

# Roofing Contractor

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In another gadget-related development, Holly "The Tool Goddess" Eaton first introduced us to Stiletto tools this summer at the Jimmy Carter Work Project in Valdosta, Ga. Holly was sporting a Stiletto all-titanium framing hammer with a 14-ounce head that performed like a conventional 24-ounce framing hammer. So it was no surprise when we ran into Joel Allen, vice president of operations for the Stiletto Tool Co., Atwater, Calif., at the NAHB show.

The concept of a somewhat pricey, but thoroughly practical line of titanium striking tools is a bit off the page, but we appreciate the thinking of this innovative firm. In addition to the full line of hammers, including a couple of roofing hammers patterned after the AJC shinglers hammers, Stiletto features a unique rubber grip option for its tools. Actually, it is an option for any tool that might

benefit from a rubber grip, such as an axe or shovel. The "Air Grip" non-slip grip is unique because it is furnished with a break-away "tunnel" that allows you to easily install the grip without heat, soapy water, vinegar or cursing. We tried a couple of samples and were very pleased with the results.

Another innovation making use of titanium is the Stiletto 12-inch, 8-ounce claw bar with the company's "dimpler" feature. It's hard to describe this one, but in addition to the conventional two ends of a claw bar (cat's paw), the Stiletto tool has a side piece that can be used to form a "dimple" around a nail head prior to removal that makes the nail virtually slip out. The result is a much more ergonomically friendly nail puller.



Stiletto AirGrip™ 8-by-2-inch cold-shrink rubber tube handle grip.

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