Fine Homebuilding

Paint-grade trim Pros, cons, costs

Kitchen built-in

A better balcony deck

Innovative flashing

Job-site shop, perfected

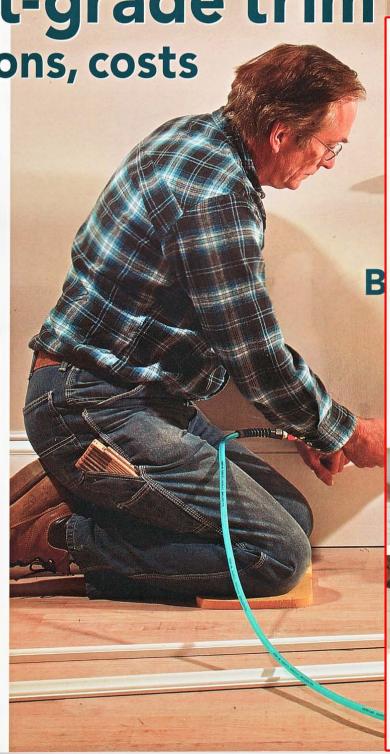
A fence forever

DRAWING BOARD

Paneled wainscot design

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Lighter puller

A hammer and a cat's paw make up a significant chunk of my tool bag's heft. Luckily, Stiletto Tools (www.stiletto.com) has found a way for me to shed some weight without shedding tools.

Besides their famously light hammers, Stiletto has introduced a claw bar (model TICLW12) that tips the scale at just over 8 oz., about half the weight of the one I usually carry. This lighter titanium tool is pound for pound much stronger than steel. It has an engineered webbed handle and sharp pry tongs.



The cool feature on this claw bar is its Dimpler, located on the side of the head. When positioned over a nail head and struck with a hammer, it crushes the wood fibers and allows the pry tongs to grab the nail easily. The Dimpler lets me remove an embedded nail without digging

into the wood. The only drawback is that at \$89, the lighter weight and convenience of this claw bar don't come cheap.