



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.

STEP BY STEP

Other tools make pulling nails easier



A cat's paw grabs an embedded nail. The hook of a cat's paw is designed to be driven under the head of a nail flush with the surface. The tight curve on a cat's paw provides plenty of pulling force as you push the handle.



A hammer provides more travel. One pull with a cat's paw typically won't free a nail. By slipping a hammer under the cat's paw, the travel will be enough to clear the nail.

Nippers take care of finish nails



Pulling nails through the back saves the surface. The smaller head of a finish nail allows it to be pulled through the back of a board with a pair of end-cutting nippers. This prevents the "show" side of the molding from being damaged.



A flat bar protects the trim. If the nail has to be removed from the front, put a flat bar under the nippers or hammer. The pressure from the nippers then is spread over a larger area, minimizing the chances of denting the wood.

FineHomebuilding.com

Look for the Magazine Extras section on our home page to see a video of FHB editor Justin Fink using these nail-pulling techniques.