

Stuff

Woodshed Wonders

Five new tools to improve your abode—or to destroy your neighbor's home. It depends on your goals.



Stuff, 1/19/2005

By John Pearley Huffman

Expert Opinion: Paige Hemmis

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's sexiest carpentress put the screws to our tools. Then she showed us how to use them. Bonus!

1. Best Drill

Ryobi One+ 3-Speed Hammer DRill / \$89* (Price does not include required batter or charger)

The Hammer Drill combines a drill's rotary action with a pounding hammer motion powerful enough to turn a concrete wall into a colander. It also has an auxiliary handle to keep the drill stable no matter how much whatever it is you're drilling tries to squirm away.

Paige says "It has all the functionality of a standard drill, plus the capability to bore into masonry. The magnetic tray [for holding bits] is brilliant."

ryobitools.com

2. Best Sander

Black & Decker Dragster / \$90

Smaller front wheels allow the Dragster's nose to sneak under cabinets and into crevices, and the front cover lifts to reveal a top surface for sanding around corners or nudging flush against walls. The dust bag is a bit dinky, but worst of all, the drag-racer design doesn't include a parachute to pull at the end of a run.

Paige says "The adjustable handle makes it comfortable and easy to use in any position."

blackanddecker.com

3. Best Cutter

CRAFTSMAN Twin Cutter Saw / [\\$180](#)

With two counter-rotating 6 1/8-inch carbide-tipped Teflon-coated blades, this 7.8-amp piranha chews through wood and steel with ease. The blades spin in opposite directions, reducing the chance of the binding or jamming you'd get with a single blade. For sheer speed and intimidation of the elderly, this monster is simply unmatched.

Paige says "A perfect cutting tool for novices."

craftsman.com

4. Best multitool

Dremel 400 XPR / [\\$145](#)

The 18.8-ounce 400 XPR and its 51 separate accessories can be used to cut, buff and drill till your teeth fall out. A Flex-Shaft attachment lets you work in tight quarters with dentistlike disregard for destruction. Dentistlike halitosis not included.

Paige says "It's compact and easy to use. Love it!"

dremel.com

5. Best Cleanup

Ryobi One+ Tuff Sucker Wet/Dry Vac / [\\$20*](#) (Price does not include required batter or charger)

Included attachments let you attack crevices and squeegee off liquids, but it's the vac's workhorse power that makes those tasks effortless. Well, that and opposable thumbs.

Paige says "It's powerful enough to clean up wet or dry messes. And the low cost makes it a great gift."

ryobitools.com