

# Fine Homebuilding

Outfitting a Closet • Tiling a Bathroom Floor • Roofs for Snow Country



## Tools & Materials

### Lightweight framing hammer

**12-oz. Titan titanium hammer** manufactured by Stiletto Tool Company, (800) 987-1849, cost: \$65

I've driven nails with most every hammer known to carpenters, from my childhood 16-oz. forged hammer with one broken claw to an old steel Rocket with a metal handle; from a 32-oz. club to a Hart 22-oz. special. I believed that I had framed with them all.

So the Stiletto Titan hammer surprised me. The Titan looked like framing hammers I have been using for years, but the titanium head weighs only 12 oz. I doubted I could sink a 16d nail in one lick with this hammer.

Deciding that the proof is in the pounding, I tried the Titan on the job. There was little difference between the Titan and my 20-oz. hammer when driving 8ds, but I did have to swing harder to drive a 16d with one lick. The Titan has good balance and feels comfortable in my hand. It comes in several models, with a milled sandpaperlike face or



a corrugated face. Either straight or ax-style handles are available, but the straight handle feels better to me.

The Titan is a tough hammer. I stripped concrete forms with it without dulling the claws. A friend liked the milled-face model to put on siding. All models have a nail-

holding magnet on top that allows you to start a nail one-handed.

I suggest you give it a try. It's a bit pricey at \$65, but Stiletto offers a 30-day money-back guarantee. What do you have to lose? —Larry Haun is a longtime framer turned author from Coos Bay, OR.

## Framing With Nail Guns



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