

PAINT, STRIP, & STAIN LIKE A PRO | CALIFORNIA MID-CENTURY WONDERS

Old House JOURNAL

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RESTORATION
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An Unbelievable Transformation

Before

*Caring for a
Civil War Landmark*

SPECIAL: Heating Updates

- ◆ The best new HVAC technologies
- ◆ What to look for in fireplace inserts



house helpers

Our editors pick the best new products to make your old-house projects easier.

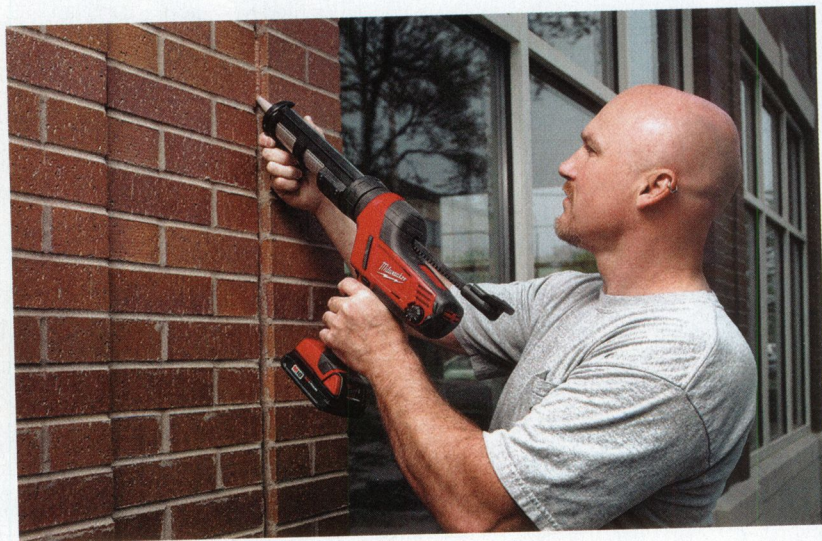


Match Points

It can be difficult to find period moldings to match originals that have gone missing in an old house—many folks have had to go so far as to have special knives cut (modeled off of fragments of original pieces). The recently launched Classical Molding collection from the Kuiken Brothers Company will make matching old moldings much easier. Featuring 66 historically accurate molding profiles in a range of architectural styles—Early American, Georgian (shown), Federal, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Traditional Revival—these popular moldings are in stock, double-primed, and buffed, so they're ready to be installed, whether you need crown, casing, base, chair rail, or panel molding. Prices vary; casing starts at \$2.39/foot. Call (201) 705-5375, or visit kuikenbrothers.com.

Sure Shot

All caulk guns are not created equal. Milwaukee Electric Tool's new M18 Cordless Caulk and Adhesive Gun is a case in point: It delivers 950 pounds of force, has a variable-speed trigger, and boasts a six-setting maximum speed dial that optimizes the tool's flow rate (0" to 21" per minute). The result is incredible pushing force for particularly tough caulk and adhesive applications, and a high level of bead control. A special anti-drip mechanism stops material from oozing when you let go of the trigger, and a quick-change carriage allows for easy switches between 10-oz., quart, and sausage-style material containers. The M18 kit includes compact battery pack, 30-minute charger, and carrying case. \$279. Call (800) 729-3878, or visit milwaukeetool.com.



Locked In

Locking pliers can be an indispensable toolbox staple. C.H. Hanson's redesigned automatic locking pliers generate 1,660 pounds of tip pressure with just 83 pounds of force, and can lock to any size without having to adjust the tool via a knob. A quick-release lever opens the pliers, letting them move easily from one object to another, a more ergonomic design eliminates points that can pinch your hand, and a "set and forget" feature lets you control the pressure, from slight to extreme. Curved-jaw 10" locking pliers, \$20.36. Call (800) 827-3398, or visit chhanson.com.