

## Choosing the right replacement windows

9 tips for a better paint job

Trouble-free pocket doors

A kitchen for two cooks

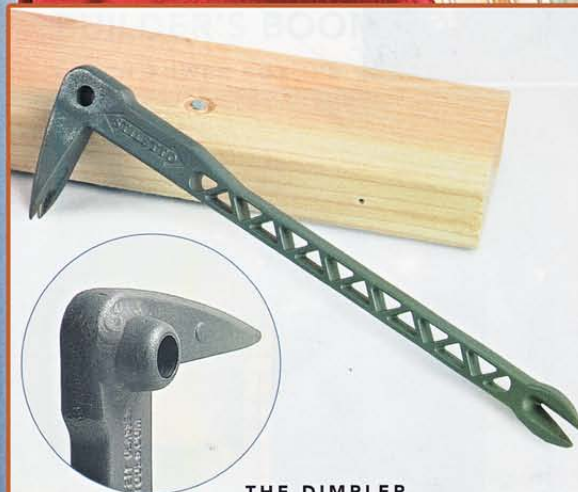
Build a timber-frame shed

### BUILDING SKILLS

## Cutting plywood

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### THE DIMPLER

- Manufactured by Stiletto Tools
- 800-987-1849; [www.stilettotools.com](http://www.stilettotools.com)
- Cost: \$50

### LIGHTWEIGHT NAIL PULLER

The cat's paw, a.k.a. the nail puller, is a tool that just about every carpenter has but seldom admits to needing. On my jobs, we call it the Jim's paw, or the Al's paw, or whoever the victim of the day happens to be. Recently, I found one that I like, The Dimpler. It works like a regular nail puller with an in-line claw on one end and a 90° claw on the other.

Right away, I noticed that The Dimpler was light—about half the weight of my old steel cat's paw. That's partly because it's made of titanium, but it's also because the shaft isn't solid. The body is more trusslike with a continuous "W" running between the two chords.

The other feature that sets apart this cat's paw from other is its stubby "dimpler" cylinder designed to help you extract nails that are flush or slightly below the surface.

Instead of chiseling around the nail head to create clearance for a claw, you can place the dimpler over the nail, give the tool a sharp rap with your hammer, and—voilà!—you've got the clearance you need to pull the nail.

The Dimpler is pricey. Because it's nearly \$50, you probably won't be handing your Dimpler to folks you don't know. But I figure that the tool pays for itself.

—J. A. Photos by Chris Green.