

Articles (By Title)

**About old pocket doors
(included in Pocket Doors)**

James Boorstein
July 1989

Doors, Windows, Skylights | Doors

**Adding a Seasonal Porch
A timber-framed, screened-in
porch with an awning roof keeps
out insects but comes down
easily to let in winter sun**

Ken Textor
July 1996

Porches & Decks | Porches

**Adding a Second Story
You can save time and avoid
weather worries by building the
new roof before tearing off the
old one**

Tony Simmonds
May 1996

Remodeling | Additions

**Adding Up
A new second story on
independent footings straddles
an old house**

Eric K. Rekdahl
July 1982

Remodeling | Additions

**Addition Foundation, An
Grafting the right foundation
onto a house that's neither
square nor level**

Rick Arnold
March 2002

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete
Remodeling | Structural

**Air and Vapor Barriers
Understanding and preventing
moisture movement are the first
steps in protecting a house from
water damage**

Scott Gibson
May 1994

Energy Issues | Air Sealing



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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Aligning Eaves on Irregularly Pitched Roofs**Making soffits and fascias line up when intersecting roof pitches aren't the same**

Scott McBride

November 1994

Framing | Roof Framing

All About Dishwashers**Quiet and almost invisible in the kitchen cabinetry, today's dishwashers are made to clean and not be heard**

Roe A. Osborn

Winter 2001

Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath

All About Driveways**Handsome, safe and durable driveways provide room for parking, turning and play, and are built on a stable, well-drained base**

Andy Engel

September 1998

Sitework

All About Rain Gutters**Whether aluminum, copper, steel or plastic, gutters need good design and proper installation to put roof runoff where it belongs**

Andy Engel

September 1999

Water & Moisture Control | Gutters

All About Roof Trusses**Trusses can be used to frame even complex roofs, but they must be installed and braced properly**

Stephen Smulski

July 1994

Materials & Products | Roofing, Siding, Decking

All Trussed Up**Fabricating Box-Beam Trusses**

Edwin Oribin

January 1992

Framing | Truss Framing



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**All Trussed Up****Steel-and-Wood Trusses**

Eliot Goldstein

January 1992

Framing | Truss Framing

Arbitration

If you can't resolve your differences in the field, here's an alternative to court

Andrew H. Diem

January 1990

Business

Arm and Hand Pain on the Job Site

A doctor's take on wrist, elbow and shoulder troubles common to builders

John Fuhrman

July 2000

Job Safety

Asphalt Shingling From the Top Down

On steeply pitched roofs, working from the ridge down is faster, safer and easier on the shingles

John Carroll

May 2002

Roofing | Asphalt Shingles

Avoiding Back Pain

For trouble-free service, stretch, exercise and watch your posture

Chris Dunn

January 1994

Job Safety

Avoiding Common Framing Errors

By paying attention to some basic details, you can avoid the framing mistakes that building inspectors encounter most frequently

Rick Tyrell

January 1997

Framing | Roof Framing

Framing | Wall Framing



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Avoiding Common Mistakes in Concrete and Masonry

**An engineer offers a few simple
changes to make walls and
foundations much sturdier**

Thor Matteson

July 1996

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete



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**Balloon-Framing a Rake Wall**

How one builder stiffens walls by running studs from floor to roofline

Sean Sheehan

September 1990

Framing | Wall Framing

Basic Scribing Techniques

A finish carpenter shares his secrets for fitting trim to uneven, unlevel or unplumb surfaces

Jim Tolpin

November 1992

Trim Carpentry | Baseboards

Trim Carpentry | Door & Window

Casings

Batten Doors

Building a solid door from common lumber

Bruce Gordon

March 1982

Millwork | Door

Bed Alcove

Convert wasted attic space into a bed that has drawers, bookshelves and a vanity

Tony Simmonds

September 1992

Cabinets | Built-ins

Bench-Built Window Trim

How one trim carpenter turns jamb extensions into an advantage by using them to reinforce preassembled window casings

Jim Britton

July 1998

Trim Carpentry | Door & Window

Casings

Block Planes for Carpenters

A veteran carpenter surveys the current offerings and tells how he gets the best performance from his planes

Rex Alexander

March 1999

Tools | Hand Tools



Articles (By Title)

**Bookshelf Basics**

**A guide to support systems,
shelving designs and materials**

Bruce Greenlaw

July 1996

Cabinets | Built-ins

Breath of Fresh Air, A

Making a Victorian screen door

Alasdair G.B. Wallace

January 1987

Millwork | Door

Brick Floors

**How a New Mexico pro lays a
brick floor without mortar or
string lines**

Douglas Ring

July 1986

Foundations & Masonry | Brick

Interior Finish | Floors

Bricklaying Basics

**Tools, materials and techniques
for building a brick wall**

Dick Kreh

January 1988

Foundations & Masonry | Brick

Brick-Mosaic Patios

**Creating patterns and pictures
with dry-laid brick and a
diamond-bladed saw**

Scott Ernst

January 1991

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**Builder's Guide to Avoiding
Skin Problems, A**

**From cracked fingertips and
contact allergies to cement burns
and skin cancer, the prevention
is better than the cure**

Art Papier

July 2001

Job Safety



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**Builder's Real-Life First-Aid Kit, A**

Bandages, bee-sting medicine and everything else a carpenter shouldn't leave home without

Jim Kelleher
September 1998
Job Safety

Builder's Screen Porch, A

From a hip-framed floor that slopes in three directions to a coffered ceiling, a veteran carpenter builds his porch his way

Scott McBride
March 1994
Porches & Decks | Porches

Building a Block Foundation

How to pour the footing and lay the concrete block, and what to do about waterproofing, drainage and insulation

Dick Kreh
July 1983
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete Block

Building a Bow Window From Scratch

Lay out the curved plates with a trammel, then use them as a bending form for laminated trim

Spencer Horn
May 1999
Doors, Windows, Skylights | Windows

Building a Butternut Kitchen

Hand-planed hardwoods and high-grade plywood coupled with dowels and dovetails

Rex Alexander
September 1991
Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Building a Cantilevered-Tread, Spiral Staircase

John Grunewald
November 1986
Stairs



Articles (By Title)

**Building a Circular Porch**

A curving plywood beam and laminated trim solve some of the problems associated with working in the round

Len Schmidt

March 1999

Porches & Decks | Porches

Building a Crosscut Sled for a Table Saw

Making square cuts on wide stock is quick, safe and easy with this simple jig that you can build in a day

Rex Alexander

July 2001

Tools | Power Tools

Building a Cupola

The proper proportions and long-lasting materials make a structure that looks good and helps ventilate house, barn or shop

Ken Textor

May 1996

Exterior Finish | Trim

Building a Curved Balustrade

A carpenter uses router templates, laminations and fiberglass packing tape to trim a staircase.

Jeffrey Janssen

May 1994

Stairs

Trim Carpentry | Railings

Building a Curved Deck With Synthetic Decking

A multilevel deck with built-in benches and a barbecue pit turns a backyard into a living room

Ted Putnam

September 1997

Porches & Decks | Decks

Building a Curved Stair on Site

A stick-framed stair lifts the eye upward while keeping the costs under control

Russell O. Bessonette

September 1995

Stairs



Articles (By Title)

**Building a Custom Box Newel**

A hollow post made of mitered panels is easily detailed with stock moldings

Lon Schleining
November 2000

Stairs
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Building a Deck Over a Living Space

If you don't want the roof to leak, careful flashing details and a watertight membrane should be your primary concerns

Keith J. Mazzarello
March 2001
Porches & Decks | Decks

Building a Federal-Style Mantel

Neoclassical detailing in poplar and ceramic tile

Stephen Sewall
July 1989
Trim Carpentry | Mantels

Building a Fireplace

One mason's approach to framing, layout and bricklaying technique

Bob Syvanen
May 1984
Foundations & Masonry | Brick
Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace &
Chimney

Building a Fireplace Mantel

Fluted pilasters and decorative trim make for a mantel that appears complicated but really isn't

Gary Katz
March 1995
Trim Carpentry | Mantels

Building a Fold-Down Bed

A simple two-part bed hides away to maximize space in a small room

Patrick Camus
May 2001
Cabinets | Built-ins



Articles (By Title)

**Building a Grand Veranda**

A New Jersey design/build team re-creates a large, comfortable porch with 19th-century details built to last into the 21st century and beyond

Kevin Wilkes

July 2000

Porches & Decks | Porches

Building a Helical Stair

Laying out a spiral stringer with a little help from the trig tables

Rick Barlow

September 1983

Stairs

Building a Lazy-Susan Cabinet

Revolving shelves on heavy-duty carousel hardware make the most of a kitchen corner

Rex Alexander

September 2000

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Building a Mantel

A frame-and-panel base topped with a broad shelf dresses up a plain fireplace

David Getts

November 1999

Trim Carpentry | Mantels

Building a Modular Retaining Wall

Stacked on a stable base, interlocking concrete blocks offer a mortarless solution to common landscaping problems

Andy Beasley

September 2001

Sitework

Building a Picket Fence

A carpenter uses shop-built sections and sturdy foundations for a traditional structure

George Nash

May 1997

Sitework



Articles (By Title)

**Building a Tiled Masonry Heater**

Hot combustion, heat-exchange channels and six tons of brick for energy efficiency and a clean burn

Vladimir Popovac

January 1992

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

Building a Timber Retaining Wall

Good drainage and a stout connection to the hillside are keys to a long-lasting wall

Scott McBride

July 1999

Sitework

Building a Winding Outdoor Stair

Fitting stairs to a complicated site called for an accurate sketch and some job-site improvising

Thor Matteson

March 1989

Stairs

Building an Arched Dormer

This unusual project took some concentrated thought about the framing and an interesting roofing material to top it off

Bill Phelps

November 1984

Framing | Roof Framing

Remodeling | Dormers

Building an Arts and Crafts Stair

An updated and code-compliant interpretation of the classic Greene and Greene Gamble House staircase

Lon Schleining

November 1996

Stairs

Building an Efficient Fireplace

A variation of the Rumford design reflects heat into the room rather than letting it disappear up the chimney

Richard T. Kreh, Sr.

May 1997

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney



Articles (By Title)



Building an Exterior Newel Post

Redwood boards and custom moldings decorate a pressure-treated post and anchor the front-porch steps

Peter Carlson
November 1993
Exterior Finish | Trim

Building an L-Shaped Stair

Basic construction techniques for a stair with a three-step winder

Larry Haun
May 1991
Stairs

Building an Ornate Cornice

Cabinet-grade trim meets detective work when a carpenter restores a Victorian facade

Terry Murphy
March 1994
Exterior Finish | Trim

Building Barrel Vaults

Longitudinal Wood I-Beams

Lamar Henderson
March 1989
Framing | Roof Framing

Building Barrel Vaults

Trusses and Plywood Gussets

Gerry Copeland
March 1989
Framing | Roof Framing

Building Coffered Ceilings

Three framing methods

Don Dunkley
Greg Lawrence
Jay Thomsen
July 1992
Framing | Ceiling Framing

Building Concrete Countertops

A carefully constructed mold is the key to creating a beautiful kitchen counter from everyday materials

Fu-Tung Cheng
Eric Olsen
May 2002
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete
Interior Finish | Countertops



Articles (By Title)

**Building Dry Stone Walls**

A systematic approach saves time and turns beginners into artists

Chris Kachur

November 1999

Foundations & Masonry | Stone

Building Drywall Archways

With flexible 1/4-in. drywall and a variety of bendable corner beads to choose from, creating the perfect curve is easier than ever

Myron R. Ferguson

March 2000

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster

Building Hip and Valley Roofs With Trusses

Keep the numbered trusses in order, and entire hip sections can be assembled on the ground and lifted as single units

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

March 1996

Framing | Roof Framing

Building Interior Doors

Using a shaper to produce coped-and-sticked frames and raised panels

Joseph Beals

March 1992

Millwork | Door

Building Kitchen Cabinets on Site

Make face frames after the doors are hung for a perfect fit and quick, no-hassle installation

Joseph B. Lanza

November 1999

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Building Louvered Shutters

Jigs and careful planning make quick, accurate work of a potentially tedious job

Rob Hunt

November 1983

Doors, Windows, Skylights | Windows



Articles (By Title)

**Building Rake Walls****Two time-saving layout methods**

Larry Haun

March 1992

Framing | Wall Framing

Building Square Columns with Entasis**A little math and a shop-made router template give classical curves to plywood box columns**

Scott Wynn

January 2001

Millwork | Column

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Building Wood Baseboard-Radiator Covers**A little easy-to-assemble trim dresses up these homely metal heaters**

Rex Alexander

May 1998

Mechanical Systems | HVAC

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Carpentry

Building Wooden Screen Doors**Durability and aesthetics hinge on sound joinery and steadfast materials**

Stephen Sewall

January 1990

Millwork | Door

Built-In Hardwood Hutch, A**When working with solid wood, joinery techniques must accommodate seasonal movement**

Stephen Winchester

January 1994

Cabinets | Built-ins

Built-Up Cedar Roofing
Common shingles mimic a traditional reed thatch

Steve Dunleavy

March 1990

Roofing | Wood Roofing



Articles (By Title)



Built-up Center Beams

These simple site-built beams are the backbone of the house, so make sure you build them straight and set them level

Rick Arnold

Mike Guertin

January 2002

Framing | Floor Framing

Burner Basics

If you think the choice is as simple as gas vs. electric, you could end up with a great-looking stove that takes forever to boil water and even longer to clean

Roe A. Osborn

Winter 1999

Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath



Articles (By Title)

**Cantilevered Stairway**
Steel brackets support cantilevered treads around a cylinder

Rob Harlan
November 1994
Stairs

Capping a Curved Stair Wall

Wide horizontal laminations show off the grain of the maple caps

John Griffin
September 1998
Stairs

Care and Feeding of Wooden Decks, The
Frequent cleaning and periodic refinishing are the best ways to ensure a long and happy life for these vulnerable creatures

Jon Tobey
May 2001
Porches & Decks | Decks

Carpenter's Lumber Rack, A

A two-level welded-steel rack boosts even a small truck's carrying capacity and pops out easily when you don't need it

Gary Williams
July 2000
Tools | Storage

Carpenter's Toolbox, The
A close look at some old and new designs

Tom Law
November 1985
Tools | Hand Tools

Casing a Door

Work carefully, and save the wood filler for the nail holes

Bob Syvanen
January 1986
Trim Carpentry | Door & Window Casings



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Casing a Double-Hung Window

A job you can do quickly and well

Bob Syvanen

July 1986

Trim Carpentry | Door & Window Casings

Caulk-Free Corners

A technique for folding skylight flashing

David Marshall

November 1988

Doors, Windows, Skylights | Windows

Water & Moisture Control | Flashing

Ceiling Joists for a Hip Roof

Three simple, problem-solving framing techniques

Larry Haun

September 1991

Framing | Roof Framing

Chainsaws Come Out of the Woods

A log builder tells about chainsaw safety, maintenance and how he uses chainsaws to work logs and timbers

Larry S. Young

July 1990

Tools | Power Tools

Chimney Cricket

Soldered copper flashing for a rooftop watershed

Scott McBride

July 1988

Water & Moisture Control | Flashing Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

Chinkless Log-Building

Coping logs with chainsaw and scriber

Larry S. Young

May 1989

Framing | Timber Frame & Log Framing



Articles (By Title)

**Choosing a Kitchen Sink**

There are lots of shapes, sizes, materials and accessories available today, but it's still a good idea to get what suits your needs

Steve Culpepper

November 1995

Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath

Choosing a Lavatory Faucet

Before you're sold on style alone, consider how the faucet is made, the type of valve it uses and the finish

Andrew Wormer

January 1998

Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Choosing and Installing a Bathroom-Vent Fan

Pick a fan that's quiet and powerful, and keep the duct short

Rex Cauldwell

May 1998

Venting

Choosing and Installing a Ceiling Fan

The right fan in the right location will keep you comfortable in winter as well as in summer

Fernando Pages Ruiz

November 2001

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Choosing and Using a Miter Saw

These indispensable tools come in many shapes and sizes; here's how to get the most from them.

Clayton DeKorne

May 2002

Tools | Power Tools

Choosing and Using Wall Jacks

Costing less than last month's truck payment, these jacks enable small crews to lift walls that weigh a ton or more

Jim Blodgett

May 2001

Framing | Wall Framing



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Choosing Boilers and Controls for Warm Floors

John Siegenthaler
July 1998
Mechanical Systems | HVAC

Choosing Ductwork

The kind of ducts you use and the number and types of turns they make dramatically affect HVAC-system performance

John O'Connell
Bruce Harley
July 1997
Mechanical Systems | HVAC

Choosing Kitchen Countertops

The perfect marriage of cost, aesthetics and performance is what suits your lifestyle and budget best

Scott Gibson
Winter 2001
Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath

Choosing Materials for Exterior Decks

From tropical hardwoods to man-made plastic composites, the choices are more varied than ever

Scott Gibson
July 2000
Materials & Products | Roofing, Siding, Decking
Porches & Decks | Decks

Choosing Resilient Flooring

Because of environmental concerns, cork and linoleum now compete with vinyl as attractive, durable flooring alternatives

Rick Gregory
July 1996
Materials & Products | Floors & Walls



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**Choosing Roofing**

Up in the air about using asphalt, wood, slate, tile or metal to keep out the rain? There are lots of choices, and they all have advantages

Jefferson Kolle

January 1995

Materials & Products | Roofing, Siding, Decking

Choosing, Using and Maintaining Paintbrushes

The right brush for the job and the right technique can make painting go more quickly and give you a better-looking paint job

Brian J. Doherty

November 1997

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish, Caulk

Chop-Saw Workstation, A

A movable table for the compound-miter saw

Scott King

March 1991

Tools | Benches & Stands

Circular-Saw Basics

A sidewinder is the most important tool on the job site, but did anybody ever teach you how to use one safely and effectively?

John Spier

May 1998

Tools | Power Tools

Clamps on Site

Select the right tool to get a grip on your work

Felix Marti

May 1992

Tools | Hand Tools



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**Classic "Tin" Lid, The
Hand-forming a standing-seam
metal roof**

Matt Holmstrom

May 1987

Roofing | Metal Roofing

**Classical Details in a Harsh
Environment****Craftsmen build a coastal house
to withstand hurricane winds,
meticulous architects and
exacting clients**

Robert Weinstein

May 1994

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**Classical Style in a Porch
Addition****Tips from a restoration expert on
deck construction, column
building and weatherproof
design**

Ted Ewen

January 1982

Porches & Decks | Porches

Restoration

**Cleaning Paintbrushes and
Rollers****A spinner makes quick work of a
messy task**

Johnathan Roger Foster

May 1994

Exterior Finish | Painting

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish,

Caulk

Clear Wood Finishes**How one painter applies lacquer
and varnish to interior woodwork
and camouflages the nail holes**

Byron Papa

September 1988

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish,
Caulk**Common Engineering
Problems in Frame
Construction****From undersize nails to
overloaded trusses, here's a look
at what builders get wrong when
they wing it without an engineer**

David Utterback

January 2000

Design | Structural Design



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**Concrete**

Understanding the characteristics of this material can take some of the anxious moments out of your pour and ensure a finished product of high quality

Trey Loy
March 1983
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Concrete and Masonry Fasteners

A survey of anchors reveals some surprising alternatives to lead and plastic

Kevin Ireton
September 1987
Materials & Products | Structural Material & Fasteners

Controlling Air Leakage

These simple techniques save energy in new construction

Jim Maloney
November 1992
Energy Issues | Air Sealing

Controlling Moisture in Deck Lumber

Many problems associated with deck deterioration can be traced to the original moisture content of the lumber

Bob Falk
Kent McDonald
Jerry Winandy
September 1995
Porches & Decks | Decks

Cooperative Craftsmanship

Distinctive wood detailing, tile work, stained glass and carving in a California living room

Ben Tarcher
January 1982
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Cornice Construction

Building the return is the tough part

Bob Syvanen
July 1983
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**Counter Act**

A belt sander will be your best friend when fitting factory-made laminate countertops to wavy walls

Steve Morris

March 1999

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Cracked Foundations

Prevention is easier than repair

Kip Park

September 1988

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Remodeling | Structural

Cranking Out Casements

Using a layout rod and shaper joinery to build outward-swinging windows with divided-light sashes and insulated glass

Scott McBride

January 1989

Millwork | Window

Curbless Skylights

Insulated glass mounted flush with the roof in a low-cost, site-built design

Rob Thallon

January 1984

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Curing Concrete

Keeping it warm and wet for a week will make concrete stronger and more watertight

Bruce A. Suprenant

September 1989

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Curved Baseboard Corners

Biscuit joinery and a simple jig solve a perplexing trim problem

Eric Blomberg

September 1994

Trim Carpentry | Baseboards



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**Curved Doors**

A design with a circular closet in the center of the house calls for some special techniques

Thomas Duffy
January 1983
Millwork | Door

Curved Timber

How one timber framer hews, bandsaws and steambends straight stock into curves

Ed Levin
September 1988
Framing | Timber Frame & Log Framing

Cutting and Setting Common Rafters

Rafters are the most basic element to a gable roof, so measure and lay them out carefully to make your roof look like it grew there

John Spier
November 2001
Framing | Roof Framing

Cutting and Soldering Copper Pipe

Clean the fittings carefully and heat them completely to get neat, leak-free joints

Peter Hemp
July 1995
Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Cutting Crown Molding

Calculating miter and bevel angles so you can cut crown on compound-miter saws

Stephen Nuding
July 1991
Trim Carpentry | Molding

Cutting Drywall

Marking and cutting in a single knife stroke and using a router to incise for electrical boxes make a tedious job faster and easier

Pat Carrasco
November 2000
Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster



Articles (By Title)



Cutting Multiples

A few tricks can save time when cutting studs, blocks and cripples

Larry Haun

May 1994

Framing | Roof Framing

Framing | Wall Framing

Cutting out Basic Stairs

A straight run of basement steps provides a useful lesson in calculating rise and run, and in cutting stringers

Eric Pfaff

March 1996

Stairs



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**Danger Can Be a State of Mind**

When it comes to job-site safety, your emotional well-being is as important as earplugs and safety goggles

Larry Haun
January 1999
Job Safety

Daylighting Strategies for a Ranch-Style House

A kitchen cupola and bedroom/bath clerestories bring natural light into a suburban ranch

Anni Tilt
March 2001
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Lighting

Deck Built to Last, A Thoughtful details designed to beat the weather

R. W. Missell
May 1988
Porches & Decks | Decks

Deck Design

A guide to the basics of deck construction

Scott Grove
November 1985
Porches & Decks | Decks

Deck Foundations that Last Design footings and piers to match the load and bearing capacity of your soil

Scott Schuttner
March 1993
Porches & Decks | Decks

Deck Railing Without Fasteners, A

Top-grade lumber, clever joinery and some unexpected materials take the place of the traditional stuff on this Oregon deck

Arthur Chenoweth
May 2002
Porches & Decks | Porches
Trim Carpentry | Railings



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**Deck Upstairs, The****How to combine a deck with a roof that won't leak**

Dan Rockhill

January 1983

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Roofing | Membrane Roofing

Decking and Sheathing**How one production carpenter puts the skin on wood-frame houses**

Jud Peake

March 1987

Framing | Floor Framing

Decorating With Drywall**Drywall panels and innovative corner beads turn a former living room into a formal dining room**

Myron R. Ferguson

January 2002

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster

Decorative Floor Inlays**A simple technique with elegant results**

Don Bollinger

November 1990

Interior Finish | Floors

Decorative Post Cap, A**Making caps for decks and fence posts**

Robert Vaughan

November 1989

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Decorative Sidewall Shingles**Custom-cut wood shingles make a variety of complex patterns**

Dave Skilton

July 1989

Siding | Wood Siding



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**Deep Foundations****Using driven piles and grade beams to build on soft ground**

Alvin M. Sacks

September 1991

Foundations & Masonry | Alternative
Foundations & Masonry**Design Guidelines for Safe Stairs****Getting the details right might save a life**

Gregory Harrison

March 1991

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Designing and Building a Carpenter's Toolbox**The best ones are sturdy, lightweight and compact**

Scott Wynn

January 1997

Tools | Storage

Designing and Building a Water Garden**Spillways and pools enliven a courtyard-garden entry**

Jeff Gold

November 1995

Sitework

Designing and Building an Entertainment Center**Housing electronic equipment, routing wires, storing CDs and dealing with that big TV are all part of the challenge**

Brian Wormington

January 1999

Cabinets | Built-ins

Designing and Building Leak-Free Sloped Glazing**Error-free projects demand careful detailing**

Fred Unger

March 1992

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Windows

Articles (By Title)

**Designing and Building Stairs**

Stairways can be minimal or very elaborate, but they're all based on simple geometry and accurate finish work

Bob Syvanen
November 1983
Stairs

Designing and Installing Baseboards

With stock moldings and simple milling, you can create a variety of designs, but they all require careful fitting

Joseph Beals
May 1997
Trim Carpentry | Baseboards

Designing Dining Spaces

Formal or not, comfortable, thought-out dining spaces add to the pleasure of a good meal

Robert Orr
May 2000
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Designing Forms for Tall Concrete Walls

Site-built panels that hold up under stress

William Doran
January 1993
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Designing Roofs for Snow Country

The right roof slope, materials and venting will lengthen the life of the roof and the structure under it

Henrik Bull
July 1999
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Articles (By Title)

**Detailing Decks Over Living Space**

When the roof pitch is shallow enough to walk on, clear drainage paths and careful waterproofing are essential

John Phelps

November 1997

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Detailing for Wood Shrinkage

If you think ahead, you can avoid nail pops, cracked drywall and sloping floors

Stephen Smulski

May 1993

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Trim Carpentry | Door & Window

Casings

Details for a Dry Foundation

Think of the ground around the house as the roof that keeps the foundation dry

William B. Rose

September 1997

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Basements

Details for a Lasting Deck

Government scientists study outdoor structures and report on which details, fasteners and finishes hold up best

Bob Falk

Sam Williams

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Different Approach to Frame-and-Panel Doors, A

A three-layer sandwich takes the place of complicated joinery

Gary Striegler

March 2002

Millwork | Door

Different Approach to Rafter Layout, A

Measuring along the bottom of the rafters and using a site-built jig simplify the process

John Carroll

May 1998

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Different Approach to Tiling Floors, A

Unlike a plywood or backerboard substrate, a modified mud job might be more reliable over the long haul

Tom Meehan

January 1997

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Interior Finish | Tile

Dining Deck, A

A deck that's built to withstand the weather is united with a small dining room

Tony Simmonds

March 1995

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Disappearing Attic Stairways

Folding stairs are the most common, but sliding stairs are easier to climb

William T. Cox

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Don't Forget the Blocks

Blocking makes a house more stable and makes it easier to install drywall, plumbing and siding

Larry Haun

July 1993

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**Door Hanger's Jigs, A**

A door specialist reveals a few shop-made accessories that make the job faster and easier

Larry Hart

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Double-Helix Stair

A cherry spiral built with divine inspiration, a little steam and a lot of clamps

Robin Ferguson

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Double-Hungs Restrung

More than just fishing for sash weights

David Strawderman

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Restoration

Drainage Systems

On sizing, laying out and choosing the right fittings for a residential waste system

George Skaates

November 1985

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Draining Gutter Runoff

Once the water's gone down the downspout, inexpensive plastic pipes carry it away from the house

Byron Papa

September 1999

Water & Moisture Control | Gutters

Dressing up Stock Windows

A two-piece sill, 5/4 casing and a backband flesh out stock windows' narrow exterior profile

Scott McBride

July 1999

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Trim Carpentry | Door & Window

Casings



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**Dry-Stack Block**

Precision-ground concrete blocks make it easy to build a wall

Rob Thallon

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Drywall Detailing

An alternative to wood trim around doors, windows and skylights

Dennis Darrah

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Dummy Rafter Tails

A useful technique for old-house remodelers and those who build alone

Bob Syvanen

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Easy Boring in Concrete, Masonry and Stone

Choose the appropriate drill and bit for the job, then respect their limitations

Bruce Greenlaw

January 1996

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Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Easy Textured Ceiling, An

Not just a cover-up for lousy drywall work, this approach creates the appearance of hand-troweled plaster using ordinary joint compound

Robert A. Sanders

March 2001

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Economical Framing

To conserve materials and save money, avoid overbuilding and design on 4-ft. modules

E. Lee Fisher

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Elegant Site-Built Door, An

Build a custom interior or exterior door with common job-site tools and readily available materials

John Birchard

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Energy-Saving Details

A demonstration house in Canada shows new approaches to energy-efficient, environmentally sensitive construction

Kip Park

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Engineered Nail, The

Ten steps to secure connections

Edward Allen

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**Ensuring the Durability of Energy-Efficient Houses**

Why are so many of today's homes plagued by rot, mildew and stale air, and what can we do about it?

Stephen Smulski

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Exemplary Folding Workbench, An

Ingenuity, some scrap wood and \$60 of hardware are all it took

Jefferson Kolle

November 1994

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Extension-Cord Basics

Wire size, jacket materials and voltage drop are important, often-ignored features of these ubiquitous job-site umbilicals

Ken Textor

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Exterior-Trim Details That Last

Flexible caulk joints combined with a drainage path for moisture keep vulnerable trim elements rot-free

John Michael Davis

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Articles (By Title)



Facing a Block Wall With Stone

A good rock supply, tight joints and hidden mortar are the secret to the solid, structural look

Tim Snyder

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Falling Eaves

One carpenter tries five methods of framing a tricky roof

Scott McBride

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Fanciful Built-in Beds

A look at the design and construction of Scandinavian-inspired bed alcoves

Jean Steinbrecher

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Fast and Accurate Framing Cuts Without Lines

They didn't believe it, so I cut this one by eye and took out my square to see how close I came.

Larry Haun

September 1998

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Faster, Better Drilling for Finish Carpenters

Specialty drill bits and accessories speed work and improve accuracy

Bruce Greenlaw

March 1996

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Finding the Right Refrigerator

Cold, hard facts about the biggest, most-used appliance in your kitchen

Roe A. Osborn

Winter 2000

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**Finishing Basements**

Despite the obstacles, converting that dark, scary place into comfortable living space is much cheaper than adding on

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

July 2000

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Finishing Hardwood Floors

A professional takes the fear out of sanding and shows how to get great results with waterborne finishes

Charles Peterson

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Fireplace Chimney, The Flashing and capping are the tricky parts of the job

Bob Syvanen

July 1984

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Foundations & Masonry | Brick

Fire-Safety Alarms

An electrician describes what kinds to get, where to put them and how to wire them to save lives and homes

Robert Marino

May 2002

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Fixes for Damp, Moldy Houses

Drying the foundation and sealing air leaks make houses durable and healthy

Fred Lugano

September 1999

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Fixing a Cold, Drafty House
Forget about weatherstripping doors and windows. Sealing and insulating the attic are the keys to lower heating bills and a more comfortable house.

Fred Lugano

November 1996

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 Energy Issues | Insulation & Weatherstripping

Fixing a House With a Bad Foundation
Helical piers go in like giant drywall screws to support a sinking house and a new addition

Jerry McSweeney

Eric McGaw

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Flashing

Anticipate the flow of water to keep it outside your house, where it belongs

Bob Syvanen

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Flashing a Chimney
Installing the flashing along with the bricks makes for a more secure and much better-looking job

John Carroll

January 2001

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 Water & Moisture Control | Flashing

Flashing a Curb

Jim Picton

November 1982

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Flashing Brick-Veneer Walls

Good masonry work blocks most rainwater, and proper flashing details expel what does get through

Douglas R. Stieve
November 2001

Foundations & Masonry | Brick
Water & Moisture Control | Flashing

Flashing Walls

Keeping water moving out and down is the key to effective sidewall flashing

Scott McBride
March 1996

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Floor Framing

With production techniques and the right materials, a solid, squeakless floor is a day's work

Don Dunkley
March 1984
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Floor Sanding

Follow a pattern with powerful machines for best results

Don Bollinger
May 1983
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Flush-Fit Cabinet, The Custom building with techniques well suited to the small shop

Paul Levine
January 1986
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Forming and Pouring Footings

Fill up a trench with concrete-- what's to know? If a house is going to stand on those little sidewalks, they'd better be straight, level and correctly placed.

Rick Arnold
Mike Guertin
November 1998
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete



Articles (By Title)



Forming and Pouring Foundations

They hold up the house, hold back the earth and keep out the water. If they're not level and square, you may end up custom-cutting every rafter.

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

January 1999

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Forming Concrete Walls

Building forms stick by stick can save on labor and materials

Arne Waldstein

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Foundation Drainage

Retrofitting is doing it the hard way

David Benaroya Helfant

January 1989

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Foundations on Hillside Sites

An engineer tells about pier and grade-beam foundations

Ronald J. Barr

September 1983

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Frameless Cabinets With a Traditional Look

A professional cabinetmaker describes his simple methods for making cases and doors

Paul Levine

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Framing a Bay Window With Irregular Hips

How one carpenter calculates the tough cuts

Don Dunkley

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**Framing a Bay-Window Roof**

It's only a small hip roof, but its 45° corners befuddle many carpenters. Drawing bay roofs out full scale is key to fast and accurate framing.

Scott McBride

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Framing a Cold Roof

Preventing roof leaks caused by ice damming

Steve Kearns

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Framing a Crawl-Space Foundation

These timesaving tips make short work of setting sills, posts and girders

Larry Haun

November 1992

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Framing a Cross-Gable Roof

One good valley rafter supports another

Scott McBride

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Framing a Dutch Roof

Hang a hip roof on a gable end for a dramatic roof form

Larry Haun

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Framing a Gable Roof

Cutting and stacking the way pieceworkers do it

Larry Haun

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**Framing a Gable Roof Over a Bay**

Letting ceiling joists cantilever beyond the walls makes this challenging roof detail stronger and easier to build

Scott McBride

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Framing a Gambrel Roof

Site-built trusses are a speedy way to frame this traditional barn-shaped roof

Joe Stanton

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Framing a Hip Roof

After you've framed a gable roof, rafter templates and rafter tables are all you'll need to make a hip

Larry Haun

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Framing a Second-Story Addition

A quartet of gables is linked by California-style valleys

Alexander Brennen

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Framing a Walk-Out Bow Window

A full-scale drawing reduces the chance of error

Carl Hagstrom

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Framing an Elegant Dormer

Flanking a shed dormer with a pair of gable dormers adds light and space inside while jazzing up the roofline

John Spier

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**Framing an Opening in a Bearing Wall**

Before you slice through studs, make sure you've got the weight of the house well supported elsewhere

Mike Guertin

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Framing and Sheathing Floors

If you do the layout carefully and precut all the joists, the floor will go together quickly like a giant jigsaw puzzle

Rick Arnold

Mike Guertin

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Framing Cathedral Ceilings

The challenge boils down to keeping the walls from spreading during and after construction

Brian Saluk

September 1998

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Framing Corners

A survey of methods and materials used to build warm, inexpensive and strong corners

Charles Bickford

January 1998

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Framing Curved Stairs on Site

A stud wall, not a laminated stringer, shapes these stairs

Scott Paschal

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Framing Doghouse Dormers

Two ways to frame a basic gable dormer

Scott McBride

September 1987

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Framing Floors With I-Joists

Whether you're building a new house or remodeling an old one, engineered lumber can give you squeak-free floors with fewer callbacks

Rick Arnold
Mike Guertin
May 1997
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Framing for Garage Doors

Think about the door before you pour

Steve Riley
May 1992
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Framing for Skylights

The trick is in laying out and building the splayed walls of the lightwell

Doug Hopper
September 1994
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Framing | Roof Framing

Framing Gable Ends

You can use a story pole and a level to lay out accurate cuts without a tape measure

Jim Thompson
May 1994
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Framing Headers and Corners

A summary of framing details for strength and energy efficiency

Rob Thallon
March 1992
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Framing Kitchen Soffits

Full-scale patterns on the floor and prefabricated sections help you to build these small dropped ceilings accurately and efficiently

Ralph Holloway
January 1999
Framing | Ceiling Framing



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**Framing Walls**

Speed and efficiency are the results of a careful, well-thought-out layout

Scott McBride

July 1993

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Framing With a Crane

For lifting beams, walls or material, cranes can save your wallet and your back

Jim Anderson

July 2001

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Framing With Nail Guns

They're as common on job sites as circular saws, but if you're not using your pneumatic nailer properly, maybe you should stick with your hammer

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

July 1999

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Framing With Steel for the First Time

A builder accustomed to wood framing tells about the differences between wood and steel construction

Robert McCullough

May 1995

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Framing With The Plumber in Mind

A few tips to help you keep your sticks and nails out of my way

Peter Hemp

November 1988

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Freestanding Spiral Stair, A Using stock lumber and common shop tools to build an elegant circular staircase

Steven M. White

November 1991

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**French-Door Retrofit**

Opening up a wall to bring the outdoors in

David Strawderman

July 1991

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From Boulders to Building Blocks

How a traditional stonemason quarries and dresses sandstone

Charles Miller

November 1986

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Frost-Protected Shallow Foundations

Used overseas successfully for decades, this innovative foundation system uses carefully placed insulation and a slab with integral footings instead of conventional deep frost walls

Christopher R. Kendall

March 1997

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Furniture-Grade Deck, A

Hidden fasteners and integral lighting streamline a contemporary, Craftsman-style deck

Scott Fleming

January 1997

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Furniture-Grade Finish for Trim, A

Applied in layers, alcohol-based dyes and stains make for a beautiful job

Rick Duncan

Steve Davis

July 1994

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Gable-Dormer Retrofit, A Framing around an existing roof requires different skeletons for two similar structures

Scott McBride
November 2000
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Gallery of Favorite Bath Details, A

It's the little things that make a good bathroom great

Charles Bickford
Winter 2001
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Gate That's Built to Last, A Weather-resistant construction means this driveway gate will stand up to Rocky Mountain storms for years to come

Andy Beasley
March 2000
Sitework

Getting a Deck off to a Good Start

Framing the perimeter first helps to ensure that the posts will land squarely on their piers

Peter J. Bilodeau
May 1999
Porches & Decks | Decks

Getting Appliances to Fit Careful planning from the start is the key to a functional, hassle-free kitchen

David Getts
Winter 2001
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Getting More out of Your Rafter Square

If you understand the twelfth scale, your square becomes a durable calculator that never needs batteries

Greg Ziomek
September 1997
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Glossary of Roofing Terms, A (included in Roof Framing Simplified)

Tom Law
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Glue-Laminated Timbers Designing and building with engineered beams

Stephen Smulski
January 1992
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Material & Fasteners

Granite Countertops An experienced fabricator explains the process from the templating to the final setting of the slabs

Joe Ranzoni
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Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath

Greek Revival Addition, A Joining stock and custom-milled trim to make a formal entryway

Joseph Beals
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Ground-Fault Protection An inexpensive electrical device saves lives and is required by building codes

Rex Cauldwell
March 1994
Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Grouting Tile Choosing, mixing, applying and sealing the messy stuff that goes between tiles

David Hart
May 2001
Interior Finish | Tile



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**Guide to Exterior Lighting,**
A

**Safety, security and aesthetics
all play an important part in
illuminating the outside of your
house**

Martha Tuzson Stockton

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Gunite Retaining Wall

**Sprayed-on concrete does more
than just line swimming pools**

Ken Hughes

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**Guidelines for Laying Stone
Walls**

**Master the basics and gravity will
do the rest**

Joseph Kenlan

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**Hand Planes for Trim
Carpentry**

Tuned and adjusted right, these planes will save time and improve your work

Scott Wynn

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**Handling Big Sheets of
Drywall**

Longer sheets mean fewer seams and simpler taping and finishing

Myron R. Ferguson

January 1997

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Handsaws

Care and use of a tool that gets little attention these days

Tom Law

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Hanging a Wall Railing

Get it at the right height and make sure it's fastened to the framing; someone's life may depend on it

Sebastian Eggert

September 1999

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**Hardwood Edgings for
Plastic Laminate**

The secret is to glue on oversized pieces, then trim them flush

Paul Levine

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Hardwood Strip Flooring

How to lay out and install it

Don Bollinger

March 1983

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Has Latex Won the Paint Wars?

More durable and versatile than ever, water-based exterior house paints are pushing oil to the brink of extinction

Zachary Gaulkin

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Header Tricks for Remodelers

Creative responses to unusual specs

Roger Gwinnup

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Hearing-Loss Prevention

Earmuffs and earplugs provide inexpensive protection from job-site noise

Ron Joines

May 1995

Job Safety

Hinge Butt Mortising Templates

The perfect tool for a quick and accurate hinge job: a product comparison

Stephen Suddarth

March 1986

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Hollow-Post Spiral Stair, A

If you keep it simple, you don't need much more than a table saw and a drill to build one

Peter Lucchesi, III

September 1988

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Hollow-Wall Anchors

When you're installing a towel bar and solid blocking is just a rumor, this inexpensive hardware will do the trick

Charles Bickford

May 1999

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**How to Avoid Common Flashing Errors**

Building paper and adhesive-backed bituminous tape are vital ingredients in protecting a building from water damage

James R. Larson

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How to Install a Toilet

Reinforce the floor and use the right components for years of trouble-free service

Peter Hemp

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Hurricane Warnings

Sifting through the wreckage of Hurricane Andrew to learn why some houses survived and some didn't

Charles Miller

January 1993

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Hybrid Cabinet Construction

This system combines traditional looks with efficient assembly techniques

Jim Tolpin

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Hydronic Radiant-Floor Heating

Concrete slabs, thin slabs and metal plates offer different ways of routing radiant heat underneath every floor in the home

John Siegenthaler

November 1996

Mechanical Systems | HVAC



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Inexpensive Strategies for Green Building

Yes, recycled lumber and plantation-grown lumber cost more, but designing smaller houses, orienting them for solar gain and minimizing job-site waste don't

Alex Wilson
September 2000
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Innovative Deck Railings

Using wood, glass and steel to build deck railings that stand out from the crowd

Andrew Wormer
September 1996
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Inside Look at Kitchen Cabinets, An

Manufactured kitchens run the gamut on price, materials and craftsmanship

Scott Gibson
Winter 1999
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Installing a Built-Up Girder

From where and how you build it, to setting the columns underneath, the process goes smoother if you have a system

Scott Knight
July 1994
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Installing a Dishwasher

How one plumber hooks up the common grease-gobbler

Peter Hemp
July 1989
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Installing a Geothermal Heating and Cooling System

Ground-source heat pumps rely on buried water loops to heat and cool efficiently and economically

William J. Evangelist
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Mechanical Systems | HVAC

Installing a Hammer-Cut Stone Floor

Basic tools produce a quartzite surface that's easy on the toes

Paul Holloway
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Installing a Leakproof Shower Pan

A thick mortar bed over a vinyl membrane makes a sturdy base for tile, but it pays to test for leaks

Tom Meehan
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Installing a Long-Span Header

How to open up an existing bearing wall

Matt Holmstrom
September 1989
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Installing a Plank Floor

Wide boards demand careful persuasion

Don Bollinger
November 1988
Interior Finish | Floors

Installing a Portable Standby Generator

When the power goes out, a generator can handle your electrical essentials, but it must be wired correctly

Rex Cauldwell
January 2000
Mechanical Systems | Electrical



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**Installing a Rubber Roof**

**Forget the mess of roll roofing-
for flat or low-slope roofs, EPDM
membranes are the way to go**

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

January 1998

Roofing | Membrane Roofing

**Installing a Sheet-Vinyl
Floor**

**Whether flat-lay or coved, use a
felt-paper pattern for best
results**

Terry Shrode

September 1984

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Installing a Toilet

It's mostly in the flange

George Skaates

May 1988

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**Installing Arch-Top
Windows**

**How one builder supports the
loads without a conventional
header, then uses a trammel jig
to cut siding and casing**

Douglas Goodale

November 1989

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Installing Baseboard

**One builder's take on installing
this fundamental trim element**

John Spier

May 2002

Trim Carpentry | Baseboards

Installing Baseboard

**There's a tad more to it than
coping the joints**

Bob Syvanen

September 1986

Trim Carpentry | Baseboards



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**Installing Bifold Doors**

Preassembling the jambs and the casings makes for a faster, more accurate job

Jim Britton

July 1997

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Installing Board-and-Batten Siding

Plan for the windows and doors first

John Birchard

July 1992

Siding | Wood Siding

Installing Crown Molding

Upside down and backwards is the secret

Tom Law

March 1989

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Installing Crown Moldings

Careful layout and accurate miters make installing a two-part trim an easier process

Joseph Beals

May 2000

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Installing Drywall

How to keep the sheets flat and the seams to a minimum

Charles Wardell

May 1993

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Installing Electrical Boxes and Receptacles

Keep boxes straight and splices tight for safe, trouble-free circuits

Rex Cauldwell

July 1996

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Installing Elegant Wainscot Paneling

This three-part system is fast to install, flexible in design and practically unaffected by changes in humidity

Jim Chestnut

November 1996

Trim Carpentry | Wainscotting

Installing Floor Trusses

Parallel-chord floor trusses are more stable and span greater distances than stick framing, and speedier setup offsets their higher cost

Brain Colbert

March 1998

Framing | Floor Framing

Installing Glass Block Privacy and light in the same package

Michael Byrne

March 1987

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Installing Grab Bars

These safety devices aren't there for looks—they must be well anchored to help prevent bathroom injuries

Paul Althoff

January 2001

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Installing Handrails Made From Stock Parts

A full-scale drawing and some shop-built jigs can ease the assembly of expensive stair parts

Lon Schleining

March 1999

Stairs

Installing Hardwood Floors over Radiant Slabs

It can be done successfully if your floor isn't too hot, and the wood is put down dry on a dry slab and subfloor

Don Bollinger

March 1994

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Articles (By Title)

**Installing Horizontal Wood Siding**

A carpenter's tricks for accurately laying out, cutting and fitting the classic wood siding

Felix Marti

July 1995

Siding | Wood Siding

Installing Housewrap

When properly detailed, high-tech wrappings can reduce the flow of air into outside walls while allowing moisture to escape

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

March 1997

Energy Issues | Air Sealing

Installing Kitchen Cabinets

Careful planning and knowing exactly where the framing is help factory-made cabinets go in quickly and easily for a custom look with no nasty surprises

Kevin Luddy

July 2000

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Installing Kitchen Cabinets

How to fit and fasten cabinets to wavy walls and floors

Tom Law

January 1994

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Remodeling | Kitchen & Bath

Installing Laminate Flooring

Robert B. Ruhl

July 1998

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Installing Locksets

You can do the job freehand with a chisel and a drill, but jigs and routers are faster

Gary M. Katz

March 1993

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Installing Manufactured Stair Parts

Laying the handrail on the stairs is the first step

Sebastian Eggert

May 1987

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Installing Manufactured-Stone Veneer

Made from cast concrete, so-called phony stone is good looking, affordable and easy to work with, but best of all, gravity is not required

Vladimir Popovac

May 2000

Siding | Other Siding

Installing Mortise Locksets

Whether you drill and chisel or rout with an expensive lock mortiser, cutting a big hole for the case is only part of the job

Gary M. Katz

May 1993

Doors, Windows, Skylights | Doors

Installing Prehung Doors

An accurate level and a bucketful of shims will correct just about any out-of-plumb condition

Jim Britton

July 1995

Doors, Windows, Skylights | Doors

Installing Sliding Doors

Put the threshold in straight and level, plumb the frame, and the door should glide like a dream

Gary M. Katz

May 1997

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Installing Stair Skirtboards

Notching the skirtboard over the risers for a better-looking job

Bob Syvanen

July 1991

Stairs



Articles (By Title)

**Installing Steel Roofing**

A little more expensive but a lot longer lasting, steel roofing is an easy-to-install, attractive alternative to shingle or tile roofs

John La Torre, Jr.

November 2000

Roofing | Metal Roofing

Installing Strip Flooring

Careful prep, layout and tight nailing make a wood floor last for years

Charles Peterson

January 2002

Interior Finish | Floors

Installing Synthetic Crown Molding

You can't cope polyurethane molding, but a template, a simple jig and a little bit of luck make it possible to preassemble perfect miter joints

David Mills

January 2000

Trim Carpentry | Molding

Installing Two-Piece Crown

A method for running wide, paint-grade crown moldings

Dale F. Mosher

January 1992

Trim Carpentry | Molding

Installing Vinyl-Clad Windows

A nailing flange makes installation quick and easy; but pay attention to the details, or you'll never get the windows open

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

March 2000

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Articles (By Title)



Installing Wood Clapboards

How a seasoned crew uses a story pole and an efficient work sequence to install this traditional siding

Rick Arnold
Mike Guertin
November 1997
Siding | Wood Siding

Insulated Concrete Forms Assembled with regular building skills, ICFs form airtight, insulating concrete walls that finish with standard materials

Andy Engel
January 2000
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Insulating and Parging Foundations

Covering concrete walls with rigid foam insulation and troweling on stucco requires experience with the materials

Bob Syvanen
January 1984
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Insulating With Cellulose Blown in behind the drywall, high-density cellulose air-seals as it insulates

Fred Lugano
May 2000
Energy Issues | Insulation & Weatherstripping

Insulation Comes of Age Thermal insulation is changing for the better, becoming more user-friendly and safer for the environment

Alex Wilson
March 1996
Energy Issues | Insulation & Weatherstripping

Interlocking Weatherstripping for Doors Arguably the best protection against wind and rain penetration, two-piece bronze can be finicky to install

Chris Norris
November 1999
Doors, Windows, Skylights | Doors



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Introduction to Timber Framing, An

Learning this traditional method begins with the mortise-and-tenon joint

Tedd Benson

January 1983

Framing | Timber Frame & Log Framing

Is It Time to Switch to All-Vinyl Windows?

PVC extrusions offer low cost, low maintenance and thermal performance that rivals wood

Scott Gibson

May 2002

Materials & Products | Doors, Windows, Skylights



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**Job Closeout**

Finishing on schedule and within budget demands careful planning at the start

Stephen Mead
September 1991
Business

Job-Site Foot Injuries

What to do when you've stepped on a nail or dropped a 6x6 on your toes

John England
March 1993
Job Safety

Job-Site Safety

The caliber of your work may have a lot to do with the future of your fingers

Mark Feirer
September 1986
Job Safety

Job-Site Shack

A modular tool shed that's roomy, well lit and secure

Bill Young
July 1984
Tools | Storage

Job-Site Sharpening Tips

The right tools and a few easily made jigs will give you an edge on your chisels, your planes and your competition

Chris Green
September 2001
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**K'ang**

An under-the-floor masonry stove

Jeffrey J. Smith

January 1987

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

**Keeping a Basement Dry
Waterproofing the foundation walls is only the first step; you also need a system of drains around the foundation that silt won't render useless**

Larry Janesky

July 2001

Water & Moisture Control | Basements

Kitchen Cabinet, The

How to design and build one with basic tools

Will Hasson

July 1982

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Kitchen Cabinets from Components

With careful layout and efficient assembly, you can piece together affordable cabinets from mix-and-match doors, drawers and boxes

Sven Hanson

Joel Wheeler

November 1994

Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath



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**Ladders****How to choose them, how to use them**

Bruce Greenlaw

November 1993

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Large Cornice Made From Built-up Moldings, A**A molding head on a radial-arm saw shapes the coves, and plywood forms support the moldings**

Barrie Graham

May 1998

Exterior Finish | Trim

Laying a Plank Floor**Economical and good looking, single-layer flooring is also easy to put down**

Paul Hanke

July 1986

Interior Finish | Floors

Laying a Tile Floor**Epoxy mastic on a plywood subfloor is a durable alternative to the traditional mortar-bed method**

Michael Byrne

November 1983

Interior Finish | Tile

Laying Brick Arches**A masonry inglenook becomes the warm center of an architect's new house**

Elizabeth Holland

July 1982

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Laying Out and Detailing Wall Plates**How a seasoned framer quickly and accurately transforms blueprint dimensions into templates for walls**

Larry Haun

November 1999

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**Laying out for Framing**

A production method for translating the blueprints to the wall plates

Jud Peake
July 1984
Tools | Layout

Laying Out Three-Tab Shingles

Spend a little time measuring and striking lines, and the rest is fairly easy

John Carroll
September 1994
Roofing | Asphalt Shingles

Laying Up Brick Bovedas

Inwardly leaning arches defy gravity

E. Logan Wagner
January 1989
Foundations & Masonry | Brick

Laying up Concrete Block

Get evenly spaced courses and consistent mortar joints by using the proper layout, mortar consistency and troweling techniques

John Carroll
September 1997
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete Block

Laying up Stone Veneer

A masonry facade is an economical way to give wood-frame walls the look of solid stone

Steven Snyder
November 1994
Foundations & Masonry | Stone Siding | Other Siding

Leaded Glass

The tools, materials and techniques of this craft haven't changed much in 500 years

Doug Hechter
November 1984
Doors, Windows, Skylights | Windows



Articles (By Title)

**Learning Curves for Decks**
Thin stock, waterproof glue and a big 1x4 compass simplify deck curves

Scott Padgett
January 2002
Porches & Decks | Decks

Levels and Transits
Shooting lines and grades involves nothing more than what meets the eye

Stephen Suddarth
March 1987
Tools | Layout

Light-Gauge Steel Framing
Inexpensive, stable and easy to install, steel is becoming popular for interior partitions

Steve Mead
May 1986
Framing | Wall Framing

Look at Bathroom Lighting,
A**Choosing lamps and fixtures that will give you the most natural-looking and energy-efficient lighting**

Andrew Wormer
Winter 1999
Design | Kitchen & Bath Design
Lighting

Look Through Patio Doors,
A**The Door Frame Should Be Sturdy, Stable And Rotproof**

Charles Bickford
September 2000
Materials & Products | Doors, Windows, Skylights

Lowdown on Levels, The It may be the age of lasers and electronics, but a sturdy spirit level is still the job-site standard

Scott Gibson
July 1998
Tools | Hand Tools



Articles (By Title)



Maintaining a Plunge Router

For trouble-free operation, avoid oil lubricants, replace worn brushes and keep the collet clean

Gregg Carlsen

March 1993

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Making a Bullnose Starting Step

You don't have to buy this classic detail; kerf-bending oak is easier than it looks

Stephen Winchester

July 1993

Stairs

Making a Curved Handrail

With the stairs as a form, laminating commercially available bending rail is easier than it appears

John Griffin

March 2000

Stairs

Making a Solid-Surface Countertop

Synthetic materials can be worked like wood and polished like stone

Sven Hanson

November 1993

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Interior Finish | Countertops

Making and Using Water Levels

Low cost and low tech, these highly versatile tools can't go out of whack

Herrick Kimball

January 1994

Tools | Layout

Making Bevel-Edge Laminate Countertops

With store-bought moldings and a router, you can give laminate counters the monolithic look of solid-surface material

Herrick Kimball

March 1998

Interior Finish | Countertops



Articles (By Title)



Making Cabinet Doors with Router Bits

The new generation of cope-and-stick bits will make frame-and-panel doors on site

Jud Peake

September 1994

Millwork | Door

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Making Classical Columns Interior detailing with a router and lathe

Joseph Beals

January 1991

Millwork | Column

Making Concrete Countertops

Solid, durable and attractive, an uncommon countertop can be cast from common materials

Thomas Hughes

September 1994

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Interior Finish | Countertops

Making Curved Casing

Strip-laminating arches to match straight casing profiles

Jonathan F. Shafer

May 1991

Millwork | Molding

Making Curved Crown Molding

Glue-laminated trim can be shaped on a table saw

John La Torre, Jr.

May 1992

Millwork | Molding

Making French Doors

Meticulous layout and milling yield new doors to match the original windows of a 19th-century Greek revival

Scott McBride

January 1997

Millwork | Door



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Making Heart-Pine Cabinets

Recycled wood brings a warm glow to a Virginia kitchen

Daniel Foster

May 1996

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Making Lumber With a Bandsaw Mill

One alternative to the high cost and poor quality of lumber these days is finding the trees and cutting them into boards yourself

Doug Amsbary

May 1998

Millwork | Door

Making Plaster Molding

Sometimes complex shapes and profiles are easier to make in plaster than in wood

Frank C. Freyvogel

March 1995

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster

Making Plastic-Laminate Countertops

Cutting shears and spray adhesive are among the tricks that make the job easier

Herrick Kimball

July 1992

Interior Finish | Countertops

Making Storm Shutters

Simple to build and more attractive than plywood, these shutters are also easy to secure when the big one is closing in

Jake Ehlers

September 2000

Millwork | Window

Making Storm Windows

Wood storm windows look better and seal tighter than mass-produced aluminum and vinyl units

Rex Alexander

November 1997

Energy Issues | Insulation & Weatherstripping

Millwork | Window



Articles (By Title)



Making the Most of a Laundry Room

A laundry chute, a custom-built towel drawer and a fold-down ironing board ease the tedium of wash day

Byron Papa

March 1999

Design | Other Design

Making Trim From MDF

Medium-density fiberboard mills and paints well whether you're creating straight runs or curves

Jay Goldman

September 1995

Millwork | Molding

Making Window Sash

How to do a custom job with ordinary shop tools and a router

John Leeke

January 1984

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Making Wooden Light Fixtures

With nice ones so hard to find, creating your own makes sense

John Birchard

July 1985

Lighting

Materials in Cold Weather

Make sure they're a match for the weather

Scott Schuttner

March 1989

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Metal Connectors for Wood Framing

Galvanized steel folded into sturdy, time-saving devices

Bruce R. Berg

January 1988

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**Mill for the Chainsaw, A**

**With this easily made accessory,
you can mill your own boards
and beams**

Will Malloff

September 1982

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Mortar-Bed Shower, A

**Building the critical parts--the
pan, the wall membrane and the
mortar bed**

Michael Byrne

May 1986

Interior Finish | Tile

**More Than One Way to
Case a Window**

**You can vary the look with
simple combinations of flat
boards and stock moldings**

Joseph Beals, III

November 1995

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Casings



Articles (By Title)

**Nailing Basics**

Despite the advent of nail guns, sometimes you still have to hit the nail on the head

Larry Haun

July 1997

Materials & Products | Structural
Material & Fasteners

New Way to Repair Old Plaster, A

If cracks and crumbling plaster have you down, here's a remedy that uses basic methods and materials, and that requires no sanding

Mario Rodriguez

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Articles (By Title)

**On Pulling Nails**

Use good tools and the right technique

Gene Schnaser

May 1986

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On the Edge

An overview of grinding and honing for the carpenter, wherein the author argues for more skill and fewer gadgets

John Lively

January 1984

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On-Site Carpentry with a Circular Saw

Cutting in place saves time and trouble

Jud Peake

July 1981

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Tools | Power Tools

Operating a Power Trowel

Pressure on the handlebars controls the machine, and the angle of the blades controls the finish

John M. Schnittker

September 1993

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Organizing the Project

How one builder creates order at the job site

David Gerstel

March 1988

Business

Ornamental Plaster Restoration

Making an impression with traditional techniques and materials, plus a few new twists

David Flaharty

January 1990

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Out in the Cold

Gearing up for cold-weather construction

Scott Schuttner

January 1989

Job Safety

Outfitting a Clothes Closet

If your clothes have that shelf and pole at their limit, a more complex system can help you put more clothes into less space

Gary M. Katz

July 1999

Trim Carpentry | Other Trim

Carpentry

Overhead Garage Doors

They're the largest and most visible moving parts of your house, but with all the options out there, don't leave the choice up to someone else

Roe A. Osborn

January 1999

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Articles (By Title)

**Painting Exteriors**

Surface preparation is the name of the game

Robert Dufort

September 1990

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Painting Walls and Ceilings

A professional's tips for rolling and edging paint as efficiently as possible without making a mess

Brian J. Doherty

January 2000

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish, Caulk

Pair of Built-in Hutches, A

Faced with spaces that weren't close to square, this carpenter judiciously applied trim and careful scribing to hide the worst of it

Kevin Luddy

September 1999

Cabinets | Built-ins

Parallel-Chord Floor Trusses

Strong and efficient, floor trusses may someday replace wood joists as the builder's favorite floor frame

E. Kurt Albaugh

January 1986

Framing | Truss Framing

Pattern Routing Exterior Details

This production-line method of shaping helped put a new deck on a Tudor house

Joseph Wood

July 1994

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Tools | Power Tools

Period Moldings

A primer on these touchstones of Neo-Classical architecture

Norman L. Vandal

May 1984

Millwork | Molding



Articles (By Title)

**Pickup-Truck Tool Storage**

Long sliding drawers let a builder get to his tools, even under a stack of plywood

Ray Lincoln
September 1987
Tools | Storage

Pier and Grade-Beam Foundation

Advice from a contractor on one way to build on a steep slope

Michael Spexarth
September 1983
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Placing a Concrete Driveway

Careful preparation of the soils and proper positioning of joints and reinforcement are keys to a driveway that lasts a lifetime

Rocky R. Geans
May 1996
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Plastic Tub-Showers

One-piece fixtures are quick to install, but should you buy a gelcoat or an acrylic model?

Scott Gibson
November 1998
Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath
Mechanical Systems | Plumbing
Remodeling | Kitchen & Bath

Plate Joinery on the Job Site

Quick and easy insurance against joints opening up

Kevin Ireton
November 1991
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Trim Carpentry | Baseboards

Plumb and Line

Without this final step of straightening the walls, the care taken during framing will have little effect

Don Dunkley
November 1984
Framing | Wall Framing



Articles (By Title)

**Plumb Bobs, String and Chalkboxes**

Working with string and the tools that hang from it

Trey Loy
March 1985
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Plumbing, Lining and Bracing Framed Walls

A framing contractor explains his efficient sequence for keeping walls straight and true

Scot Simpson
January 1995
Framing | Wall Framing

Plunge-Router Stairs

An adjustable mortising jig simplifies the construction of an open-riser stairway

Bill Young
September 1985
Stairs

Pocket Doors

Should you buy a kit or build your own?

Kevin Ireton
July 1989
Doors, Windows, Skylights | Doors

Point of Repointing, The Renewing tired masonry joints can bring an old brick building back to life

Richard T. Kreh
May 1981
Foundations & Masonry | Brick

Pointing Stonework

A pastry bag speeds this tedious job and gets the work done cleanly and efficiently

Christopher Kachur
May 1995
Foundations & Masonry | Stone



Articles (By Title)

**Porches That Won't Rot**

For a long, healthy life these structures need a breath of fresh air

Kevin M. Mahoney

May 1993

Porches & Decks | Porches

Portable Power Planes

How these versatile tools can true framing lumber and clean up trim

Geoff Alexander

May 1983

Tools | Power Tools

Poured-in-Place Concrete Countertops

Getting a durable kitchen work surface starts with careful form work and the right concrete

Rex Alexander

September 1999

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Interior Finish | Countertops

Pouring Concrete Slabs

Tips on ordering, placing, screeding, floating and finishing

Carl Hagstrom

September 1993

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Powder-Actuated Tools

Available as single-shot, semiautomatic or full automatic, these low-velocity tools are the ones carpenters choose when driving fasteners into concrete or steel

Bruce Greenlaw

July 2000

Tools | Power Tools

Prescription Safety Glasses

They can be hard to find, but today's safety glasses are as attractive as designer street glasses and offer much better protection

Tom O'Brien

November 2001

Job Safety



Articles (By Title)

**Preventing House Fires**

Knowing where fires commonly start can help builders to avoid tragedy during construction and even after the job is finished

Charles Bickford

July 1999

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Preventing Ice Dams

Proper insulation and roof ventilation can stop ice dams from forming, prevent damage and lower energy bills

Paul Fiset

November 1995

Venting

Water & Moisture Control | Ice Dams

Preventing Job-Site Knee Injuries

An orthopedic surgeon explains what goes wrong with knees and suggests ways to protect them

Steven D. Bond

May 1999

Job Safety

Primer on Heating Systems, A

You'll save money and stay more comfortable by matching the heating system to your climate, your house and your needs

Alex Wilson

March 1997

Mechanical Systems | HVAC

Production-Line Jamb Setting and Door Hanging
Time-saving techniques from the tracts

Larry Haun

May 1989

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Protecting Your Eyes

For \$10 or less, comfortable eye wear will guard against common job-site hazards

Scott Gibson

November 1994

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**Protecting Your Lungs on the Job**

Know the risks, and if you can't eliminate them, choose the right respirator

Charles Miller
May 1994
Job Safety

Putting Down a Brick Floor

The mason's craft is easier when the bricks are laid on a horizontal surface

Bob Syvanen
May 1983
Foundations & Masonry | Brick
Interior Finish | Floors

Putting Fiberglass Insulation in Its Place

Careful installation of fiberglass batts is likely to have a bigger impact on your life than tight-fitting miters

Bob Kilian
November 1998
Energy Issues | Insulation &
Weatherstripping

Putting on a Concrete-Tile Roof

It takes nimble feet, a strong back and attention to flashing details to do it right

J. Azevedo
March 1991
Roofing | Tile Roofing

Putting the Lid On

A primer on production cutting and raising a hip and gable roof

Don Dunkley
September 1982
Framing | Roof Framing

Putting Tile to Work in the Kitchen

The right tile in the right place can make or break the look as well as the function of your kitchen

Lane Meehan
Winter 1999
Interior Finish | Tile
Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath



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Quality Deck, A

Built-in benches, recessed lights and a spacious spa highlight a high-class deck

John Baldwin

September 1991

Porches & Decks | Decks

Quiet Please

Strategies for toning down sound transmission in wood-framed floors and ceilings

Russell DuPree

March 1990

Interior Finish | Soundproofing

Quick Way to Build a Squeak-Free Stair, A

Using plywood instead of framing lumber can guarantee a stable and accurate staircase that won't break the bank

Alan Ferguson

September 1996

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Rafter Square, The

Laying out a roof with this basic tool and a new generation of accessories

Jud Peake
September 1982
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Rail-and-Stile Garden Gate, A

Simple joinery techniques yield a memorable feature for any garden

Charles Prowell
March 1996
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Railing Against the Elements

With careful detailing and proper flashing, exterior woodwork should last for decades

Scott McBride
November 1991
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Water & Moisture Control | Flashing

Rain-Screen Walls: a Better Way to Install Siding

Spacing the siding away from the housewrap promotes ventilation and drainage for long-lasting siding and paint

Mark Averill Snyder
March 2001
Siding | Wood Siding
Water & Moisture Control | Drainage

Rainwater-Collection Systems

When water is scarce, collecting rain in a cistern and pumping it into your house make good sense

Peter L. Pfeiffer
November 2001
Water & Moisture Control | Gutters

Raised Paneling Made Easy

A combination of built-up moldings and layers of plywood duplicates a traditional look

Jim Donnelly
May 1995
Trim Carpentry | Wainscotting



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**Raised-Panel Wainscot****Traditional results with table saw and router**

T.F. Smolen

March 1984

Trim Carpentry | Wainscotting

Raising a Gable Wall**Framing the entire gable while it's flat on the deck is fast and easy. Raising it is a challenge and a danger.**

John Spier

May 1999

Framing | Wall Framing

Raising an Eyebrow**Two methods used to frame wave-like dormers**

James Docker

March 1991

Framing | Roof Framing
Remodeling | Dormers**Raising Finished Walls****Siding, trimming and painting are easier when the walls are still flat on the deck**

Jean Dunbar

March 1990

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Raising Heavy Timber**Tools and tips for maneuvering big beams**

Trey Loy

May 1982

Framing | Timber Frame & Log
Framing**Raising Roof Trusses****Careful preparation and wise use of a crane can allow a good-size roof to be framed and sheathed in a day**

Rick Arnold

Mike Guertin

January 1996

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**Rammed Earth**

An ancient building method made easier by new technology

Magnus Berglund

November 1982

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Rebuilding a Federal-Period Fence

Meticulous shopwork and careful on-site planning recreate a local landmark

Stephen Sewall

David Stenstrom

March 1985

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Re-creating Victorian Trim

Complicated profiles require custom knives, but installation is a cinch

Sebastian Eggert

January 2002

Millwork | Molding

Recycled Redwood Wainscoting

A cabinetmaker re-creates period detail with redwood salvaged from wine vats

Miles Karpilow

January 2000

Trim Carpentry | Wainscoting

Refacing Concrete Steps With Brick

A level may be a mason's best friend, but to cover up an unsightly set of concrete steps, an experienced eye takes over

Vladimir Popovac

May 2001

Foundations & Masonry | Brick

**Refacing Kitchen Cabinets
A veneer face-lift makes a 'new' kitchen affordable**

Rex Alexander

May 1993

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets
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Reglazing Windows and Doors

Replacing glass in wooden frames is painless with the right tools and techniques

William T. Cox, Jr.

January 1996

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Remodel Plumbing

How to connect the new pipes to the old ones

Steve Larson

November 1983

Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Remodeling With Metal Studs

Skyrocketing lumber costs make steel studs an enticing, easily installed alternative to wood

Tom O'Brien

September 1995

Framing | Steel Framing

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Renovating a Chimney

New flue liners convert fireplaces for woodstove use

Joseph Kitchel

September 1981

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

Renovating Old Porches

Common problems can be solved with simple repairs

George Nash

July 1992

Porches & Decks | Porches

Repainting Kitchen Cabinets

A rentable sprayer and good surface preparation are keys to a new-looking kitchen

Mark Dixon

Bob Heidt

May 1998

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish, Caulk



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**Repairing Drywall****Techniques for fixing everything from popped screws to big holes**

Myron R. Ferguson

May 1999

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster

Repairing Old Stonework**With the materials already delivered and paid for, why not use them?**

Stephen Kennedy

March 1988

Foundations & Masonry | Stone

Replacing a Chimney Cap**Homeowners rarely see their chimney caps, and few people have ever called me to repair them. But when I'm asked to inspect a roof or an attic, I generally find myself looking down at the top of the chimney.**

Fred Lugano

July 1998

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

Replacing a Mudsill**Careful bracing inside and out holds a house steady as rot is removed**

Bill Phillips

March 2002

Remodeling | Structural

Replacing a Water Heater**By making a few simple upgrades, you can triple a basic water heater's life expectancy**

Peter Hemp

November 1997

Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Replacing an Inlaid Gutter**How one sheet-metal contractor fabricated and installed a lead-coated copper drainage system**

Rob Paral

July 1990

Water & Moisture Control | Gutters



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**Replacing an Oak Sill**

Doing the job on a formal entry without tearing out jambs and trim

Stephen Sewall

March 1984

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Replacing Rain Gutters

A professional's advice on installing aluminum and galvanized-steel gutters

Les Williams

May 1991

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Replacing Rotted Sills

It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it

George Nash

May 1989

Remodeling | Structural

Reroofing With Asphalt Shingles

Laying new shingles over old might avoid the cost of a tearoff, but you still have to replace the vents and flashings

Stephen Hazlett

May 2001

Roofing | Asphalt Shingles

Residential Steam Showers

Once limited to spas, steam showers at home are good for relaxing, easing a cold or impressing the neighbors

Andy Engel

Winter 2001

Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath

Restoring a Porch

A fast, inexpensive method that doesn't require house jacks

Roy F. Cole, Jr.

May 1981

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**Restoring Wood With Epoxy**

Instead of tearing out and replacing rotten wood, you can fix damage and make wood look as good and last as long as new

Tom O'Brien
March 1997
Restoration

Rethinking the Cornice Return

Standard ogee gutters can mimic this classical detail

Scott McBride
November 1992
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Rethinking the Garage

Three projects illustrate how a room over the garage can be the best room in the house

Tony Simmonds
November 1997
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Retrofitting a Curbed Skylight

Get the flashing right to ensure leak-free skylights

Jim Blodgett
September 2001
Doors, Windows, Skylights | Skylights
Framing | Roof Framing

Retrofitting a Foundation

Digging and pouring a foundation with the house suspended in the air require patience, great subs and a little slight of hand

William Anthony
March 2000
Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Retrofitting a Threshold

A three-piece threshold provides extra weather protection, especially in exposed locations

Gary M. Katz
May 1996
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**Riding Out the Big One**

A structural engineer explains what happens to a wood-frame building in an earthquake and how it can resist collapse

Ralph Gareth Gray

January 1991

Design | Structural Design

Rolling Interior Latex Wall Paint

A professional painter's hard-won lessons for applying the ubiquitous wall finish

Byron Papa

May 1991

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish, Caulk

Roof Flashing

Installation details can make the difference between a trouble-free roof and an expensive callback

Scott McBride

March 1997

Water & Moisture Control | Flashing

Roof Framing Revisited

A graphic way to lay out rafters without using tables

Scott McBride

September 1985

Framing | Roof Framing

Roof Framing Simplified

This direct approach involves full-size layouts and stringing rafter lines

Tom Law

September 1982

Framing | Roof Framing

Roof Shingling

With only a few rules to follow, putting on a wood roof can be relaxing work with pleasant materials

Bob Syvanen

January 1983

Roofing | Wood Roofing



Articles (By Title)



Roofing with Asphalt Shingles

There's more to laying three-tab shingles than just nailing them on as fast as possible

Todd A. Smith

January 1990

Roofing | Asphalt Shingles

Roofing with Slate

Shingling with stone will give you a roof that lasts for generations

David Heim

May 1984

Roofing | Slate Roofing

Roofing With Slate

With the right fasteners and flashings, you'll get a roof that can last a hundred years

Terry A. Smiley

July 1995

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Roofing with Sod

Beneath the surface, it's not the same as it used to be

David Easton

November 1989

Roofing | Membrane Roofing

Rough Electrical Wiring

Knowledge of the code and a few tricks ease wiring circuits for standard receptacles and lights

Clifford A. Popejoy

January 2002

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Roughing in Drain Lines

Advice on Assembling a residential drainage system with plastic pipes

George Skaates

May 1987

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Articles (By Title)

**Router Control**

Using site-built jigs, bearing-guided bits and a router table to make precise cuts in wood

Jud Peake

September 1989

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Routers

Knowing the basic bits and how to guide the router will help you get the most from this versatile tool on site and in the shop

Craig Savage

July 1985

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Rubble-Trench Foundations

A simple, effective foundation system for residential structures

Elias Velonis

January 1984

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Rules for Finish Carpentry

A veteran builder and teacher shares the rules that shape his work

Will Beemer

January 1998

Trim Carpentry | Baseboards
Trim Carpentry | Door & Window Casings

Rumford Fireplace, Southwestern Style, A

A California mason combines the adobe look of a kiva with the heating efficiency of a Rumford

Vladimir Popovac

January 1998

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney

Rumfordizing Brick by Brick

How to convert an energy-wasting fireplace to an efficient heater

Kent Burdett

July 1981

Foundations & Masonry | Fireplace & Chimney



Articles (By Title)



Running Exterior Trim

Fascias, rakes, soffits and corner boards aren't scrutinized like interior woodwork, but they still have to look good and stand up to weather

Robert Weatherall

September 2000

Exterior Finish | Trim

Running the Company

Ideas on organization and management for builders

David Gerstel

July 1988

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**Safer Job Site, A**

OSHA and NAHB team up to identify the key safety issues for residential builders

Tom O'Brien
May 2000
Job Safety

Safety Fixtures for Table Saws and Shapers

Push sticks, push blocks and featherboards keep work on the table and against the fence, with your fingers at a safe distance

Stephen Winchester
January 1996
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Tools | Power Tools

Sawhorse

A traditional approach to the simple trestle

Tom Law
January 1988
Tools | Benches & Stands

Sawhorse Roundup

A selection of new and traditional designs for sawhorses that are easy to build, strong and lightweight

Andrew Wormer
July 1996
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Scaffolding

What goes up mustn't come down accidentally

Scott McBride
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Screened-porch Addition, A Simple detailing and inexpensive materials provide a shelter from the swarm

Jerry Germer
March 1992
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**Scribed Ellipse, The**

An easy way to lay out elliptical coves

Jud Peake

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Seismic Retrofits

Anchor bolts and shear walls are the way to beef up older homes in earthquake-prone areas

David Benaroya Helfant

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Selecting a Moisture-proofing System for New Basements

New products from the latest technologies offer more effective alternatives to slopping sticky tar onto new foundations

Bruce Greenlaw

May 1995

Water & Moisture Control | Basements

Sheathing a Roof

You're 30 ft. in the air, walking on narrow framing members and manhandling sheets of plywood that'll catch the wind like canvas sails. You'd better know what you're doing.

Robert Weatherall

November 1998

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Articles (By Title)

**Shedding Light on Skylights**

New options in glazing, sizes and flashing systems can have you scratching your head when trying to choose the right skylight

Roe A. Osborn
May 1996

Materials & Products | Doors, Windows, Skylights

Shed-Dormer Addition, A Extensive remodeling triples the space of a small Cape

Bob Syvanen
January 1985
Remodeling | Dormers

Shed-Dormer Retrofit
Turning your attic into living space may be the remedy for your growing pains

Scott McBride
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Remodeling | Dormers

Shingle Thatch
Steam-bent shingles, curved framing and wave coursing create a roof with character

Gary Cooke
Barry Huber
Mike Lienemann
November 1984
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Shop-Built Drywall Lift
An inexpensive alternative to a bad back

Tim Hanson
January 1989
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Shop-Built Window Frames
Simple joinery, #2 pine and stock sash make inexpensive custom windows

Joseph Beals, III
November 1993
Millwork | Window



Articles (By Title)

**Shopping for Drill Bits**

Choose the right one for easy drilling through wood, metal or synthetics

Bruce Greenlaw

January 1995

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Shopping for Interior Doors

There are lots of choices between expensive wooden style-and-rail and cheap hollow-core doors

Charles Bickford

May 1998

Materials & Products | Doors, Windows, Skylights

Sidewall Shingling

For that authentic Cape Cod look and low maintenance, you can't beat cedar siding

Bob Syvanen

September 1985

Siding | Wood Siding

Siding With Cedar Shingles

Woven corners are a good-looking and low-maintenance alternative to corner boards

Oliver Govers

May 1996

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Siding with Clapboards

Up one side or down the other, apply them correctly

Bob Syvanen

July 1988

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Silicone Caulking Basics

For caulking around bathroom and kitchen fixtures, nothing lasts longer or keeps out moisture better than silicone

Brian Zavitz

September 1997

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Articles (By Title)



Simple Approach to Frame-and-Panel Trim, A

Assemble the frames with pocket screws and trim plywood panels with molding for a traditional look

Gary Striegler

July 2000

Trim Carpentry | Other Trim Carpentry

Simple Curved Corners

Bending plywood and joint compound make graceful curves in white walls

Scott M. Carpenter

September 1993

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster

Simple Frameless Cabinets Built on Site

Combining no-nonsense joinery with Baltic-birch plywood and concealed cup hinges in a contemporary kitchen

Joseph B. Lanza

May 2001

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Simple Joinery for Custom Windows

Time-saving lap joints can save money, too

David Frane

September 1992

Millwork | Window

Simple Tools for Faster Framing

An expert framer describes how to get more done in less time with the help of patterns, templates and jigs

Larry Haun

September 1996

Tools | Layout

Simple Workbenches

These site-built benches are easy to make and simplify many jobs

Tom Law

May 1993

Tools | Benches & Stands



Articles (By Title)

**Simplified Valley Framing**

Build one roof on top of the other and skip the valley rafters

Larry Haun

March 1993

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Site Layout

On a flat lot, footings can be oriented with precision using batter boards, string and a water level

Tom Law

November 1982

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete Tools | Layout

Site-Built Footbridge

Using backcountry lamination techniques to span a creek in style

Henry Smith

May 1995

Sitework

Site-Built Kitchen

Construct base cabinets with a carpenter's pragmatism and a cabinetmaker's precision

Tony Simmonds

March 1993

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Site-Built Stair, A

Using readily available materials and on-site carpentry techniques to build a tasteful staircase

Alexander Brennen

September 1990

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Siting a House

Proper siting and design strategies enhance energy efficiency

M. Joe Numbers

March 1995

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Articles (By Title)

**Skylights in the Eaves**

Creating private, light-filled spaces when houses are close together

Anthony Simmonds

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Slab-On-Grade Foundation for Cold Climates, A

Proper drainage (lots of gravel) is the key

George Nash

May 1990

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Small Addition, Big Improvement

A new entryway dramatically helps the function and appearance of a small Cape

Lynn Hopkins

November 1998

Remodeling | Additions

Small-Job Concrete

Site-mixed mud can be batched as accurately as ready-mix, given a strong back and a few guidelines

Bob Syvanen

March 1983

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Soil: The Other Half of the Foundation

Understanding the stuff the house sits on may prevent cost overruns, callbacks and neighborhood gossip

Robert M. Felton

January 2001

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Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Solo Drywall Hanging

Get help when you can, but if you have to install these unwieldy sheets by yourself, it pays to rent a lift

Pat Carrasco

July 2001

Interior Finish | Drywall & Plaster



Articles (By Title)



Soundproofing a Music Studio

Some practical solutions to noise pollution

Gene De Smidt

November 1986

Interior Finish | Soundproofing

Souping up a Chopsaw Stand

To get all the features he needed in a chopsaw stand, one finish carpenter made his own extension tables and stops

Gary M. Katz

March 1998

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Spray Everything

Careful preparation and a boatload of masking tape are the keys to high-quality, high-production interior painting

Jon Tobey

November 2000

Roofing | Metal Roofing

Spray-Painting Trim

Preparations and priming make or break the job

Byron Papa

November 1987

Interior Finish | Paint, Stain, Varnish, Caulk

Squaring and Leveling Mudsills

If you assume the foundation is accurate, you may end up custom cutting each rafter and fussing with every miter in your trim

Mike Guertin

Rick Arnold

September 1995

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Framing | Wall Framing

Stair in the Air, A

Southern yellow-pine treads hide welded-steel brackets that make these stairs appear to float in space

Glen Stewart

July 2001

Stairs



Articles (By Title)



Staircase Comes Out of the Closet, A

An arts and crafts stair becomes the focal point of a house searching for a style

Miles Karpilow
November 1988
Stairs

Stone Veneer on Concrete Block

The right mortar and care in laying stone are the keys to a beautiful job

M. Scott Watkins
November 1993
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Foundations & Masonry | Stone

Storage Stair

An alternative to conventional framing takes advantage of normally wasted space

Tom Bender
July 1983
Stairs

Straightening Framed Walls

Blame it on sloppy framing or lousy lumber, but many stud walls need some remedial work before the drywall goes on

Derek McDonald
September 2000
Framing | Wall Framing

Strengthening Plate-to-Rafter Connections

It may be time to abandon the time-honored toenail

Stanley H. Niu
May 1992
Framing | Roof Framing

Structural Stone Wall, The

Save your mortar for pointing, bed your stones in concrete, and remember there's no substitute for gravity

Stephen Kennedy
July 1985
Foundations & Masonry | Stone



Articles (By Title)

**Stud-Wall Framing**

With most of the thinking already done, nailing together a tight frame requires equal parts of accuracy and speed

Paul Spring

September 1984

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Supporting a Cantilevered Bay

Before you build that eye-catching bay onto the side of a house, you have to get the floor framing right

Mike Guertin

January 2001

Framing | Floor Framing

Surface-Bonded Block

A strong, fast and inexpensive alternative to poured-concrete or block-in-mortar walls

Paul Hanke

January 1983

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Synthetic Stucco

Exterior insulation and finish systems provide an attractive, energy-efficient, low-maintenance siding; but should you trust them on your house given their recent failures?

Steve Culpepper

November 1996

Siding | Other Siding



Articles (By Title)

**Table-Saw Molding****The secret is in the order of cuts**

Bruce Andrews

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Table-Saw Tools**Simple jigs that turn a table saw into a safe and precise crosscutting tool**

M. Felix Marti

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Taking a Load Off**Three basic shoring techniques for making structural repairs**

W. Whitie Gray

September 1991

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Taping and Finishing Drywall**How to get smooth walls with minimum sanding**

Charles Wardell

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Tearing Off Old Roofing**The best reroofing jobs start with a clean roof deck**

Jack LeVert

March 1994

Roofing | Asphalt Shingles

Ten Common Plumbing Mistakes**A building inspector reviews the most frequent violations of the plumbing code**

Redwood Kardon

November 1999

Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Ten Common Wiring Problems**A master electrician details some frequently found mistakes that could cost you your house or your life**

Rex Cauldwell

January 2001

Mechanical Systems | Electrical



Articles (By Title)

**Ten Important Elements of a Good Bathroom**

A little planning along with a thoughtful selection of fittings and fixtures can make all the difference

David Edrington

Winter 1999

Design | Kitchen & Bath Design

Ten Tips From a Home Inspector

Whether you're buying, selling or building, here are a few clues to some of the things that can go wrong in a house over time

Rex Cauldwell

September 2001

Mechanical Systems | Plumbing

Remodeling | Structural

Three Ways to Weatherstrip a Door

Whether vinyl, silicone or bronze, an airtight seal is your best defense against the weather

Gary M. Katz

September 1998

Energy Issues | Insulation &

Weatherstripping

Ticksticking

Sam Clark

May 1984

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Tile Roofing

Clay or concrete, a tile roof will outlast the next generation

J. Azevedo

May 1990

Roofing | Tile Roofing

Tiling a Backsplash

Decorative tiles liven up a kitchen

Tom Meehan

July 1991

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Articles (By Title)

**Tiling a Bathroom Floor**

Cementitious backerboard speeds up the job, but start with a subfloor that is firm and flat

Dennis Hourany

July 1999

Interior Finish | Tile

Tiling a Kitchen Counter

Start with a sturdy wood underlayment, and plan the layout to get cut tiles in the back

Dennis Hourany

January 1999

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Tiling a Mortar-Bed Counter

How one tile setter builds the classic kitchen work surface

Michael Byrne

March 1985

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Interior Finish | Tile

Tiling a Shower With Marble

Take the time to get your tiles tight and flat, and your shower will look as if it had been carved out of solid marble

Tom Meehan

November 1995

Interior Finish | Tile

Tiling a Tub Surround

Substituting backer board for the traditional mortar bed makes the job easier without sacrificing durability

Michael Byrne

January 1995

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Remodeling | Kitchen & Bath

Tiling Over a Laminate Counter

Thanks to cement backerboard, you can make a new countertop without ripping out the old one

David Hart

May 2000

Interior Finish | Tile



Articles (By Title)

**Tiling With Limestone**

An earthy alternative to the cold, austere look of marble, limestone is easy to work with and maintain

Tom Meehan
September 1998
Interior Finish | Tile

Timbered Ceiling, A

Combining stick-framed walls with a timber-framed ceiling

George Nash
March 1991
Framing | Timber Frame & Log Framing

Timber-Frame Layout

Systems for labeling the timbers and adjusting the joinery keep the frame plumb and true despite variations in dimensions

Tedd Benson
September 1983
Framing | Timber Frame & Log Framing

Tool Storage for Pickups

This simple system could help to restore order under any camper shell

Byron Papa
March 1997
Tools | Storage

Tools on Board

A builder's truck or van is a mobile workshop. Here are five approaches to making the most out of that valuable space.

Charles Bickford
January 2000
Tools | Storage

Tools on Wheels

Four custom rigs for moving the tools of the trade

William Lego
September 1991
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Articles (By Title)



Traditional Cabinetry From a Modern Material

Raised-panel assemblies made from MDF are dimensionally stable, cheaper than solid wood and easy to mill

Jay Goldman
March 1997

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Traditional Stairways Off the Shelf

About manufactured stair parts, and how they are made

Kevin Ireton
January 1987

Stairs

Trimming Out the Main House

Building a Victorian headquarters for George Lucas

Rick Wachs
March 1986
Millwork | Molding

Trimming the Front Door

Ripped, mitered and reassembled interior moldings add a custom look to a front entry

Richard Taub
March 1993
Trim Carpentry | Door & Window Casings

Trimming Windows

Get the jambs flush with the drywall, and the miters come easily

Jim Blodgett
March 2001
Trim Carpentry | Door & Window Casings

Two Lessons from a Porch Addition

A plumb-bob foundation layout and a cable-tensioned balustrade customize a tract house

James C. Rice
May 1994
Porches & Decks | Porches Remodeling | Additions



Articles (By Title)

**Two Projects Customize a Kitchen**

A spiceshelf and a decorative steam-bent dish rack improve the looks and the utility of any kitchen

Rex Alexander

July 1996

Cabinets | Built-ins

Remodeling | Kitchen & Bath

Two-Coat Plaster

How one builder avoids the drywall doldrums

James Servais

March 1986

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Tying a Bow to an Eyebrow
Carpenters mix compound curves to build a bow window topped by an eyebrow roof

Joseph Wood

Robert Caine

March 1988

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Articles (By Title)

**Understanding Common Moisture Problems**

Three case studies illustrate the importance of controlling humidity and air leakage

Marc Rosenbaum

January 1996

Energy Issues | Air Sealing
Energy Issues | Insulation &
Weatherstripping
Venting

Updating the Kitchen Pantry

By using both manufactured and shop-built parts, these versatile cabinets can be made quickly and efficiently

David Getts

March 1999

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Using a Cargo Rack

Organizing the load and knowing the right knots are the keys to transporting building materials safely

Roe A. Osborn

March 1994

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Using a Story Pole to Lay Out Stairs

A simple full-scale pattern takes the confusion out of figuring consistent and safe stair-tread heights

Lon Schleining

November 2001

Stairs

Using Chainsaws on the Job Site

These cordless tools will help you cut your way out of tight spots and through thick timber

Scott McBride

January 1993

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Articles (By Title)

**Valley Framing for Unequally Pitched Roofs**
An empirical method that works

George Nash
July 1991
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Veneer Plaster
Getting the look and texture of plaster on lath with gypboard and mud

Tim Snyder
July 1983
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Venting the Kitchen
To expel kitchen moisture and grease efficiently, select an appropriate exhaust system and make the duct run short and straight

Wendy Talarico
July 1995
Venting

Venting the Roof
With today's construction methods, the minimum code requirements may not be enough

Kevin Ireton
July 1990
Venting

Veteran Stairbuilder's Tools and Tips, A
Modified tools and custom jigs expedite staircase assembly

Michael von Deckbar-Frabbielle
January 1995
Stairs

Victorian Brackets
Bandsawing gingerbread takes method and practice

Simon Watts
November 1986
Exterior Finish | Trim



Articles (By Title)



Walk Through Wood Floors, A

Strip oak is not the only option, but without some guidelines, choosing among strip, plank, prefinished, solid and engineered floors can be tough

Roe A. Osborn
September 1997
Materials & Products | Floors & Walls

Wall Bracing

Wood, metal and plywood can all be used to keep walls from racking

Larry Haun
January 1994
Framing | Wall Framing

Wall-Sheathing Choices

Today's sheathing materials offer strength, energy-efficiency, economy, and fire-and water-resistance-but not all in the same package

Bruce Greenlaw
January 1997
Materials & Products | Roofing, Siding, Decking

Weaving Designs Into Sidewall Shingles

Simple shapes let ordinary sidewall shingles take flight

Mike Guertin
January 2002
Siding | Wood Siding

West Coast Overhang

A framing technique for soffit-covered eaves

Don Dunkley
November 1990
Exterior Finish | Trim

What's Hot in Bathroom Heaters?

There are lots of options for taking the chill off. Which one fits your house?

David Ericson
Winter 2000
Materials & Products | Kitchen & Bath



Articles (By Title)



When Block Foundations Go Bad

Steel bracing and improved drainage give new life to cracked and wet walls

Donald V. Cohen

July 1998

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete Block

Why Exterior Finishes Fail

Government scientists explain why paint cracks, blisters and peels on your house, and how you can prevent it

Mark Knaebe

William Feist

Sam Williams

July 1997

Exterior Finish | Painting

Wiring Stoves and Dryers

Code now requires a four-slot receptacle to provide both 120 volts and 240 volts

Rex Cauldwell

September 1999

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Wiring Your House for Today—and Tomorrow

Structured wiring can link the phones, computers and TVs in your house right now, and who knows what else in the future

Jerry Heesen

March 2002

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Working Safely on the Roof

Complying with new OSHA fall-protection regulations takes more than the correct safety gear, it takes a commitment to using the gear correctly

Howard Stein

January 1996

Job Safety

Working With Fiber-Cement Siding

Impervious to bugs and water, fiber-cement lap siding requires some special tools and techniques to be installed properly

John La Torre, Jr.

July 2001

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Articles (By Title)

**Working With Melamine**

Laminate-covered substrate produces a bright, clean and washable cabinet at a lower cost than hardwood panels

Rex A. Alexander

January 1996

Cabinets | Kitchen Cabinets

Working With Old Wiring

Careful testing is your hedge against frayed insulation, faulty splices and missing ground wires

David E. Shapiro

January 1999

Mechanical Systems | Electrical

Working With Rebar

The bones beneath concrete's muscle, rebar has to be cut, bent and tied properly to do its job

Howard Stein

March 2001

Foundations & Masonry | Concrete

Working Without Pain

From carpal tunnel to tendinitis--cumulative injuries and the building trades

Daniel Wing

January 1991

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Writing an Owner's Manual for a House

Shouldn't the largest investment most people ever make come with a big, thick instruction book?

John Abrams

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