

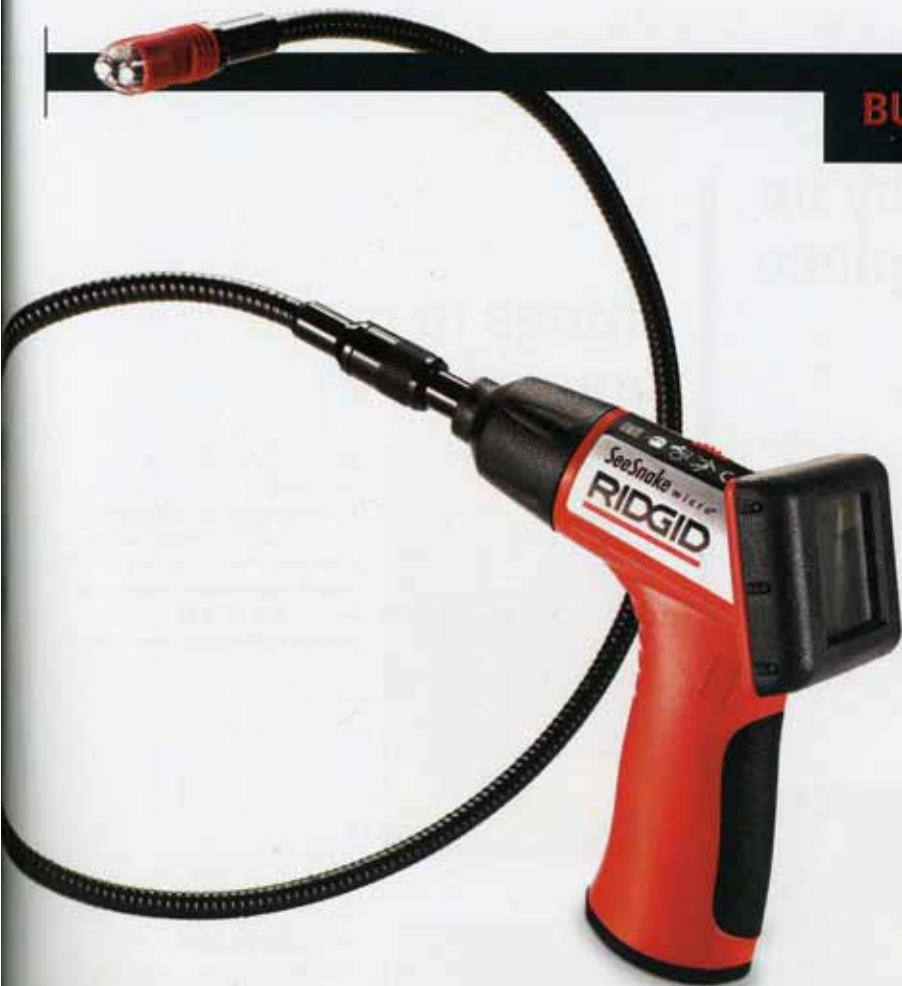
This Old House

JUNE 2007

18 easy ideas for your
**outdoor
rooms**

relaxing patios
open-air kitchens
backyard fireplaces





Cool, New, and Headed to You

» Get the scoop on the latest toys, tools, and trends for the home

BY HARRY SAWYERS

THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW is the Fashion Week of the construction world, an insider's peek at the trends and products that will shape the home-building industry this season and for years to come. It's about as glamorous as this business gets.

The show's 1,900 exhibitors don't strut their stuff down runways. Instead, we, the footsore, scoured 40 acres of booths to bring you these two dozen showstoppers. Whether you're looking for high-style items to beautify your house, cool tools, home-safety gear, or things to make the neighbors jealous, you'll find them on these pages. (Trend alert: Oil-rubbed bronze is the new satin nickel, skinny sanders are in, and fireplaces with any visible means of combustion are *sooo* last century.) And if that's not enough, we've got 100 more hot products for you at thisoldhouse.com.



MINI BELT SANDER

Great as belt sanders are, we find their bulk and heft limits where you can use them. Not so this miniature 5¾-pounder. Its 2½-inch-wide belt lets it slip easily into tight spaces to, say, sand a floor flush against a baseboard, trim a sticking door edge, or smooth a stair tread. \$120; portercable.com

CANDID CAMERA

With a waterproof, LED-lit camera at one end of a flexible 3-foot cable, and a 2½-inch color LCD screen at the other, there isn't much the See Snake Micro can't find behind a wall, in a duct, or down a drain. You can fit the tip with a hook, a magnet, or a mirror for periscoping around blind corners. \$220; ridgid.com

CAR TURN

The days of craning your neck and shifting into reverse are behind you. With this motorized merry-go-round planted in your driveway or garage, just spin your car to face the street. Quick getaways have never been so easy. \$9,800 for 14-foot model (Mini Cooper sold separately); carturn.com



OH, OUR ACHING FEET: We visited 1,900 booths in four days to find the 100 best building products for you.