

# do!

ENHANCE YOUR CURB APPEAL, P. 104

magazine



Some tools you can't go without. You can, however, get adaptations to take up less space.

"Our research has shown that every extra pound in your tool belt translates out to a 20-pound extra load on your lower back by the end of the day," says Stiletto Tools' Vice President for Operations Joel Allen.

And while my back's managed to hold out, a recent left-shoulder exam revealed cartilage damage with some bone impingement. That added new urgency to the never-ending quest for lighter, more efficient and more ergonomic tools.

#### Addition by Subtraction

Fortunately, a new crop of advanced ergonomic designs and lightweight materials are improving – and fusing – even the most timeless tool designs. They include:

#### 1. Stiletto's \$79.99 12-oz. Titanium Hammer

While they're not inexpensive, titanium heads provide the same striking power of steel hammers with half the weight – and a marked decrease in bone-jarring vibration and muscular strain. In a nice marriage of high-tech and traditional, a curved hickory handle provides toughness and heightened sensitivity.

"Our 12-ounce smooth-faced model is probably the ideal solution for homeowners. It packs the power of a 20-oz. steel framing hammer for decking, siding and fencing, but it's also light enough for finish work," Allen says.

**Replaces:** One 16-oz. finish hammer on the belt — and a 22-oz. framing hammer in the bucket.

**21**  
GREAT  
GIFTS FOR  
FATHER'S DAY

**9**  
NEW  
MULTI-TASK  
TOOLS

**3**  
WAYS  
TO ENJOY  
YOUR BACKYARD

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