

Useless Tools

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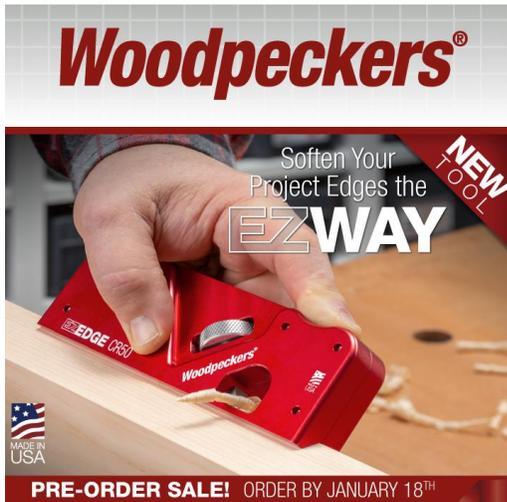
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The Dust Patrol

I got a promotion email recently from this well-known woodworking retailer. While the unit isn't cheap, its major differentiator seems to be that it is wall mounted. This got me to thinking. Wall mounted devices have the advantage of saving floor space, but a wall mounted dust collector, with a big hanging bag to collect wood shavings doesn't exactly add to your floor space. So what's the point? In addition, the woodworker with a wall-mounted device has to wrestle with a 4" diameter hose as he moves around the shop. I would think a dust collector on a mobile cart would make much more sense. And here's the bonus question: what is the purpose of the hose on the left of the photo that appears to be attached to a board which is attached to the

wall. I'm guessing there are machines on the other side of the wall, but it's just a guess. And why is this hose so long? Tool



The Corner Tool

This latest blitz from Woodpeckers caught my attention. They are offering a corner plane with either 1/8, 3/16, 1/4 radius or a 45 chamfer. You have the option of purchasing just one plane and then adding the other blades for just \$25 each. For a time-limited special offer price of \$150 you can get one of the planes with a wall-mountable rack so you can display it prominently in your shop. You have the option of purchasing just one plane and then adding the other blades for just \$25 each as opposed to purchasing separate plans for each radius. The promotional material highlights a key feature – “make quick work of edge relief without changing bits in your router or plugging in anything.” They don't say how long it takes to change the

blades in the plane. I wonder if that task is faster than changing a router bit. And the last time I looked for an edge radius bit for my router it cost around \$25. Nor do they claim how much time you save by not having to plug in a router. I'm thinking that this particular Woodpeckers product falls into a marketing black hole. If you do a lot of edge softening, you probably have a router bit (or a router itself) dedicated to the task and don't relish the idea of doing lots of edging with just a hand tool. And if you don't do a lot of edge softening, then you aren't likely to spring \$150 for a dedicated tool. So, who buys this stuff?

Send your answers to the above questions to awdbrookline@gmail.com. Also send any other examples you know of that have features that are pretty much useless or vastly over-rated.