

43 GREAT GIFTS, TOOLS, AND GADGETS FROM \$3

**ADD
A BATH
WITHOUT
ADDING
ON**

This Old House

DECEMBER 2006

28 SECRET SOURCES

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DESIGN FILE
7 store-everything
pantries **P. 74**

**kitchen
ideas**
for couples
who cook



Easy Upgrades

- INSTALL A NEW FIREPLACE MANTEL
- ADD A WATERFALL SHOWERHEAD
- PUT IN VINTAGE FRENCH DOORS

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AOL KEYWORD: THIS OLD HOUSE

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MOBILE HOME

How a mother and daughter beat the bulldozer and saved a 250-year-old Dutch Colonial

For eight years, Sharon Hinson and her daughter, Marjorie Ellena, have helped preservation-minded house hunters track down old, often endangered Queen Annes, Georgians, and Tudors through their website, Historicproperties.com, which markets vintage houses priced from \$1 on up to \$22 million. But recently, the pair became their own best customers when they bought a late-1700s Dutch Colonial posted on their site.

A little over a year ago, an ad came in for the Tappahannock, Virginia, house and 274 surrounding acres. "It was in great shape," says Marjorie, noting the newly replastered walls, crown molding with dentil detail, and original Chippendale-style stair railing. Even with an asking price of \$1,495,000, it would surely be gobbled up quick.

And it was. Well, at least that's what Sharon and Marjorie thought, until they received an updated ad. This one listed the house at \$100,000, with the caveat "Must be moved." A gentleman had bought the property, sure enough, but he wanted to build a new house on the site. The old one had to be gone by September 1, or else.

By early August, with just three weeks to go and no takers for the house, Sharon and Marjorie embarked on a frenzied labor of love. They forked over the cash, hired a house mover, secured all their permits and surveys, paid the power company to raise two lines along the move route, and convinced a sympathetic farmer to cut his corn crop early to widen the road. Just days before the deadline, they signed off on a new plot of land, less than a mile away from the old one.

Out of harm's way at its new address, the house is now back on the market for \$400,000—what it cost the pair to buy it, move it, and get it settled on its new 17-acre lot. Anyone interested in giving this story the happy ending it deserves can learn more at Historicproperties.com. —KEITH PANDOLF

{ ORIGINS: QUIZ }

Q It was the ancient Romans who first shaped and shaved lumber with hand planes. But it was George L. Kelley who revolutionized woodworking in this past millennium with an electric router that combined the work of dozens of planes into one versatile machine.

In what year did Kelley apply for his patent?

A. 1906 B. 1894 C. 1909 D. 1788

(Turn to "Origins: Answer," page 20)



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USES

Spray Foam

Expanding polyurethane foam is best at sealing air leaks around window jambs. But since a 12-ounce can yields more foam than you're likely to use before the nozzle clogs, get your money's worth by aiming the rest at the following projects. —MARK FEIRER



Use it to:

- 1 Shore up a wobbler. To secure a loose pull knob on a hollow-core bifold door, *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva injects foam through the screw hole, providing a solid backer in which to anchor the pull.
- 2 Hush a flush. To keep plastic waste lines from rattling when water runs through, Oregon homeowner Bruce Sullivan sprayed foam around the pipes where they intersected floor joists.
- 3 Pack breakables. Spray into a plastic bag, seal the opening, and press items on top to create a form-fitting, protective mold.
- 4 Tame a torrent. *TOH* landscape contractor Roger Cook uses foam to bond rocks together when building waterfalls.
- 5 Stymie squirrels. To keep 'em out of his attic, Iowa homeowner Mark Kane stuffed gaps under his roof eaves with chicken wire and foamed the filler for incisor-proof barriers.
- 6 Secure a window. *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva sprays foam around the frames of replacement foundation windows to anchor them in the masonry walls.
- 7 Hit a hive. When wasps built a nest in Connecticut homeowner Jeff Sherman's wall, he sprayed pesticide through their entry and then sealed it shut with foam.
- 8 Nix knocks. Spray foam along washing-machine water-supply pipes where they meet walls to quiet spin-cycle vibrations.
- 9 Debug a garage. Inject foam between the back side of the garage door jamb and the stem wall to prevent pests from infiltrating this common entry point.
- 10 Bed a bath. Fix a tub floor that gives underfoot by filling the vessel with water and lining the space beneath it with foam. To reach underneath, extend the straw with 3/16-inch-ID (internal diameter) vinyl hose and spray through an open wall cavity, or the access panel near the drain.