

Toolbox | Hammers

Light Headed. When I first heard about titanium hammers, I couldn't imagine that such a lightweight material could really pound nails effectively. However, after talking to carpenters who use them, I've changed my mind. At about half the weight of their conventional framing counterparts, Stiletto Titanium hammers significantly decrease user susceptibility to carpal-tunnel syndrome and other repetitive-motion, stress-related injuries, says the maker. They come in trim and framing styles with curved and straight handles. Prices start at about \$100 for the 14-ounce wood-handled *Titan* and peak at about \$190 for the 14-ounce titanium-handled *TiBone*.

Stiletto Tools, 800/987-1849, www.stilettotools.com. Circle #19



Slide Hammer. With Norwolf's *Glide Hammer*, you can make swinging a sledge easier on your body. Designed with a unique sliding grip that eliminates the need to change hand position midswing, the aluminum-handled hammer is virtually indestructible, says the manufacturer. It costs \$166. Norwolf makes some other cool tools for carpenters, too, including the *A-Hammer* (\$44), an aluminum-handled rip hammer; the *Unibar* (starting at \$99; not shown), a high-tech pry bar with an adjustable head; and the *Pro Nailer* (\$33; not shown), a nail set for framing nails. All look sturdy enough to become family heirlooms.

Norwolf, 888/667-9653, www.norwolf.com. Circle #20



Shock Absorber. It's no secret that pounding nails day after day can take a toll on your wrist, elbow, and shoulder. Fuller's new *Wavex Hammers* promise to minimize the shock waves that go through your arm every time you strike a nail. According to the company, the hammers use an impact-reducing technology first developed for tennis rackets. They come in 16- and 20-ounce claw, 20-ounce rip, and 22- and 28-ounce framing styles; prices range from about \$13 to about \$20.

Fuller Tool, 262/242-1161, www.fullertool.com. Circle #21

