

remodeling


YOUR TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS

THE PRODUCTS ISSUE

16 Top Remodelers
Reveal Their Favorites

How to Handle
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Our IBS/KBIS Picks



Jonas Carnemark,
Carnemark Design + Build,
Bethesda, Md.



Water Works. Jonas Carnemark of Carnemark Design + Build likes using Schluter's products for thresholds and for finishing tile edges.

Our Favorite Products

You're a tough crowd to please. You put demands on tools and materials that extend far beyond what a do-it-yourselfer or production builder would impose. So when one of your number has a favorite product, we take note. We asked 16 top remodelers nationwide to tell us what they like. Here's their list. / by [Stacey Freed](#)



ROCKWELL SONICRAFTER

Before they found Sonicrafter, a small oscillating cutting tool, Mike DuKate's building crews would get frustrated by tight places in which they couldn't easily cut. But no longer. The Sonicrafter "allows us to cut material in tight spaces and allows it to be done efficiently," DuKate says. "We don't have to pull a whole piece of material off and [move] it to a saw. It can even be used to clean off caulk on masonry."

"My field employees say it's been the greatest innovation for us," DuKate says. "I'm just waiting for a laser light to cut things one day. Until then, we have this."

— **Mike DuKate, owner**
DuKate Fine Remodeling
Indianapolis



SCHLUTER SYSTEMS

Jonas Carnemark specifies a lot of linear drains for zero-threshold showers and is a fan of Schluter Systems' products for drains, waterproofing, and tile edges. He particularly likes the Kerdi bonded waterproof membrane and Schluter-Ditra, a polyethylene membrane that acts as both waterproofing membrane and uncoupling layer. "I've relied on Ditra for years to provide flush or low transitions between tile and other floor surfaces," Carnemark says.

He's so happy with the Schluter's array of tile solutions, that his subs know to price it all out automatically.

— **Jonas Carnemark, principal designer**
Carnemark Design + Build
Bethesda, Md.



ROCKWELL JAWHORSE

"Getting set up and in position with your work piece and your tools is half the battle," says Mason Lord, who recently went back into the field. He has found Jawhorse handy for a wide range of applications.

Mounted on sturdy legs that fold up, Jawhorse is vise and sawhorse in one. It has a foot pedal with a quick-clamp and quick-release mechanism. "This has a holding power that outdoes a regular vise, which you have to clamp to a sawhorse," Lord says. "It can hold big things and small things. You can mount a miter box on it. And it folds up like a suitcase, so it's easy to carry."

— **Mason Lord, managing partner**
Hudson Valley Preservation
Sherman, Conn.



BORAL TRUEXTERIOR TRIM

Many of the homes in Patty McDaniel's Eastern Shore market have vertical siding. "We don't want to change that, and the clients want something lower maintenance," she says. So she's been using Boral's bead board product for vertical siding instead of 1x4 cedar.

"It can't rot, is dimensionally stable, and looks convincingly like tongue and groove," she says of the product, which is made largely from fly ash rather than wood. Her carpenters like that it "cuts like butter," isn't as heavy as fiber cement, and there's no need to pre-drill. It's also less expensive than PVC and plays well with paint.

— **Patty McDaniel, president**
Boardwalk Builders
Rehoboth Beach, Del.



Photo, left: Stephen Voss; illustrations: Patrick Welsh