

EDITORS' CHOICE
AWARDS

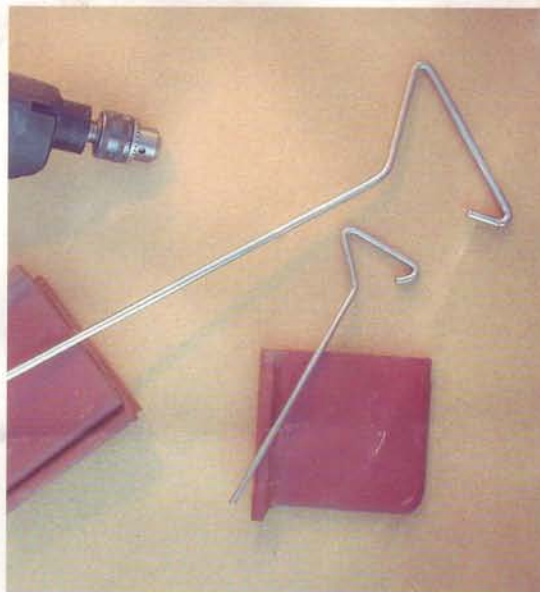
Hanley-Wood's
2003
Tools
of the Trade

Honoring innovation and leadership in tool design.

Our mission at HANLEY-WOOD'S TOOLS OF THE TRADE is to bring you the best tool coverage in the industry to help you work faster, safer, and smarter. It's hard work, sure, but it's fun, too. Especially when it comes to searching out the annual list of Editors' Choice Award winners. Every year we comb the industry to uncover the tools we wish we'd invented ourselves. They are the "must-have" tools for your jobsites; the ones that make us nod our heads and say, "Finally!" Some of the tools and equipment you'll read about here were born of pure inspiration in the shops of contractor-inventors who have found a better way of doing things. Others are the products of massive research dollars and design efforts by product gurus and engineers at global corporations. This year's winners include a portable saw stand that really makes it easy to get around and a new work van that redefines the category. Wherever they come from, whatever their sources, here are our choices for the best tools from the past year. —*The Editors*

BeraKor Necessity was the mother of this simple-looking invention for mixing powdered goods (concrete, grout) and liquids (paint). The inventor, G. Bear Berube, is a master tile setter. On a rush job two hours from home, someone left the thinset mixers behind. Not to be slowed down, Berube grabbed a torch, pliers, and an umbrella from the trash; in a few minutes, he made the first Rapid Rodd and chucked it into his drill.

That was 16 years ago. Berube, who now makes the mixer from stainless steel so nothing sticks to it, says the Rapid Rodd has never let him down. It's made to exacting tolerances so it spins true in your drill chuck and it comes in small, medium, and large sizes. Berube says his tool mixes materials to perfect consistency. Whether you're mixing up fast-setting joint compound, concrete, floor-leveler, or oil-based paint, the Rapid Rodd covers all the bases. You can even use it to cook your crew breakfast—Berube says it's great for scrambled eggs. The Mini sells for \$9; the Standard sells for \$12; and the Heavy Duty Rodd for \$15. For more information, contact BeraKor, 714-974-3844; www.berakor.com.



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