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Before It's Too Late

Make:

technology on your time



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O'REILLY makezine.com

Bottle Rocket

Cork Pop III
\$28, corkpops.com and amazon.com

If you find yourself putting a wine bottle between your legs and tugging an old-fashioned corkscrew to pull out a cork, here's a new twist on wine openers: the Cork Pop III. This wine opener uses a low-pressure propellant cartridge to blast the cork from the bottle. Cork Pop III houses a needle that you insert all way through the

cork; then you press the cartridge to release a jet of air and ... lift off. The cork doesn't fly through the air but you can imagine that it does. Getting the cork off the needle is the only difficulty I've had using it.

A cartridge will open about 60-80 bottles before you need a refill. Amazon reviewer, Leanna J. Kamp, said she used up her cartridge because she liked teasing her bird who whistled when it heard the blast of air.

—Dale Dougherty



Repairs by the Roll

Gaffer's Tape
\$16 a roll, thetapeworks.com

Many people swear by duct tape for all their taping needs, but I think its adhesive is too gummy, its backing is too plastic, its fabric is too difficult to tear, and it tastes bad. (If you don't know how your tape tastes, you've obviously never hung from a catwalk with one hand while securing a bundle



of wires with the other hand and tearing the tape with your teeth.)

I prefer gaffer's tape. Gaffers are the people on a film crew responsible for stringing cables around, and this tape is designed to hold equipment securely and remove cleanly. It doesn't dry out like duct tape, and it doesn't leave adhesive residue on most surfaces. The fabric backing of gaffer's tape tears easily and doesn't tend to split lengthwise like duct tape seems to do at the worst moments. It's also not as vinyl-like as duct tape, so it provides a better gripping surface and doesn't smell like a Datsun interior. It typically comes in black and white as well as standard gray, and some suppliers

provide it in a variety of useful colors, including Chroma-Key blue and green, for those digital video effects projects of yours.

Gaffer's tape is noticeably more expensive than duct tape, but all quality tools are pricier than their generic counterparts.

I use it for running cables along paint and carpet, repairing electrical wiring, temporary fabric mending, and ruggedizing the broken spines of my favorite softcover reference books. It's thick enough to be opaque in most light, so I also use it for covering the ads on the spines of my telephone directories.

—Elliott C. "Eeyore" Evans

Have you used something worth keeping in your toolbox? Let us know at toolbox@makezine.com.

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