURAL LIGHT IN HOME
Hy-Lite, a U.S. Block Windows Co.
888-256-2599, www.hy-lite.com

The Hy-Lite Acrylic Block Door Insert (starting at \$117) provides a window for natural light without compromising privacy. The preassembled units (which take about 90 minutes to install) transform ordinary doors into distinctive design elements. The acrylic block weighs 70 percent less than glass, so the door will open and close easily. The inserts are available in three block patterns, feature a white frame and have a full five-year warranty.

Ralph Larsen, Sanford, NC: "The insert was fairly easy to install in my solid-core door. It looked like a custom-made door when I was finished."

Vanessa Alexander, Simpsonville, SC: "Everything arrived in excellent condition, and the installation instructions were easy to understand and follow."

PHOTOS COURTESY MANUFACTURERS

Handheld showerhead

MEMBER RATING: 8.8
BEST FEATURE: EASE OF USE
Moen Inc., 800-289-6636
www.moen.com

Moen's new Twist Handheld Shower (\$64.98) allows you to choose from four spray settings with a flick of your thumb. The immerse setting provides an invigorating, full-coverage spray; the soothe setting offers a heavy, relaxing mist; the drench setting provides a soft-yet-heavy rinse; and the shine setting is a strong, focused spray ideal for cleaning a bathtub and shower. Other features include a 59-in. hose and a limited lifetime warranty.

Steve Saffle, Valley Center, KS: "The shower works extremely well on low water pressure; we can use all the functions with very good performance. Its twist motion rotates very easily."

Bill Davis, Molino, FL: "Assembly and installation took no more than three minutes. The hose has ample length, and it doesn't leak. I'm upgrading my other two showers with this model."



Paint and primer

MEMBER RATING: 8.9
BEST FEATURE: QUALITY
BehrPro, (714) 545-7101
www.behrpro.com

Behr Premium Plus Ultra Paint (\$166 for 5 gallons) is an exterior two-in-one paint and primer that can be used on wood, vinyl, aluminum, fiber cement, siding, brick, masonry, stucco, fences and garage doors. The paint dries in less than two hours and is appropriate for all climates; its protective shell shields against sunlight, moisture, stains and dirt. Kilz Pro-X 310 Interior Flat paint (\$79.47 for 5 gallons) is a high-quality latex paint that offers superior coverage so you can apply fewer coats. It's available in a two-base system (white and dark) with a palette of more than 1,100 colors.

Jose Mujica, Aliso Viejo, CA: "The Premium Plus Ultra Paint has the right viscosity for outdoor jobs, provides a good finish with little paint and offers a vivid and durable color."

Jorge Lucano, Carson, CA: "The Pro-X paint has great colors to choose from, and it doesn't have a heavy paint smell."



Custom cellular shades

MEMBER RATING: 9.4
BEST FEATURE: EASE OF INSTALLATION
Redi Shade Inc., 888-608-6611
www.simplefitcustomshades.com

Simple Fit Custom Cellular Shades (starting at \$109) by Redi Shade Inc. are affordable and can be installed in less than 30 seconds without tools or brackets — a patented compression-mount system lets you complete installation with the touch of a button. Once installed, the shades provide effortless, child-safe cordless adjustment. Other features include high-quality honeycomb cellular fabric that's available in both light-filtering and blackout styles, durable aluminum top and bottom rails, multiple color options and an easy online ordering system that allows consumers to customize each shade.

Kathleen Dentler, Pittsburg, PA: "I installed each blind in less than a minute. The colors and custom-fit choices on the Web site are extremely accurate."

Kathleen Barach, Woodstock Valley, CT: "The way that the shades fit into window frames and mount using compression is borderline genius! The shades are sturdy, and operation is smooth."





Paint roller cleaner

MEMBER RATING: 9.0
BEST FEATURE: CLEANING ABILITY
 NJ Product Development LLC
 (801) 822-6289, www.thecurlyq.com

The Curly-Q (\$13.90) allows you to quickly and effectively clean rollers without touching paint. Simply push the stainless steel spring down the roller to squeeze most of the paint back into a tray or can; then repeat multiple times under running water. The device features two sizes of rings so you can clean rollers as large as 3/4-in.-nap.

Kevin Morgan, Chester, IL: "Using the Curly-Q cut my cleanup time in half. The amount of excess paint you get off of the rollers is amazing!"

Eugene Bacon, El Paso, TX: "The amount of paint and time saved using the Curly-Q is remarkable. My fingers are clean, I have more time to work on other projects, and I'm reusing my paint rollers instead of throwing them away."



Painting accessory

MEMBER RATING: 8.4
BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE
 Hyde Tools Inc., 800-872-4933
www.hydetools.com

Hyde's Metal Can Pour & Roll (\$5.93) is a convenient accessory that securely attaches to metal gallon paint cans. Its spout helps you avoid spills when pouring paint, and the opposite side incorporates a paintbrush wipe. A plastic grid attaches to the rim so you can paint with a 4-in. roller directly from the can. The grid has two slots for use with full and partially used paint cans.

David Stringer, East Islip, NY: "The handy 4-in. roller grid is perfect for small paint jobs or touch-up work."

Jerry Rambo, Baraboo, WI: "It eliminated drips down the side of the paint can, saving me from additional cleanup, and it made my painting project more enjoyable."



Grout-removal tool

MEMBER RATING: 8.4
BEST FEATURE: QUALITY
 Spyder, 888-471-2239
www.spyderproducts.com

Remove grout in a fraction of the time with the Spyder Grout-Out Multi-Pack (\$23.99). The one-piece carbon-steel blade easily fits into any reciprocating saw and features a durable, carbide-grit edge to enhance performance and control while limiting damage to tile and glass. Available in two sizes, the blades power through grout, including urethane and epoxy, and can be used on joints from 1/16 in. to 1/4 in. wide.

Patrick Rossini, Hibbing, MN: "I used the Spyder Grout-Out to remove 50 linear feet of grout and it worked great! It cut my labor time in half, and the blade never seemed to get dull."

Edward Lee, St. Louis, MO: "I've used about every grout-removing tool you can imagine, and this is by far the best tool for the job. It's a lot easier to control, and it cuts through grout like butter."

Folding knife

MEMBER RATING: 8.7 **BEST FEATURE: PERFORMANCE**
 Columbia River Knife & Tool, 800-891-3100, www.crkt.com

Weighing only 2.5 ounces, the CRKT Aluminum Ripple Folding Knife (model No. K415KXP, \$59.99) has a stainless steel blade that opens instantly when you press the blade flipper with either hand, and a locking liner holds it in place. The blade, which features a high-hollow grind and satin finish, also has a ball detent for safety while closed. Its aluminum handle is machined with more than 40 lightening holes and small ripples that are polished at the tops to create a pocket-worn finish. The handle also includes a removable stainless steel clip.



Justin Gordon, Putnam, CT: "This is the sharpest knife out of the package that I have ever owned. It's extremely lightweight and comfortable to handle."

Michael Rufener, Madras, OR: "It's smoother to open and close than all of my other knives; plus it holds an edge longer and is easier to sharpen."

AC and USB wall outlet

MEMBER RATING: 8.9
BEST FEATURE: CONVENIENCE
 Newer Technology Inc., 800-275-4576,
www.macsales.com

The Newer Technology Power2U AC/USB Wall Outlet (\$27.99 each, \$22.95 for two or more) is a dual-socket, in-wall outlet that includes two USB charging ports for use with iPods, iPads and other USB-charging devices. According to Newer Technology, it's the only UL-listed in-wall USB charging solution that will work on any 15-amp circuit with a 16-cu.-in. electrical box. It even limits charging power to the amount required by the attached device.

Michael Haberman, Trinidad, TX: "It's a must-have for anyone who has multiple devices that use a USB charging system. The design of the outlet is great."

Timothy Allen, Metamora, IL: "The USB ports are spaced far enough out that the standard plug-in transformers do not interfere with the USB ports."



Retractable towel ring

MEMBER RATING: 7.9
BEST FEATURE: APPEARANCE
 Moen Inc., 800-289-6636
www.moen.com

Moen's Retractable Towel Ring (\$19.99) keeps hand and kitchen towels off of counters and floors. It features a stamped-steel mounting bracket for secure connection to the wall, expands out to 11 in. from the base and effortlessly retracts back to its original position. It can be used in bathrooms, kitchens, utility rooms, garages, etc.

Thomas Detweiler, Mountain Top, PA: "The towel ring was easy to install, and I love the retractable cord. It's used on a daily basis, and the towel is always handy yet out of the way."

Charles Cohen, Palm Coast, FL: "It's very sturdy, and we love that the retractable ring holds the towel so we don't have to remove it with each use."



Workpiece grips

MEMBER RATING: 9.1
BEST FEATURE: EASE OF USE
 Milescraft Inc., (847) 683-9200
www.milescraft.com

TriGrips (\$11.99 for a pack of four) securely hold projects in place for routing, sanding, painting, drilling, carving and more. When laid flat, the grips' nonslip friction pads hold projects 1-3/16 in. above the work surface without the need for clamps. When set on end, the cone-shape tip raises the workpiece 3 in. above the work surface, making it a perfect painting support.

Dustin Walker, Fort Wayne, IN: "The gripping texture makes for an extremely nonslip surface, and the pointy end is very helpful as well."

Donald DiRienzo, Sandown, NH: "It grips well on rough and smooth surfaces for sanding or routing, and the shape permits use with odd-shape pieces." ■



Belt hook

MEMBER RATING: 7.6 **BEST FEATURE: DURABILITY**
 PDP Innovations, 800-496-4153, www.thegorillahook.com

Made from a durable and dense plastic, the Gorilla Hook (\$14.99) offers strength and security while keeping your tools easily accessible. It slides onto any regular belt or most tool belts and incorporates a locking hook that holds cordless drills, nail guns and more.

Dale Szymanowski, Maumee, OH: "With the Gorilla Hook holding my drill, my project was finished in record time. The latch keeps the tool where you need it, and the tool doesn't drop."

David Hall, Commerce Township, MI: "It was well-balanced and felt very comfortable with my drill in it. The drill was easy to remove from the holder when needed. I'll be using this for all of my projects from now on."

